

1965

“IF THE ARMY WANTED YOU TO HAVE A FAMILY IT WOULD HAVE ISSUED YOU ONE”

Changing attitudes, changing needs: By the Vietnam era, a significant number of Soldiers had Families. They faced typical problems—financial, medical and personal—and the stresses of wartime service. In 1965, the Army created a structured program to help commanders maintain readiness by delivering services promoting Family self-reliance, resiliency and stability during war and peace: Army Community Service.



LIEUTENANT COLONEL EMMA MARIE BAIRD

Lt. Col. Emma Marie Baird is considered the mother of ACS. During her 24-year military career, she served in the Women’s Army Corps, worked in Army Emergency Relief during WWII, and became the first woman assigned to the U.S. Military Academy staff. Because of her experience in AER, she was selected to create the Army’s official Family assistance program in the early 1960s. After her retirement in 1968, Baird remained active with ACS programs throughout the country – especially at Fort Bliss, Texas, where she regularly volunteered her time. She passed away in 1987.



Since 1979 ■ **Exceptional Family Member Program**
Established as the **Handicapped Dependents Program**. Provides comprehensive and coordinated services to special needs Families

Danisha Mateo Santos is the mother of two boys with autism, ages 4 and 1. When her husband, Spc. Juan Mateo Santos moved to the Presidio of Monterey, California, EFMP and its System Navigators helped the Family find the services they needed from state and local programs and school systems. The EFMP also teaches parents and holds events like adaptive trick-or-treating for the Families. “Mrs. Moseley and her staff take pride in helping us with all our needs. Whether it’s being an advocate or counselor, they are always there to help.”



Since 1984 ■ **Financial Readiness Program**
Offers training and counseling on saving, debt elimination, investing and goal setting



“She assisted us with several financial issues to include travel debts, student loans going into default, and a lot of other mistakes we made when we were young. We’ve reduced our debt by over \$16,000. My husband’s credit scores have improved 126 points in one year going from 513 to 639 and are still rising. We now have over \$2,000 in an emergency savings fund and working on purchasing our first home.”

*Spc. Justin and Barbara Boyd,
Fort Jackson, South Carolina*

Since 1993 ■ **Army Family Team Building**
Trains Family members in self-reliance and helps them understand Army culture



Marie Balocki began as a volunteer in the Army Family Team Building program in 1993. As her family changed duty stations, she continued to volunteer. Today she holds the highest civilian general schedule rank, GS-15, as executive director for the Department of Defense Office for Reintegration Programs. “I can’t get across the impact that volunteering in ACS has had on my

life. The foundation that I have gotten is what has given me the confidence to apply for each step I have taken. I would not be sitting here but for the skills I acquired and the folks that mentored me along the way.”

1965: AR 608-1, “Army Community Service,” published on November 19.

1972: First class of ACS trainees graduate from the Academy of Health Sciences

1984: Secretary of the Army John White and Gen. John A. Wickham, Jr., Chief of Staff, declare the Year of the Army Family.

1965: First ACS Centers established

Since 1978 ■ Relocation Assistance

Since 1985 ■ Installation Volunteer Coordinators

Since 1965 ■ Community Information Services

Since 1983 ■ Army Family Action Plan

Since 1989 ■ Relocation Readiness Program

75
GARRISON
ACS CENTERS
TODAY

Since 1978 ■ **Budget counseling and debt liquidation**
Now part of the Financial Readiness Program

695 AFAP ISSUES
WERE THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND ENACTMENT OF
128 PIECES OF LEGISLATION
186 ARMY & DOD POLICY CHANGES
210 IMPROVED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Since 1994 ■ **Transitional Compensation Program for Abused Dependents**
Temporary relief for Families of Soldiers convicted of dependent abuse

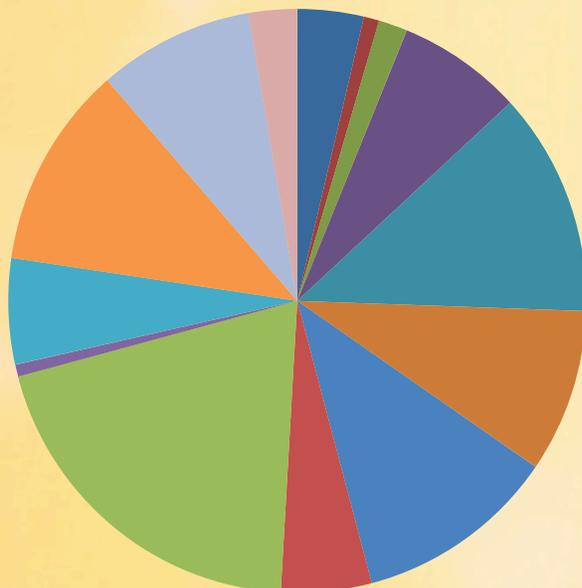
Since 1978 ■ **Family Advocacy Program**
Launched as Army Child Advocacy Program. Domestic violence and child abuse prevention

Since 1995 ■ New Parent Support Program

Since 1992 ■ Mobilization and Deployment Readiness

Since 2001 ■ **Emergency Family Assistance Centers**
Respond to deployments, natural disasters or catastrophic events

- Army Emergency Relief
- Army Family Action Plan
- Army Family Team Building
- Army Volunteer Corps
- Employment Readiness
- Exceptional Family Member Program
- Family Advocacy
- Financial Readiness
- Information and Referral
- Master Resilience Training
- Mobilization and Deployment
- Relocation Readiness
- Soldier & Family Assistance Centers
- Survivor Outreach Services



25
SOLDIER
& FAMILY
ASSISTANCE
CENTERS

4
WAYS TO
CONNECT
WITH ACS
PROGRAMS

UNIT/GARRISON



Unit briefings,
Military Family Life
counselors, training,
SFACs

"THE STRENGTH OF THE NATION IS THE ARMY. THE STRENGTH OF THE ARMY IS THE SOLDIER. THE STRENGTH OF THE SOLDIER IS THE FAMILY."

- Gen. Ray Odierno, 38th Chief of Staff of the Army

2015

IN ITS 50TH YEAR,

ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE THROUGH PROGRAMS AND VOLUNTEERS WILL TOUCH

SOLDIERS, FAMILY MEMBERS, SURVIVORS, CIVILIANS AND VETERANS MORE THAN

16 MILLION TIMES

Since 2002 ■ **Employment Readiness program**
Serves Family members, active and reserve component Soldiers, wounded warriors, retirees and Army civilians



"Stacey, the Employment Readiness Program Manager, gave me the confidence to shoot a little higher and apply for jobs that, at first, I thought were out of my experience range. She told me to volunteer because that will help me broaden my job experience and she was right! My volunteer experience is why I was offered the job!"

Valerie Collins,
Fort Polk, Louisiana

Since 2004 ■ **Victim Advocacy Program**
Provides non-clinical advocacy services and support to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault

"When the day came that my husband crossed a line we could never come back from, the victim advocates at Fort Stewart, Georgia, became the only lifeline I could hold onto. Going to court with me, calling to make sure I was OK, and valiantly fighting for my rights made all the difference in me getting through it. When we got our letter approving us for Transitional Compensation, it saved our lives. My children and I now have an actual chance at regaining our lives. I had been certain everyone had completely forgotten we existed. Thank you so much for proving me wrong. Thank you so much for giving me my life back and my children a chance at happiness again."

Since 2008 ■ **Soldier and Family Assistance Center**
Supports Warriors in Transition and their Families in a consolidated facility



"We first heard about the SFAC when we went to the Warrior Transition Battalion on Fort Bragg. The SFAC set us up with childcare during my husband's medical appointments, and they also planned activities to make our Family feel special. We would still be lost in the dark if it wasn't for their help and assistance."

Sgt. Christopher and Amy Robbins,
Fort Bragg, North Carolina

Since 2002 ■ **Military Spouse Employment Partnership**
Launched as Army Spouse Employment, became a DoD-wide program in 2011 in support of the White House's Joining Forces initiative

Since 2004 ■ **Virtual Family Readiness Group**

Since 2008 ■ **Survivor Outreach Services**
Fulfills the promise to honor Survivors and let them remain part of the Army Family as long as they desire.

Since 2005 ■ **Sexual Assault Response Program**



Since 2005 ■ **Military and Family Life Counselor Program**
Non-clinical, short-term counseling

Since 2010 ■ **Master Resilience Training**
335 ACS MASTER RESILIENCE TRAINERS

Since 2005 ■ **Volunteer Management Information System**

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STAND-ALONE SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES CENTERS

4

SMARTPHONE APPS

- Money Matters
- Services Locator
- AFAP Active Issue Search
- Army Family Team Building

Since 2007 ■ **EFMP Respite Care**
Support and relief for special needs families

2014: Total Army Strong
Reaffirms Army's commitment to the total Army family and sets the foundation for a balanced system of programs and services

Since 2002 ■ **Army Volunteer Corps** Unites volunteers and organizations using volunteers

2008: **Army Community Covenant**

Since 2004 ■ **Army OneSource**
Online service launched as MyArmyLifeToo, later Multi-Component Family Support Network

Since 2009 ■ **EFMP Systems Navigators**

2009: **Congress declares the Year of the Military Family**

\$151.3 MILLION
FAMILY PROGRAMS BUDGET IN FISCAL 2013

5
WEBSITES

armyfrg.org
myarmyonesource.com
acsstaff.org
goldstarpins.org
sos.army.mil

Since 2006 ■ **Army OneSource Community Support Coordinators**
Builds partnerships for state and local resources for Army Families.

ONLINE



HOME



LOCAL PARTNERS



Army OneSource, Virtual Family Readiness Group, Facebook, Twitter

New Parent Support Program, Respite Care, Victim Advocates

Business groups, local education providers, crisis agencies

The stronger the family the stronger the Army, because strong families improve our combat readiness."
- Gen. John Wickham, 30th Chief of Staff of the Army