THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SECOND MEETING

Monthly *Meeting*

The President's Military Spouse Commission

October 19, 2026

WELCOME

Welcome to the second meeting of the President's Military Spouse Commission.

Over the last month, the commission members have been busy traveling, talking one on one with our military spouses and relaying their experiences and concerns about military life. We have been in close contact with each member of the Commission, and you have shared their concerns, their excitement about the work of the Commission, and the President's attention and support to their unique challenges. You have also shared the best practices of your respective military branches, which we will highlight in our presentation.

TOPIC 1 OF 5

Employment

There are significant concerns shared by military spouses regarding employment opportunities, especially surrounding PCS moves. To address these concerns, MSC has analyzed service-wide to best practices.

AIR FORCE BEST PRACTICE

The Global Military Spouse Connection (GMSC)

- Identifies spouses before PCS, collects and centralizes spouses' résumés
- Actively brokers introductions to civilian hiring managers at the gaining installation
- Full pre-PCS hiring manager matching pipeline, accessible via the Air Force civilian careers website

> **60%** **Confirmed spouse placements up 60 percent** in the past 3 weeks.





ARMY BEST PRACTICE

Department of Army Voluntary Reassignment Program (DAVRAP)

- Facilitates non-competitive, internal reassignments for military spouses who are also permanent or career Army civilian employees or if they are relocating due to PCS.
- Helps hiring managers quickly identify and place current Army employees into vacant positions across commands.
- Lowers Time-to-Hire rates and increases military spouse employment opportunities while supporting continuity of career during PCS.

11,000+

Candidate profiles created since May of 2025, with a large portion being spouses with PCS moves pending.

12,000+

Hiring managers currently participating.

SpouseWorks

Take advantage of SpouseWorks (formerly SECO), your one-stop shop with education and career guidance, resources, and tools for all stages of your career progression.

One-on-One Career Coaching

Call a career coach to access personalized support and information to help you achieve your education and career goals.

Coaching Packages

Explore your interests, refresh your resume, and jump-start your career by working with career coaches on specialized coaching packages tailored to you.

SpouseWorks Job Board

Search jobs with more than 1,000 Employers committed to recruiting and hiring military spouses with the SpouseWorks job board.

SpouseWorks Scholarship

Register for the SpouseWorks Scholarship (formerly MyCAA), providing up to $4,000 in financial assistance for licenses, certifications, or associate degrees.

Paid Fellowships

Apply for the SpouseWorks Fellowship (formerly the Career Accelerator), providing competitive 12-week paid fellowships at employers across various industries and locations.

TOPIC 2 OF 5

Deployment-Related Support

- Communication between unit leadership and spouses enhances family readiness
- Concise contact information for the spouse to unit command is imperative to information sharing, especially information during deployment or in an emergency
- Most service branches cite concerns with asking for Personal Information (PI) as one obstacle to obtaining detailed contact information. The other reason is that the information is not mandatory

AIR FORCE BEST PRACTICE

Commander's Key Support Program (CKSP)



- Uses trained commander-appointed volunteers called Key Support Liaisons (KSLs)
- KSLs connect Service members' families with resources to support them across deployments, PCS moves, emergencies, childcare, education, healthcare, housing, employment, etc
- Normally, only command leadership can access Personnel Accountability and Assessment System (PAAS)
- The Air Force grants KSL volunteers direct—but limited—system access to perform their role

TOPIC 3 OF 5

Childcare

Childcare is an issue for military families because the demands of military life are often inconsistent with the realities of the civilian childcare market. Frequent relocations force families to restart childcare searches every few years, often on short notice, while non-standard duty hours, deployments, and distance from extended family make care needs harder to meet than they are for civilians. Additionally, childcare needs vary across service branches.

EXPANSION PROGRAM

Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood (MCCYN)



- Secretary Hegseth has extended fee assistance to faith-based providers who would not normally qualify under MCCYN requirements.
- As of last month, faith-based centers are available to families using fee assistance in five of the country's highest-demand locations.
- MCCYN is a fee assistance program that expands childcare access beyond on-base options and is available to eligible families of:

ELIGIBLE FAMILIES

- Active duty Service members
- Reservists or National Guard members on active duty requiring 30 day orders
- Coast Guard requires orders for at least 180 days
- DoW civilians
- Gold Star spouses

NAVY BEST PRACTICE

Child and Youth Programs

- In the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, the Department of the Navy has allocated $847 million for Child and Youth Programs (CYP) to directly bolster military family readiness.
- As part of this comprehensive strategy, the Navy is aggressively addressing severe provider and space shortages by implementing major infrastructure investments, expanding private provider fee subsidies, and offering enhanced workforce incentives to recruit and retain high-quality care providers.
- The Navy is utilizing a mix of new military construction (MILCON) and rapid facility adaptations to increase availability.
- The budget supports ongoing expansion projects across major fleet areas—including Naval Base Point Loma, Naval Base Kitsap, and Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story—slated to bring online more than 900 new childcare spaces.
- Innovative Conversions: To generate immediate capacity, the Navy is converting existing base structures, such as transforming a former chapel and community center at Naval Base Kitsap into modern Child Development Center (CDC) environments to house an additional 154 children.

$847M

Allocated for Child and Youth Programs in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget

900+

New childcare spaces across major fleet areas

154

Additional children served by converted space at Naval Base Kitsap

Mature Minors Policy

UPDATED DOW POLICY

MSC promotes access to MHS Genesis portal for mature minors ages 13-17, allowing them to opt in to parental access of their Electronic Health Records.

Last month, the Commission expressed concern about the inability to access medical appointments and records for their minor children ages 13-17 enrolled in TRICARE.

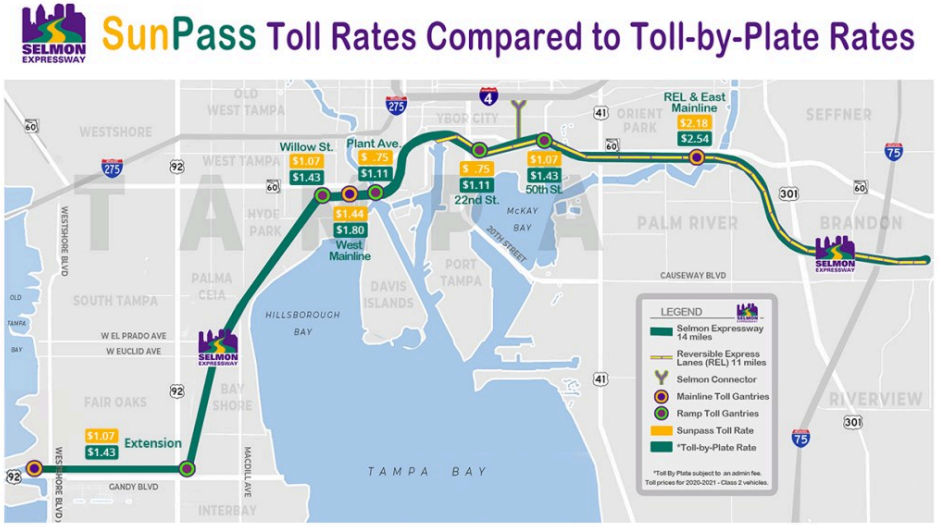
The Military Spouse Commission has been working with the Defense Health Agency (DHA) to restore greater parental access to their children's medical records. Last month, the Department of War ended the so-called "mature minor" policy at military medical treatment facilities. This Biden-era policy limited parental rights by letting children ages 13-17 make medical decisions without their parents' input and restricting the ability of parents to access their own children's medical records. At the request of this Commission, the Department of War has provided access to mature minors to MHS Genesis to grant parental permission.

Starting in November, unless your state law says otherwise, children the ages of 13-17 will have their own Genesis accounts where parents can access their child's appointments and medical records.

TOPIC 5 OF 5

Waiving Tolls for Military Families

Active-duty military personnel, veterans, and official government vehicles do not receive a universal, nationwide free pass or blanket exemption on United States toll roads. Instead, toll policies vary heavily by state, operating authority, and military status. Often toll roads are operated by a quasi-government agency leveraging bonds. MSC has worked with the State of Florida to establish a best practice for toll relief.



STATE OF FLORIDA BEST PRACTICE: CENTCOM AND SOCOM

- When military installations are located in high cost areas like Tampa, San Diego, and the National Capital Region, our military families are forced to commute long distances
- The Commission is working to address this challenge in numerous ways—one is easing the burden of tolls along these commutes
- A military family stationed at MacDill Air Force Base who commutes from the east Tampa area incurs around $1500 in tolls annually—just to get to work
- MSC is currently in negotiations with the State of Florida to reduce tolls for active-duty Service members who commute to MacDill AFB and is seeking similar state partnerships across the country

$1,500 **In tolls each year** for a MacDill family commuting from east Tampa

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

We Need to Hear From You

The President has charged the members of this Commission to advise him on issues that are of utmost importance to military spouses and families. If you have suggestions or best practices, please write directly to the Commission at **WhiteHouse.gov/Military-Spouse-Commission** or, if you have limited contact information, send a letter to the Commission in care of:

MAIL

The White House
President Donald J. Trump
The Military Spouse Commission
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

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Visit the White House website to contact the Military Spouse Commission.

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WhiteHouse.gov/Military-Spouse-Commission

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