THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



THIRD MEETING

Monthly *Meeting*

The President's Military Spouse Commission

November 16, 2026

WELCOME

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

Commission members continue to travel and listen to spouses while reporting back concerns to the committee to find sensible solutions. Last month, a number of items were brought to the table and discussed, and now this month commission members are joining subcommittees that will help gather input, prioritize and plan, research, present findings, and track and close those same key issues. These subcommittees will target each of the President's five key priority areas: childcare and education, spouse employment, healthcare and continuity of care, deployment assistance, and housing and affordability. Members will also vote this month to solidify topics of discussion so the committee remains honest to the spouses who support our Service members.

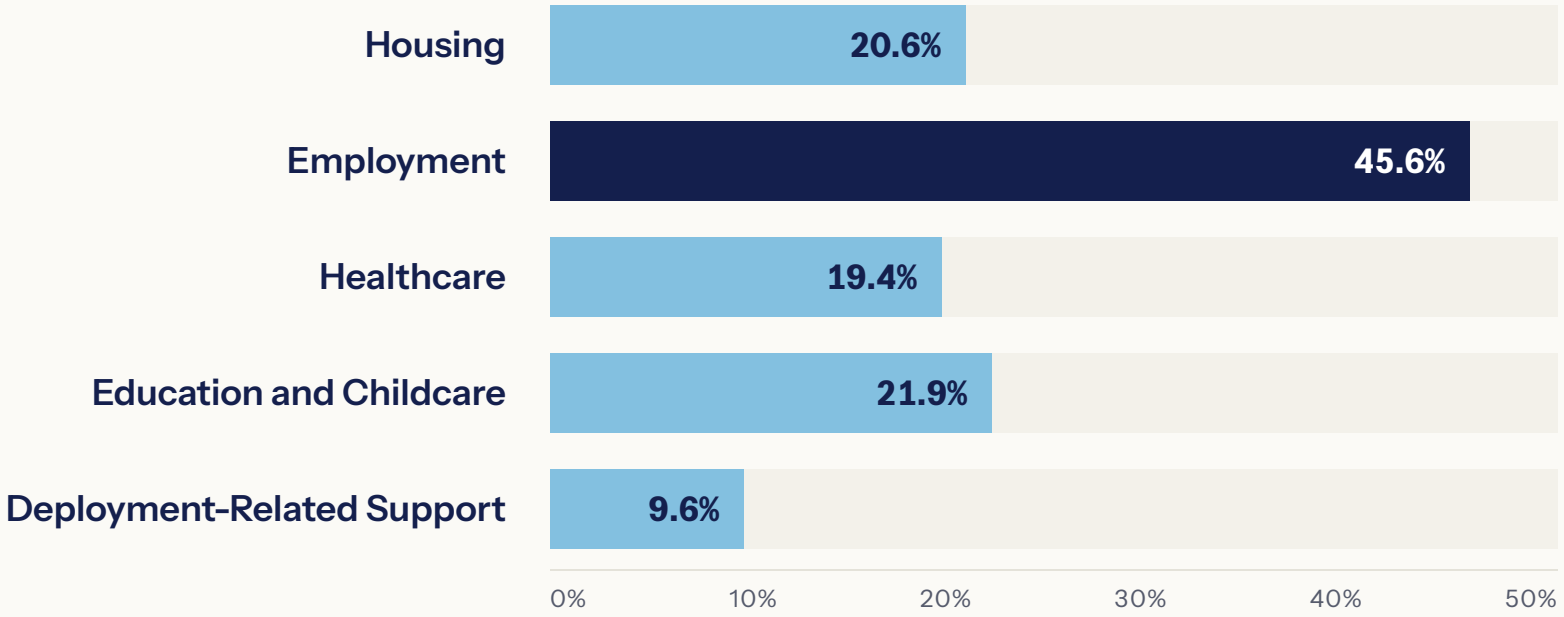
WHERE EACH INITIATIVE STANDS

Progress Report

Completed | In Progress | To Begin

AREA	INITIATIVE	STEPS	END GOAL
HOUSING	**FL Tolls** Initial problem: Military families in FL pay significant tolls	● FL State Gov reduced tolls by 50 percent ● Meeting to discuss cutting remaining 50 percent ◐ **Working with FL Gov to secure state funding** ○ Funding is secured, Toll reduced 100 Percent ○ Mrs. Hegseth announces the win in FL with Mrs. Cooper & DeSantis	Eliminate tolls for active duty Service members in FL & expand to other states
	Package Delivery Initial problem: On-base package deliveries are slow or inconsistent	● Meeting with PMG Steiner to discuss solutions ◐ **Coordinating with major carriers to establish a working group** ○ Working group meets to solve last-mile delivery issues ○ Solutions implemented in coordination with DoW	Timely and consistent last-mile delivery to on-base military families
EMPLOYMENT	**GMSC** Initial problem assessment: Lacking spousal employment	◐ **Best practice identified & referred to DoW** ○ MSC recommendation to POTUS ○ POTUS requests SecWar enact policy ○ SecWar implements	Reduce spousal unemployment via increased employment tools during PCS
	DAVRAP Initial problem: Lack of spousal continuity of career	◐ **Best practice identified & referred to DoW** ○ MSC recommendation to POTUS ○ POTUS requests SecWar enact policy ○ SecWar implements	Career progression for military spouses employed by service branch through PCS
HEALTHCARE	**Mature Minors** Initial problem: Parents unable to access child medical records	● Policy interpretation enacted by DHA ● Change approved for MHS Genesis adding "opt-in" option ◐ **Changes implemented in November 2026** ○ Pursue legislative solution enacted	Grant parents access to child medical records
EDUCATION & CHILDCARE	**Scholarships** Initial opportunity: Educational choice for military families	● Meeting with IRS for feasibility ◐ **Partnership with DoW to understand implementing** ○ Obtain nationwide approval for federal school voucher	Enhanced school choice for military families via federal school voucher
	Childcare Pilot Program Initial problem assessment: Lack of childcare options for families	● DoW Pilot Program announced 9/21 ● Pilot expanded to five new locations on 10/26 ○ Permanently establish fee assistance eligibility for approved childcare providers	Expand childcare options CONUS & OCONUS
DEPLOYMENT READINESS	**Emergency Contact Roster** Initial problem assessment: PI inaccessibility	● USCG best practice identified ● Approved by OSW DCOS-P ● With U/S Tata for approval ◐ **Recommendation from MSC to POTUS** ○ POTUS requests SecWar enact policy ○ SecWar implements	Universal emergency contact requirement

Key Issue Breakdown



45.6%

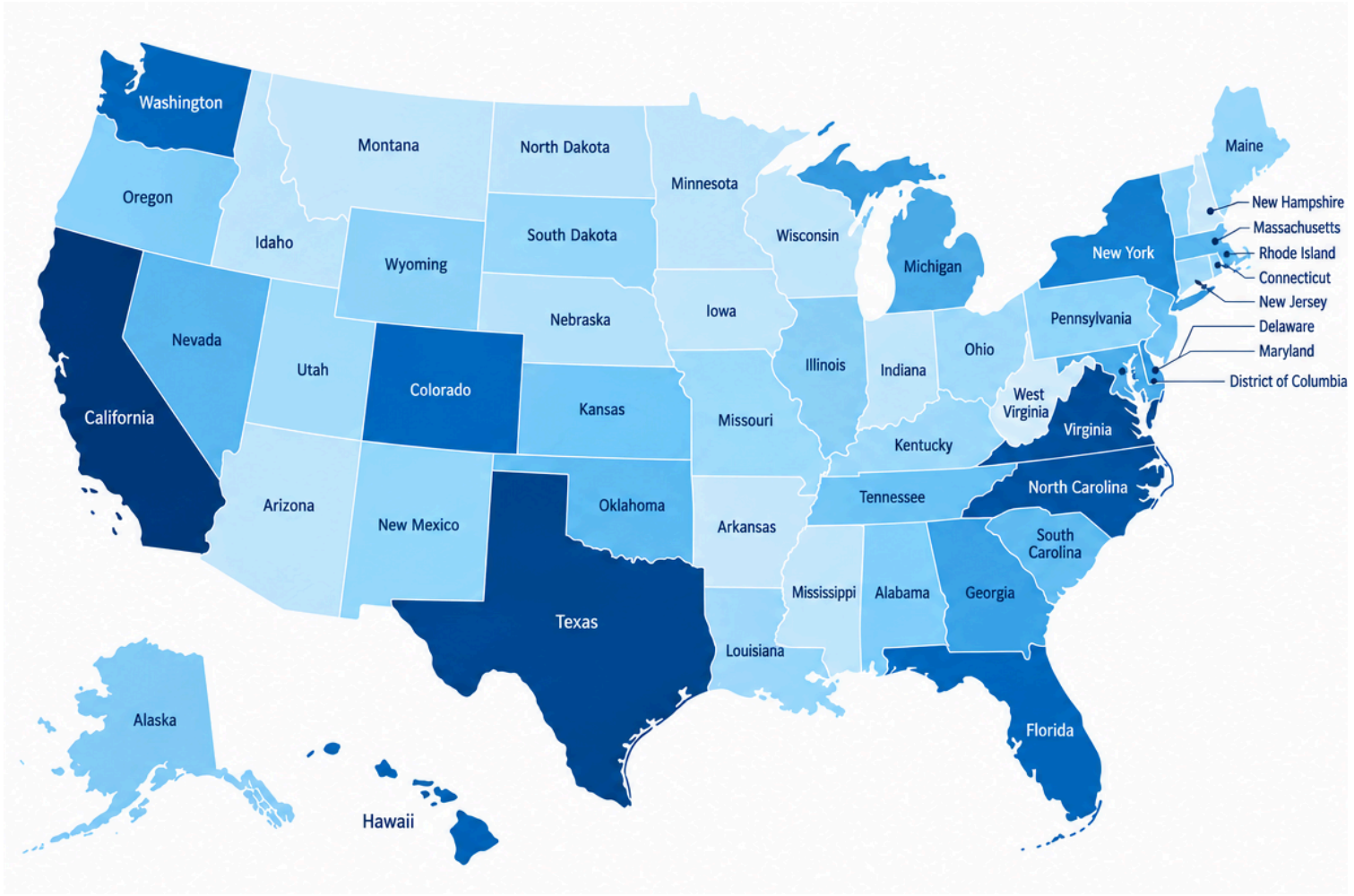
Employment has emerged as the most frequently raised issue, ahead of education and childcare, which was previously the leading issue.

540

Additional submissions to the public portal, 95 percent from active-duty military spouses.

MESSAGE VOLUME BY STATE

Who Is Writing In?



HIGHEST MESSAGE VOLUME

1. Virginia
2. Texas
3. Florida
4. North Carolina
5. California

BEYOND THE 50 STATES

OCONUS (outside the continental U.S.)

AE military mail (Armed Forces Europe)

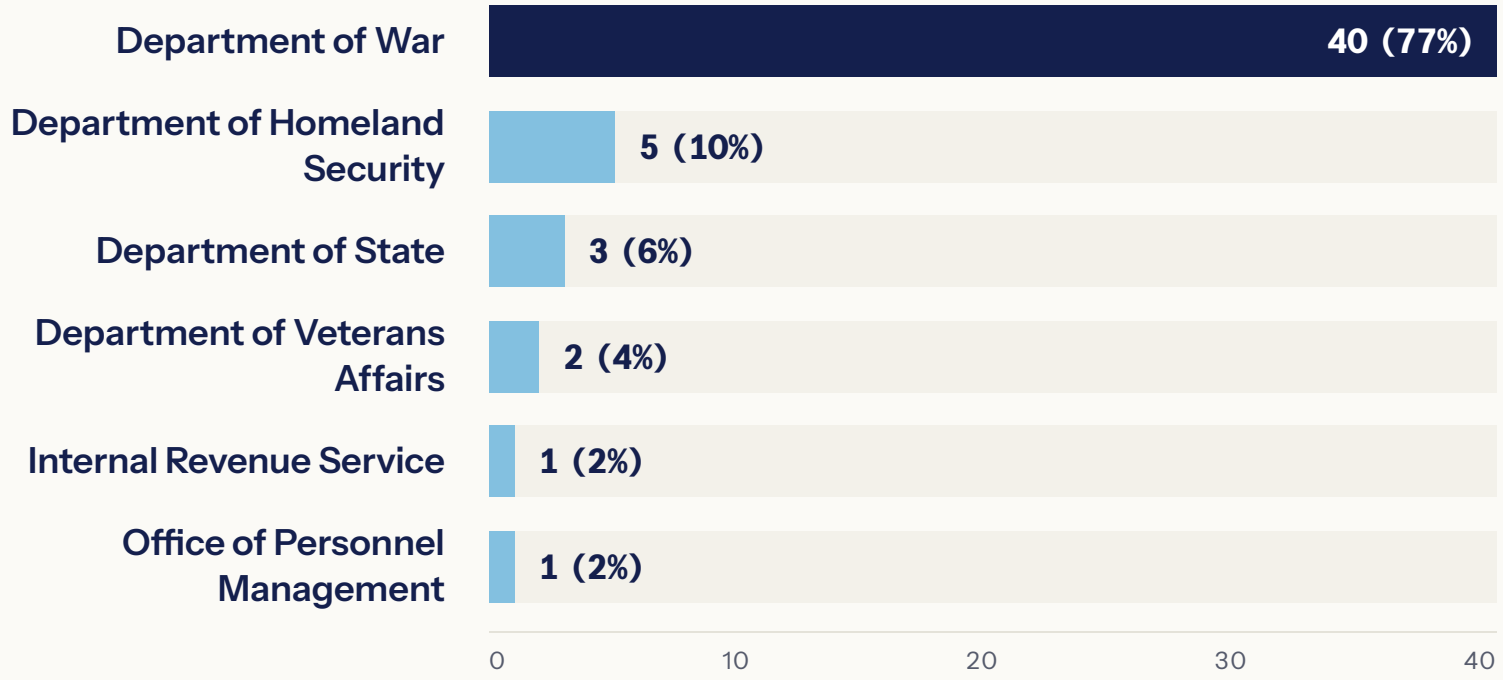
AP military mail (Armed Forces Pacific)

AA military mail (Armed Forces Americas)

Territories and FM (U.S. territories and Freely Associated States)

MILITARY SPOUSE FEDERAL AGENCY REFERRAL BREAKDOWN

Helping Those in Need Immediately



52

New referrals to six federal agencies. The **Department of War accounts for 77%** of the 52 new referrals.

SOURCE: WHITEHOUSE.GOV/MILITARY-SPOUSE-COMMISSION

Take Care of America's Veterans Act Has Passed the House

CURRENT STATUS

TCAVA passed the House on November 11; awaits Senate consideration not yet law

- **Protects remarried spouses:** Would allow surviving spouses who remarry before age 55 to retain certain survivor benefits, including DIC and military Survivor Benefit Plan payments
- **Increases financial support:** Would raise DIC payments for surviving spouses and expand eligibility for enhanced payments to survivors of veterans who died from ALS.
- **Supports spouse caregivers:** Would extend medical coverage for 6 months after the veteran's death or departure from the caregiver program while expanding employment and training support

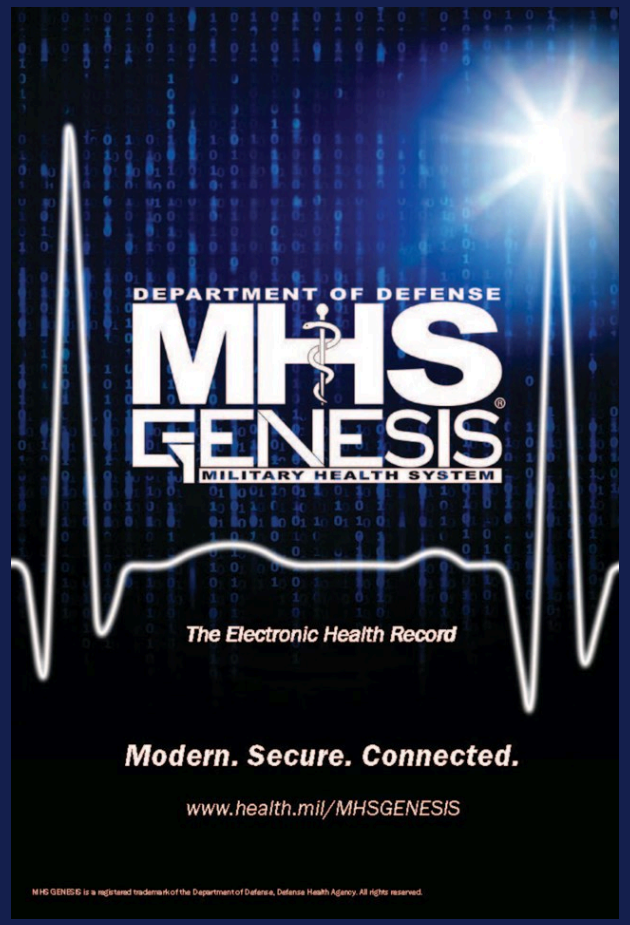
EMERGENCY CONTACT SOLUTION

Deployment-Related Support

- The Navy and Coast Guard's legal interpretations of existing statutes have mandated that Service members must update their contact information and the contact information for their dependents
- This mandate applies to Commands and requires them to ensure that proper contact information is relayed to the Ombudsmen
- We are trying to extend this to the family readiness volunteers in every service branch

READY FOR A VOTE

This major win was brought to the commission by Mrs. Lunday, has been vetted by the Coast Guard, White House, and DoW's legal counsel and is waiting on the commission to vote to recommend that the President order a DoW wide decision memo standardizing this practice



WHAT HAS CHANGED

Mature Minors Policy

- Last meeting, we discussed the Department of War ending the so-called “mature minor” policy at military medical treatment facilities
- The previous 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
- Two days after this meeting, on November 18, the official changes will come to MHS Genesis

Nov. 18 **Official changes come to MHS Genesis**

LAST MILE

Package Delivery

- Due to installation security policies, package delivery is often disrupted and unreliable
- Discussions are underway with USPS, FedEx, DHL, and UPS to establish a working group
- The Executive Director and Chair are working to schedule a meeting with USPS and the major carriers to form a working group to discuss the common issues spouses face in trying to have their packages delivered on-base

NEXT STEP

We are postponing an announcement or vote until after the meeting of the working group

EXPANDING PILOT PROGRAMS

Global Military Spouse Connection (GMSC)

- The **Global Military Spouse Connection (GMSC)** as currently designed is a centralized, Department-level mechanism that identifies spouses before PCS, collects their résumés, and actively brokers introductions to civilian hiring managers at the gaining installation
- This is a Department of the Air Force initiative
- This is a full pre-PCS hiring manager matching pipeline

> **We would like to take a vote among the commission members to pursue DoW Wide standardization**

EXPANDING PILOT PROGRAMS

Department of Army Voluntary Reassignment Program (DAVRAP)

- The **Department of Army Voluntary Reassignment Program (DAVRAP)** helps Army civilian talent like military spouses file for non-competitive, internal talent identification and acquisition by other installations
- DAVRAP lowers Time-to-Hire rates and increases military spouse employment opportunities while supporting continuity of career during PCS

COMMISSION VOTE

We would like to take a vote among the commission members to pursue DoW Wide standardization

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, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 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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WHITE HOUSE COMMENT LINE

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