



You, the military spouse, are the backbone of our Air and Space Forces. You are essential to the success and strength of our military and this nation. I continue to be in awe of who you are and what you do.

As Gen Brown and I travel from base to base, we see your value and what you provide our Air Force every day. You have no doubt earned a seat at the table through your selfless service and sacrifice, but also because you have invaluable knowledge and insight into the quality-of-life (QoL) areas that impact our families.

My focus as your CSAF spouse is on these quality-of-life areas, specifically **Childcare**, **Education** (for spouses and children), **Healthcare** (specifically Access to Care to include mental health), **Housing**, and **Spouse Employment**. I am calling this effort "Five to Thrive." I have chosen these top five QoL areas based on personal experience, feedback from military families, as well as surveys conducted by various organizations. My goal with this initiative is to ensure these five specific areas are highlighted and any challenges under them are met with purpose and resolve, to include the unique challenges of our EFMP families.

In facilitating this effort, I would like to start sending you the most current information in these focus areas through my monthly Spouse SITREPs (Situation Report). I encourage you to share these SITREPs with the spouses in your organizations, to include Key Spouses and Key Spouse Mentors.

The layout of this Spouse SITREP will include information related to the FIVE QoL areas as well as any additional information that may be helpful to our families at the time. If you have any thoughts or questions regarding these SITREPs, please feel free to reach out to me at [CSAFSpouseSITREP@gmail.com](mailto:CSAFSpouseSITREP@gmail.com). I would also love to hear your inspirational stories, testimonials, and tips on being a military spouse so that I can share them in my SITREP with you all!

I am proud to serve alongside you and appreciate all you do to support our Air and Space Force families!

Best,

*Mrs. Sharene Brown*

**Sharene Brown**, *Spouse of the 22nd Chief of Staff of the Air Force*

You can Follow me on [Facebook](#).

# FIVE TO THRIVE

SPOUSE SITREP VOL. 1 OCT 2021



## CHILDCARE

There are two new Pilot Programs seeking to provide creative solutions to Childcare. These programs are currently available only in certain locations while being tested. If these programs are in your location, you may want learn more about them and take advantage of these opportunities. See articles linked below for more information on the programs and where they are currently being offered:

### **[New Pilot Program for Full-time, In-home Childcare Providers](#)**

Furthering its commitment to providing additional childcare options to meet the needs of service members and military families, the Department of Defense will initiate a new pilot program to grant fee assistance to military families for full-time, in-home childcare providers. <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2674140/new-pilot-program-explores-helping-military-parents-with-fee-assistance-for-in/>

### **[New Pilot Program for Kinderspot App to Streamline Childcare Availability](#)**

The Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center (AFIMSC) is testing a mobile app designed to centralize and streamline the subletting of short-term slots at military child development centers. The app, called Kinderspot, allows families on Air Force installations to sublet child care spots at their home station or find spots at a location they will visit temporarily. It is being tested at certain locations.

<https://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/2674058/air-force-tests-child-care-subletting-app/>

## EDUCATION

### **Joint Service School Liaison Program Manager Listing**

It's back to school and Permanent Change of Station (PCS) season! Did you know there is an education office for PreK-12 at every installation? These education specialists provide more than transition assistance and are able to help you with local school navigation, deployment support, scholarship & grant resources and more. To find your local installation School Liaison Program Manager to see what resources are available or how you can help advocate for PreK-12 education in your local community please connect through the MI Joint Service School Liaison Program Manager Listing [here](#).

<https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/search?program-service=12/view-by=ALL>

### **Anchored4Life E-Learning Series**

In collaboration with the Department of the Air Force and US Navy School Liaison Programs, Anchored4Life has developed a video series that provides families and caregivers with fun and engaging activities to introduce, practice, and strengthen resilience life skill development with youth. These short videos are great for families or for group activities to support youth around the globe. The videos can be viewed unlimited times on the Anchored4Life website.

<https://anchored4life.com/e-learning-series/>

## SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT

### **[NEW Spouse Licensure Portability \(SLP\) Tool](#)**

<https://www.af.mil/About-Us/State-Licensure-Portability/>

The Department of the Air Force (DAF) just launched a NEW Spouse Licensure Portability (SLP) Tool to assist DAF, Guard & Reserve spouses identify occupational/professional licensing requirements upon PCSing/PCAing. Help spread the word on this awesome tool!! Spouses interested in providing feedback on the SLP Tool and/or participating in "live" Focus Group opportunities can sign-up through sending a message [here](#). <https://www.af.mil/About-Us/State-Licensure-Portability/>

# HEALTHCARE

**Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Automated Family Member Travel Screening**  
Beginning 30 Aug 2021, service members with a pending PCS assignment in need of Family Member Travel Screenings will be able to access and update their information via myVector. Members will receive an email and myVector notification and must complete the mandatory questionnaire to be entered into the new case management system. New automated capabilities include: elimination (in most cases) of doctor's appointments, CAC-free system access, allowing family members to complete most of the paperwork, and the ability to save personal information for future PCS. For more information, please reach out to the [DAF EFMP office](mailto:afpc.dp3x.workflow@us.af) at afpc.dp3x.workflow@us.af.

# HOUSING

## **CONUS PCS Housing Impact Mitigation**

<https://www.peterson.spaceforce.mil/Portals/15/Tab%201%20-%20Temporary%20Authority%20-%20Lodging.pdf>

The memo here authorizes AFSVC/CC to discount lodging rates in support of Airmen and Guardians having difficulty securing housing after PCS to CONUS (stateside) locations. The discounted rates only apply to on-base lodging for members who have reached the end of the 10-day Temporary Lodging Expense (TLE) authorization, and in areas where 60 days TLE have not been approved. This authorization expires 31 Jan 2022 and applies to areas experiencing limited availability of rental properties and significant increases in rental costs where Airmen/Guardians are delayed with securing housing. The AFSVC/CC will determine locations eligible for this lodging rate discount.

## **Temporary Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) Increase**

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/2788871/dod-authorizes-a-temporary-increase-to-2021-basic-allowance-for-housing-rates-f/source/GovDelivery/>

OSD has provided temporary BAH increases, effective 1 Oct 2021, for 56 Military Housing Areas (MHAs). This is in response to rising housing rates and shortages typically related to COVID impacts. Note that these are temporary and are NOT rate protected and as such could adjust again when the normal annual BAH rate adjustments are released in January. Also note that members must certify the need for the higher rate (not automatically granted).

# SPOUSE STORIES

## **We're All in This Together**

Taylor Scott, Air Force Spouse

My husband was a new recruiter outside of base and I gave birth within our first few months there. I didn't know the other spouses well but the flight chief's wife showed up in every way. Our personalities didn't match well and we didn't have anything to talk about, but when I had PPD (Postpartum Depression), she made sure she was there anyways. She held my daughter and we sat quietly for hours. She didn't ask how to help, she jumped in and helped like family would. We've returned the favor and grown and added to our spouse family. We're all in on this together, that's the Air Force I know.

*Note: If you are experiencing Postpartum Depression, there are several FREE resources for counseling available to you, to include Military OneSource and Military Family Life Counselors (MFLC). Reach out to your Key Spouse or Airmen & Family Readiness Center for more information. You can also check out this article from [Military OneSource on Seven Counseling Options for Service Members and their Families](#).*

## DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE (DAF) COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD (CAB)

The CAB and Community Action Team (CAT) are senior leader driven forums to identify and resolve quality of life issues impacting Total Force readiness. Families contribute to the success of our Total Force readiness. CAT meetings usually occur monthly and CAB meetings occur quarterly at the MAJCOM and installations. Mrs. Mollie Raymond, Chief Space Operations (CSO) spouse, and I have been invited to participate in future DAF CABs. This invitation led me to think about ways our leadership spouses can engage in their quarterly CAB meetings and monthly CAT meetings at the MAJCOM and local installations since you are a welcomed participant. The CAB/CAT provides our spouses a seat at the table to discuss QoL issues impacting military families. If command and leadership spouses cannot attend, I encourage them, when possible, to identify another leadership spouse who can attend in their place. Your knowledge and experience provides a valuable and unique perspective to help shape the outcome for family programs. Military spouses have so much to offer our military, and the CAB/CAT is one avenue for them to do so.

## DOD SURVEY FOR SPOUSES OF ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS

DoD is now offering all spouses of active-duty members the opportunity to provide feedback on the most pressing military life issues. The Active-Duty Spouse Survey is conducted every two years and analyzes key issues affecting military spouses, including spouse support, employment and stress. It is important for the DoD to hear from our spouses on those QoL challenges you all face. To complete the 2021 Active-Duty Spouse Survey, click [here](https://dodsurveys.mil/). <https://dodsurveys.mil/>

## 2021 CONGRESSIONAL MILITARY FAMILY CAUCUS SUMMIT

The 2021 Congressional Military Family Caucus Summit is scheduled for 14 Oct 2021 from 0900 - 1700 EST. It is a virtual event and this year co-chair's Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Congressman Sanford Bishop have chosen the topic: "Taking the Pulse of Military Families during COVID-19". They will be discussing the challenges military family communities are facing as we emerge from the pandemic in terms of Modern Military Communities, Education, Child Care, Spouse Employment, Healthcare/EFMP, Mental Health, Financial Readiness, Food Insecurity, and Housing. Sign up to register for the webinar, and attend any portion of it, [here](https://bishop.house.gov/CMFC-Summit-2021?fbclid=IwAR2O1aPbJ0I-TJUUoZ5fYF42w05KesbO-IcvAg-MW65A4twph1envu3J0I4U). <https://bishop.house.gov/CMFC-Summit-2021?fbclid=IwAR2O1aPbJ0I-TJUUoZ5fYF42w05KesbO-IcvAg-MW65A4twph1envu3J0I4U>

## SPOUSE DEVELOPMENT: MASTER RESILIENCE TRAINER COURSE (MRTC)

There are multiple virtual opportunities over the next year for Key Spouses to become Master Resilience Trainers (MRTs). Key Spouses will need to have completed the Resilience Training Assistant (RTA) course before they can attend MRTC. Contact your local Community Support Coordinator (CSC) for additional information regarding how to become an MRT.

## AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (AFA) TOWN HALL: LEADERSHIP AND THE FAMILY

<https://vimeo.com/611914816>

If you missed the AFA Town Hall on 22 September, you can watch the video [here](https://vimeo.com/611914816). Air and Space Force Leadership talked about Quality of Life (QoL) challenges that impact our military families, to include our EFMP families. I launched the new initiative, Five to Thrive, at this event.

Check out these two articles for a recap of the Town Hall event from [AirForceMag.com](https://www.airforcemag.com) and [SpaceForce.mil/news](https://www.spaceforce.mil/news).

<https://www.airforcemag.com/air-force-chief-of-staff-browns-son-autism-exceptional-families/>  
<https://www.spaceforce.mil/News/Article/2788970/department-of-the-air-force-leaders-talk-leadership-family-during-panel-at-afa/>

# KEY DATES

14 October

2021 Congressional Military Family Caucus Summit