

EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER PROGRAM (EFMP)

Bassett Army Community Hospital

FT Wainwright, AK 99703

What is the Exceptional Family Member Program?

The Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) is a mandatory enrollment program (AR 608-75) that is based on public law and the Department of Defense mandates. It works with other military and civilian agencies to provide comprehensive and coordinated medical, educational, housing, community support, and personnel services to families with special needs. The program's goal is to assign Soldiers to a duty station that can provide the medical and educational needs of the Soldier's family members.

Who must enroll in the program?

The following groups of Soldiers and Exceptional Family Members (EFM's) are required to enroll in the program:

- Active Army
- U.S. Army reserve (USAR) Soldiers in the USAR-Active Guard (AGR) program and the other USAR Soldiers on active duty exceeding 30 days.
- Army National Guard AGR personnel serving under the authority of Title 10, United States Code and Title 32, United States Code.

Department of the Army civilian employees do not enroll in the program. However, they must identify dependent children with special educational and medically related services needs and family members with medical needs when in-processing for an assignment to a location outside the United States where family member travel is authorized at Government expense.

How does a Soldier enroll in the program?

The Soldier contacts the nearest Army military facility EFMP point of contact to begin the assessment process and obtain the enrollment forms. Once the forms are completed, they are forwarded to the appropriate regional medical center for coding and on to Army personnel agencies to enroll the Soldier in the program. At FT Wainwright, contact Mrs. Trisch McMurray, EFMP RN, Special Needs Advisor or the EFMP Medical Support Assistant, at Bassett Army Community Hospital. **Contact: 907-361-5959/5825 Fax: 907-361-4835**

EFMP Walk in Hours are Monday- Friday 13:00-16:00

How long is the Soldier enrolled in the program?

Soldiers are enrolled permanently in the program unless a change in a family member's medical or special education needs warrant case closure or the Soldier is separated from the Army.

Soldiers are responsible for keeping their EFM's medical and/or special education documentation current. A review / update of the EFMP Enrollment is required for two reasons. First, if the EFM's medical or educational condition changes significantly. Or secondly, it must be updated at a minimum of every **three years**. Soldiers may check their EFMP status on AKO and it is listed on their ORB / ERB.

Does enrollment have an impact on Soldier's career?

No! Information about enrollment is not given to selection boards. Therefore, it does not adversely affect a Soldier's selection for promotion.

Who is an Exceptional Family Member?

An Exceptional Family Member (child or adult) with physical, emotional, developmental, or intellectual disorder that requires special treatment, therapy, education, training or counseling.

What are criteria for enrollment in the Exceptional Family Member Program?

- a. Family members with serious or chronic medical problems, physical disabilities, and mental health disorders (such as ADD/ADHD, allergies, asthma, autism, cerebral palsy, chronic fatigue, cystic fibrosis, depression, bi-polar disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, mental health counseling, visually impaired).
- b. Family members that require intensive follow up support (such as high risk newborns, cancer patients).
- c. Family members that require early intervention or special education services.
- d. Family members that require special medical equipment.

Why enroll in EFMP?

Early enrollment in the EFMP is the Soldier's guarantee that the Army will do its best to match the Soldier's grade and specialty with a location that can provide the support needs of the EFM(s). Soldiers who are enrolled are still subject to worldwide assignment and, just like any other Soldier, may be called upon to serve an unaccompanied tour.

All family members must be screened for special needs before obtaining command sponsorship at a location outside the United States (OCONUS).

Are special education needs always considered in the assignment process?

Special education needs are only considered in assignments outside the United States. Alaska is considered and overseas assignment, and has limited services for some forms of developmental delays / special education needs. Every local school system has provisions for

special education programs, however, sometimes special education and developmental delays overwhelm local services. Therefore, special considerations apply when EFMs are assigned to Alaska.

Of note, early intervention programs are available through the community for children from birth up to 36 months of age who are diagnosed with or at risk for developmental delays. Child-find services are available for children over 36 months and primarily are provided through local schools.

What EFMP services are available for me?

Advocacy	Relocation Assistance	Community Recreation
Resource Directory	Housing Modification requests	Respite Care
School Liaison	Information and Referral	Legal
Support Groups	Lending Library	Workshops & Classes
Medical and/or Counseling Services		

To Learn More about EFMP, please contact:

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Army Community Services

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