



MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE ALBANY, GEORGIA

EFMP Coordinator

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EFMP Overview

The Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) was established in 1987 to assist active duty service members in providing for the special needs of their Exceptional Family Members before, during and after relocation required by a change of duty assignment.

An Exceptional Family Member is defined as any authorized family member (spouse, child, stepchild, adopted child, foster child or dependent parent) residing with the sponsor who possesses a physical, intellectual or emotional disability and requires special medical or educational services. The program ensures every attempt is made to mesh military career and special family needs whenever possible.

If you have an Exceptional Family Member, enrollment in the EFM program is **mandatory** as per MCO P1754.4A. The aim of the program is to help monitors at Headquarters Marine Corps assign Marines to locations where exceptional family member special needs can best be met. Additional services include the following:

- SPECIAL MEDICAL / EDUCATIONAL NEEDS ADVOCACY
- REFERRALS TO AVAILABLE LOCAL RESOURCES
- ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING APPROPRIATE CHILD CARE
- PRIORITY HOUSING FOR ELIGIBLE FAMILIES

- LENDING LIBRARY WITH BOOKS AND VIDEOS

Active duty personnel are still deployable but you won't have to worry about getting a permanent change of station orders to an area where required medical or educational services are not available to your family member.

Enrollment can be for as long as necessary. According to MCO P1754.4, enrollment and enrollment updates are the responsibility of the active duty military member. Disenrollment requires a letter from a medical doctor stating that the diagnosis or condition has resolved and the family member no longer receives services. Disenrollment can also take place if there is a change in marital status or if a minor child turns 18 or 21 and no longer lives with the active duty member. Once enrolled, as the Marine sponsor, you will be assigned one of the following categories:

Category 1: Needs generally do not limit assignment.

Category 2: Pinpoint assignment overseas and continental US.

Category 3: No overseas assignment.

Category 4: Major medical areas in continental US.

Your category reflects several factors: Your family member's diagnosis, the severity of the diagnosis, available medical/educational/psychiatric resources at each duty station, and the expected duration of the diagnosis. For example, the Marine Corps would not want to send a Marine on an accompanied tour of say, MCAS Iwakuni when that Marine's family member had congestive heart failure. Local resources might be unable to support that family member at all or might be unable to treat all aspects of the family member's illness.

SOME THINGS EFMP DOES NOT HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPLETING:

Humanitarian Transfers (HUMS): While a Marine may have a family member enrolled in EFMP and also apply for a HUMS, the two programs are separate. For more information on HUMS and the process it takes to qualify, please visit the Manpower & Reserve Affairs portion of the Marine Corps Manpower website (could not link) by **cutting and pasting** the following into your Internet browser:

https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/page?_pageid=278,1&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

Unlike EFMP, HUMS does require the involvement of your chain of command. In order to qualify, you must have documentation from your family member's medical provider(s), as well as the support of your chain of command. HUMS requests are granted only under specific circumstances.

Hardship Discharges: Similar circumstances (death of a spouse or major illness of a family member) may lead a Marine to seek either a HUMS or a hardship discharge. A hardship discharge also originates with the chain of command at the local installation, but must be approved through HQMC.

Overseas Screening (OSS): An OSS takes place whenever a Marine family has orders to an isolated duty (such as recruiting in Montana) or to an overseas installation (usually Okinawa or

Iwakuni). OSS is the responsibility of the Military Treatment Facility both at the current installation and at the installation where the family may move. EFMP is only part of this process if the family is already enrolled or if the family has not previously enrolled but should due to a medical, educational, or psychological special need. In many Navy MTFs, the Navy EFMP coordinator and OSS screener are the same person. Marine Corps EFMP Coordinators are usually housed in MCCS Marine & Family Services.

Military Resources for EFMP

<http://www.usmc-mccs.org/efmp/index.cfm> Marine Corps Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) homepage. Includes links and information of use to any Marine with an EFM.

866-464-6110 Toll free

703-784-9654/0298 commercial

278-9654 DSN

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil> Military Homefront is a “one stop shop,” where you can find answers about anything from special needs to BAH rates, healthcare resources to relocation information.

Specialized Training of Military Parents (STOMP) provides training and advocacy specifically for military families who have children with special needs. Founded with a grant from the U. S. Department of Education, STOMP maintains regional offices throughout the United States to assist military families in accessing medical and educational services.

www.stompproject.org

1-800-5-PARENT (800-572-7368)

<http://www.militarychild.org/> The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) is working to solve the challenge of helping schools and military installations deliver accurate, timely information to meet transitioning parent and student needs, and in the development and education of children from military families. Our purpose is to share information in order to develop systems and processes to resolve transition issues for military students.

(254) 953-1923 Voice

(254) 953-1925 Fax

Education

www.dougherty.k12.GA.us Dougherty County School System site, with schedules for school year, information about system requirements, and points of contact for various schools and departments.

229-431-1264 General Info

229-431-1231 Exceptional Students Program

www.lee.k12.GA.us Lee County School System site. Although students must reside in Lee County to attend these schools, some active duty families living off base elect to live in Lee County.

229-759-6100

229-759-6104 Special Education Coordinator

www.worth.k12.ga.us Worth County Board of Education website. Some active duty families live in Worth County; any who live aboard base may send their children to Worth County, although bus transportation will not come on to the base for pickup.

229-776-8600 Superintendent's Office

www.doe.k12.GA.us The Georgia Dept of Education website. Has “report cards” on school systems as well as individual schools that compare test scores for certain grades. This site also contains information on state requirements for graduation, kindergarten attendance, vaccinations, etc.

404-656-3963 · Fax 404-651-6457 Georgia Exceptional Students Program

www.glr.org **Georgia Learning Resources System (GLRS)** – GLRS is a network of 17 regional centers that provide a support system for parents, teachers and administrators. GLRS centers maintain libraries of materials, including videos and computer labs, and arrange regional workshops. GLRS also maintains a toll-free telephone number to provide special education information to teachers and the general public.

1-800-282-7552

State Advisory Panel for Special Education - A 23-member panel helps parents and local school systems by receiving and responding to public comment, presenting an annual report to the Georgia Board of Education and advising the Georgia Department of Education of unmet needs for the education of students with disabilities. For more information, contact the chair of the panel, **Michaela D'Aquanni** at **770-420-4336**, or mdaquann@kennesaw.edu

<http://services.georgiasouthern.edu/rcld> The **Regents' Center for Learning Disabilities (RCLD)** at Georgia Southern University provides **assessments, resources, and research** related to students within the University System who have learning disorders. This is one of three Centers established by the Georgia Board of Regents for assessment of students attending any of the public colleges and universities in the state of Georgia.

Voice 912-681-0100 FAX 912-681-5380

Health Care

<http://www.humana-military.com/> The TRICARE contractor for the South Region is **Humana Military Healthcare Services**

(800) 444-5445 Toll-free benefits assistance number

To contact Albany local TRICARE Service Center, call the above number and wait for an operator, than ask to be connected during business hours, typically 0800 – 1630, Eastern time.

<http://www.humana-military.com/south/bene/HealthandWellness/BehavioralHealth/vobenefits.htm> **ValueOptions** is the sub-contractor who supplies behavioral health services, such as counseling, psychiatric appointments, psychological evaluations, etc for TRICARE Prime enrollees. You can contact them at the below number:

800-700-8646

<http://www.phoebeputney.com/> **Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital** is the nearest full service hospital that is a TRICARE approved facility. Established in 1911, it has 450 total beds, 214 physicians, over 3,000 employees, and several specialty care centers. The hospital is located approximately 5 miles from **MCLB Albany**. The hospital provides all major specialty care, including cardiac, obstetrics, cancer, diabetes, respiratory therapy, sleep disorder clinic, psychiatric services, and surgical staff. **229-312-1000 General Information**

<http://www.shepherd.org/> Shepherd Center is an Atlanta-based catastrophic care hospital, treating people with spinal cord injuries, acquired brain injuries, multiple sclerosis and other neuromuscular illnesses and urological problems.

(404) 350-7345 or 1-800-SHEPHERD

<http://www.choa.org/> **Children's Healthcare of Atlanta** addresses the unique needs of sick and injured children and their families with specially trained physicians and staff, equipment designed for young, growing bodies and a child-friendly environment. Children's has been recognized for excellence in cancer treatment, cardiology, transplantation services, cranio-facial surgery, emergency medicine, orthopedics and rehabilitation, among many other pediatric services.

(404) 250-KIDS (5437)

http://www.emoryhealthcare.org **Emory University Healthcare**

(404) 778-7777 or toll free (800) 75-EMORY (753-6679)

Title V (Children with Special Health Care Needs) Program:

Children's Medical Services program within the state of Georgia provides services to children from birth to 21 years of age. Specific health conditions, as well as income, establish eligibility to receive services. Please visit the website or call the below number for more information. **Babies Can't Wait** is a related early intervention program within the state.

Children's Medical Services

1306 Slappey Blvd, Suite B

(229) 430-4115 or (800) 430-4212

<http://health.state.ga.us/programs/cms/index.asp>

To contact someone at the Georgia state **Office of Children with Special Needs**, use the following contact information:

State Office of Children with Special Needs

#2 Peachtree Street NE, Room 11-205

Atlanta, GA 30303-3186

(404) 657-2726 or (888) 651-8224

(404) 657-2763 FAX

Vocational Rehabilitation Programs

<http://www.vocrehabga.org/> **Rehabilitation Services (RS)** of the **Georgia Department of Labor** provides opportunities for work and personal independence for Georgians with disabilities. The adjusted FY'01 budget for the Division was \$179.5 million, including \$26.7 million in state funds. The largest program within RS is the state and federally funded **Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program**. Its mission is to help people with disabilities to go to work. For the Albany regional office, call the numbers below:

110 Pine Avenue

Albany, GA 31701

(229) 430-4170; (229) 430-4237 TTY

(229) 430-3931 FAX

<http://www.rooseveltrehab.org> **Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation (Roosevelt Institute)** provides medical and vocational services for people with many different kinds of disabilities including stroke, spinal cord injuries, brain injuries, post-polio, mental retardation, learning and other disabilities. The Medical Rehabilitation Unit serves all ages. The Vocational Unit serves persons 16 years of age and older.

Phone 706-655-5257; FAX 706-655-5258; TTY 706-655-5176

Parent Training & Information Centers

Parents Educating Parents (PEP)

Georgia ARC Network

P.O. Box 43663

Atlanta, GA 30336

(800) 732-1122

TDD: 404-616-9287; Fax: 770-732-6050

www.sowegaautismresources.org

South West Georgia Autism Resources

Parent "owned" organization to assist parents of children diagnosed with autism and Asperger's syndrome.

229-883-6288, Diane Blocker

<http://www.parenttoparentofga.org/>

Parent to Parent of Georgia, Inc

Southwest Georgia Regional Office

(229) 438-5600; Toll Free 1-800-583-4953

Protection & Advocacy

Founded in 1963 to advocate on behalf of persons with mental retardation, **Albany Advocacy Resource Center (ARC)** has become one of the largest and most successful private provider agencies in Georgia, serving individuals with a wide range of disabilities and supportive living needs. The program is recognized as Georgia's standard of consumer-driven, cost-effective services. Albany ARC is often visited by national and state advocates and providers seeking to learn more about its successful, individualized model.

229-888-6852; TDD ask for extension 354

Toll Free 1-800-545-1833

<http://www.thegao.org/> The **Georgia Advocacy Office (GAO)** is a private non-profit corporation. Its mission is to work with and for oppressed and vulnerable individuals in Georgia who are labeled as disabled or mentally ill to secure their protection and advocacy. GAO's work is mandated by Congress, and GAO has been designated by Georgia as the agency to implement protection and advocacy within the state.

404-885-1234; WATS 1-800-537-2329 (Voice and TDD)

FAX (770) 414-2948 Email: info@thegao.org

<http://www.ldag.org> **Learning Disabilities Association of Georgia** is a nonprofit, volunteer organization whose purpose is to provide access to resources for children and adults with learning disabilities and/or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, using a holistic approach, in the areas of: transitions; education and employment; self-advocacy training; systems change; support; improved conditions; and outreach. For current meeting information, call **404-303-7774**.

[http://www.nichcy.org/](http://www.nichcy.org) **The National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities (NICHCY)** is the national information center that provides information on disabilities and disability-related issues. Anyone can use our services—families, educators, administrators, journalists, students. Our special focus is children and youth (birth to age 22). (800) 695-0285 · v/tty (202) 884-8441 · fax

<http://www.sedbtac.org/> **The Southeast Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center (SEDBTAC)** is a regional resource center on the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The mission of SEDBTAC is the following:

- Facilitate voluntary compliance with the ADA and promote accessible information technology (IT) among educational entities.
- Provide current, accurate information, technical assistance and training regarding ADA and accessible educational IT to businesses and people with disabilities.

800-949-4232 (voice/TTY); 404-385-0636 (voice/TTY)
404-385-0641 FAX; Email: sedbtac@catea.org

Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS)
217 West Oglethorpe Boulevard
P. O. Box 3249
Albany, Georgia 31706-3249
(229) 430-4118
FAX (229) 430-4355

Mental Health Resources

Albany Area Community Service Board
(Mental Health/Mental Retardation/Substance Abuse)
601 West 11th Avenue
Albany, GA 31701
(229) 430-4140 General Information
<http://mhddad.dhr.georgia.gov>

Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital
Psychiatric Services
417 West 3rd Avenue
Albany, GA 31701
(229) 312-7000
<http://www.phoebeputney.com>

ValueOptions Behavioral health services sub-contractor for the TRICARE South Region

<http://www.humana-military.com/south/bene/HealthandWellness/BehaviorialHealth/vobenefits.htm> **ValueOptions** is the sub-contractor who supplies behavioral health services, such as counseling, psychiatric appointments, psychological evaluations, etc for TRICARE Prime enrollees. You can contact them at the below number:
800-700-8646

Respite Care

Easter Seals of Southern Georgia, Inc provides respite care to eligible individuals with qualifying conditions.

**1906 Palmyra Road
Albany, GA 31701-1598
(229) 439-7061
800 365-4583**

Megan's House is the only children's respite home south of Atlanta for medically fragile children. The fully accessible house's amenities include: 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, fenced back yard, full kitchen and convenient location near restaurants, hospitals, and pharmacies.

<http://southerngeorgia.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=GADR03> **Adopt a day**

For elderly dependents living with an active duty member, respite services could be provided through **SOWEGA Council on Aging**. However, these services are sometimes not available due to lack of funding.

Southwest Georgia (SOWEGA) Council on Aging
**308 Flint Avenue
Albany, GA 31701
(229) 432-1124**
<http://www.sowegacoa.org/>

United Way of Albany can provide additional information on respite services available in the Albany area.

United Way
2401 Dawson Road
Albany, GA 31707
(229) 888-6126 HELPLINE
(229) 883-6700 Business office