



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330

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REFOCUSING FAMILY READINESS

Fellow Airmen, Families, and Community Partners,

In the fall of 2023, the Department of the Air Force (DAF) initiated an internal review to kickstart the process of [Reoptimization for Great Power Competition \(GPC\)](#). While our efforts to prepare the force for future challenges are essential, they will be incomplete without a parallel focus on family readiness. In order to meet the moment in this time of consequence, we need to ensure that families and communities connected to the Air Force are as well prepared as our service members for the possible challenges that lay ahead.

As a squadron commander during the terrorist attacks on September 11th, 2001, I was struck by how collectively unprepared we were for the changing environment from a family readiness perspective. We cannot afford to be in that situation again. The insights I gained then have been validated in the years since and serve as motivation for what we in the Air Force community need to strive to achieve when it comes to family readiness. First, it is crucial for families of service members to understand their unit's mission, and the broader Air Force mission, so they understand what they and their service member will be expected to do when called upon. Second, establishing connections with community and supporting agencies before a crisis occurs is crucial, since attempting to do so in the midst of an emergency is too late. Lastly, preparing families and communities to respond with resilience during challenging moments is essential, as they may need to take action in a critical moment with limited support while their service member is executing their assigned mission.

Military conflicts are not the only crises that requires a skilled and resilient response. Natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, and wildfires also demand a rapid and effective reaction based in the concept of family readiness. Additionally, the concept of family readiness is not limited to servicemembers with dependents; single servicemembers have families and communities who care deeply about them, and those individuals must be ready to participate in resilient responses during key moments as well.

To advance the objectives of family readiness, we made multiple changes to Air Force programs aimed at improving outcomes in this focus area. The Deputy Chief of Staff of the Air Force for Manpower, Personnel, and Services (AF/A1) recently announced a revitalization of the [Commander's Key Support Program](#) (CKSP) and redesignated volunteers as Key Support Liaisons (KSLs), which allows a wider pool of volunteers to play an active role in advancing family readiness objectives at the unit-level. The [Relocation Assistance](#) Program was reshaped to better prepare Airmen, Guardians, and families for the permanent change of station (PCS) process. We are in the midst of merging the True North and Operational Support Team programs to create [True North + \(TN+\)](#), centralizing unit resources and enabling allocation and re-allocation based on unit risk data and evolving mission priorities. [Connect to Care \(CTC\)](#)

Approach aims to streamline access to care and ensure no individual or group is turned away or lacks required services and support. Finally, we updated our Resilience website to offer a wide variety of resources for both service members and families, including crisis management tools (e.g. suicide hotline number, Military OneSource, Sexual Assault Prevention & Response, civilian Employee Assistance Program, etc.), and guidance.

I am deeply committed to fostering a culture of family readiness as the Chief of Staff of the Air Force; however, I recognize that this is not an issue I can resolve alone. Our Service needs everyone in the Air Force community, including service members, civilian employees, family members, and community partners, to work together to improve our resilience and prepare to respond in moments of crisis. To achieve this, I encourage everyone to contribute to family readiness by getting involved, innovating, and preparing themselves for critical moments. By doing so, we can ensure we are collectively prepared to meet challenges that may come our way, ultimately leading to success in our time of consequence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. W. Allvin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

DAVID W. ALLVIN
General, USAF
Chief of Staff