



Autism Society of NORTH CAROLINA

Resource Guide for Military

October 20, 2008

Table of Contents	1
Introduction: Navigating Autism with combat boots	2
Information for Parents of Children Newly Diagnosed With Autism	3
TRICARE	4
Exceptional Family Member Program and ECHO	4
Respite	4
Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)	5
2008 Autism Demonstration Project	5
Durable Equipment	6
Biomedical Treatment	7
Social Security	8
Incapacitated Dependent Program	8
Army	9
Air Force	11
Navy	14
Marine Corps	15
Coast Guard	18
Guard and Reserve Components	20
Retired Military	22
Financial Assistance	23
National Military Resources and Websites	24
Education Resources	25

INTRODUCTION

As a parent of two children on the Autism spectrum, learning to navigate the world of Autism can be like an obstacle course, full of ups and downs. Like our children with Autism, no two are alike, instead they are individually unique and the course you choose for your child will be uniquely your own as well. The Autism Society of North Carolina has created this guide to assist you in finding the support you and your family need, and put you in touch with the resources available. We do not endorse or recommend one specific intervention or treatment that will be for you to decide.

As a former of the Air Force and Air National Guard, and now a member of the Air Force Reserve, I have seen the challenges that military members are faced with and want to tell you that this is one course that you do not have to navigate alone. The Autism Society of North Carolina has chapters and regional advocates throughout the state, including a statewide Bi-lingual (Spanish-English) advocate available to assist you. Parent Advocates offer expertise in a variety of areas including:

- Information and Referral – find resources in the community
- School Issues – IEPs, suspension/discipline, advocating at school
- Training and Workshops – Topics include: Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), Information for Families of Newly Diagnosed Children, Transition to Adulthood, What is Autism Spectrum Disorder, and Staying Safe in the Community
- Mental Health Services – Access the system and services
- Transition Planning and Adult Support – Plan for the future
- Connect with families in communities throughout the state
- Crisis Services – Where to turn when you need help

I encourage you to check out our website at www.autismsociety-nc.org. Under the Family Support tab you will find links to a Community Resource Guide, IEP Resource Guide as well as links to our chapters and affiliates across the state. Our chapters provide a wonderful opportunity for parents who face similar challenges to meet and offer support and encouragement, share experiences, information and resources, raise awareness about the needs and strengths of individuals with Autism. Through these connections, parents learn realistic, practical solutions for Autism-related concerns in a place where individuals feel welcomed, accepted and understood.

I would like to give special thanks to Lt Col Scott Campbell, U.S. Army for sharing his list of resources and his experiences as he has navigating the world of Autism for his son and provided numerous families of children with Autism with guidance and support, especially those serving in Armed Forces.

I hope you find this guide to be a useful tool. I invite you to share any resources or information that you find helpful so that we may share it with more families. Also, I invite you to contact me if you come across any erroneous or obsolete information by contacting me at pstanier@Autismsociety-nc.org or 1-800-357-2762. Please refer to our guide from time to time as updates will be ongoing as new information becomes available.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you and thank you for your service to our country.

Patti Stanier
Parent Advocate
Autism Society of North Carolina

Information for Parents of Children Newly Diagnosed

The Autism Society of North Carolina provides training and workshops statewide, if you are not already a member, I invite you to become one. Workshops, conference and current info... is available on our website at www.Autismsociet-nc.org.

Autism Society of America has a web link with good info for newly diagnosed children at <http://www.Autism-society.org/site/PageServer?pagename=DiagnosisConsultation> and at http://www.Autism-society.org/site/PageServer?pagename=about_treatment_home.

“Advice for Parents of Young Child with Autism” is a paper written in 2004 from Autism Research Institute and an excellent starting point. It provides an excellent overview of various interventions that have helped many children and may help your child. The “What to do next section?” at the end provides a great place to start. <http://www.Autismwebsite.com/ari/intro/adviceforparents.htm>

Autism Speaks has a First 100 Days Kit. This tool is designed to assist families with getting the critical information they need in the first 100 days after an Autism diagnosis, http://bcc-asa.org/100_day_kit.pdf.

First signs at <http://www.firstsigns.org/> provide some very good advice for new parents to the world of Autism.

TRICARE North Region

Phone: 1-877-TRICARE (1-877-874-2273)

Website: www.myTRICARE.com

TRICARE'S EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER PROGRAM AND EXTENDED CARE HEALTH OPTION (ECHO)

The first step in acquiring services in the North Region is to enroll your child in the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) at one of the local offices. Once that is done, you can enroll in the Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) program, formerly the Program for Persons with Disabilities (PPWD). The form for enrollment is the Case Management Referral Form at

[https://www.hnfs.net/res/TRICARE/common/doc/-](https://www.hnfs.net/res/TRICARE/common/doc/-1773484678/02511%20Medical%20Managment%20Referral%20Form.doc)

[1773484678/02511%20Medical%20Managment%20Referral%20Form.doc](https://www.hnfs.net/res/TRICARE/common/doc/-1773484678/02511%20Medical%20Managment%20Referral%20Form.doc). Note that the forms are "fillable" and can be completed electronically, if desired. Also note that certain sections of the form must be completed by your physician and by a public official in your county. Therefore, you will need to make appointments with your military PCM or physician for a referral to a developmental pediatrician.

The ECHO Program currently only covers ABA therapy, since that is the only method with a decent amount of scientific research behind it. I doubt that will change anytime soon. More info is in Chapter 9 of the TRICARE Policy Manual 6010.54-M at <http://manuals.TRICARE.osd.mil>.

TRICARE ECHO Brochure access at www.TRICARE.osd.mil

You may the TRICARE ECHO Booklet at

<http://www.TRICARE.osd.mil/TRICAREsmart/product.aspx?id=294&CID=0&RID=3>.

Info from Healthnet is at <https://www.hnfs.net/common/caremanagement/echo.htm>.

Frequently asked questions about ECHO

<https://www.hnfs.net/common/caremanagement/ECHO%20FAQs.htm>

To receive TRICARE ECHO benefits, you must register with Health Net Federal Services and ask to speak to the Case Management Coordinator for the ECHO program in your Sub-region, phone numbers are at https://www.hnfs.net/common/caremanagement/echo_registration.htm.

To sign up for the TRICARE ECHO email newsletters subscription, go to

<http://www.TRICARE.osd.mil/TRICAREsubscriptions>.

Congress created the ECHO program to make services accessible to active duty service members in one state that are not accessible in another state because they are required to move frequently and are normally not in one area long enough to wait to become eligible for services through Medicaid waivers in most states. Some services are only accessible through TRICARE's ECHO program and not through regular TRICARE. Most notably is Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy. However, most services (such as OT, PT and S&L) are only available through the regular, basic program, even though some TRICARE folks may state the opposite. There is a monthly co-pay depending on your rank. The program provides up to \$2500 of services per month for each family member enrolled in ECHO.

This program is not available to families of retirees. Guard and Reserve members must be on active duty for 30 or more days to access these services.

Respite Care

Once enrolled in ECHO for any service, then you are also eligible for 16 hours a month of respite care by a TRICARE-authorized Home Health Care provider. However, this is only for your disabled child, and they may not also watch any of your other children, unless you can work out something with the actual respite care provider on the side. You will need to have a new request from a MD for this "non-skilled nursing" entitlement. The respite care provider must be a TRICARE-authorized "home health care agency" provider, so you cannot use a neighbor, family member, or anyone like that. Under "specialty" go to "home health care agency" on your TRICARE web site. Hit search and go to the provider tab to see who is a TRICARE-authorized "home health care agency" provider in your area. Then, call whoever comes up to verify that they do accept and bill TRICARE and have non-skilled nursing providers (certified nursing assistants usually) before determining which provider would be the best fit for your family. The request should state something like "non-skilled respite care by "provider's name and address" for up to 16 hours/

month X 12 months." The request can and should be for 12 months at a time, even though TRICARE can only do the authorizations for 6 months at a time. You can only use this benefit if you have money left from your \$2500. If you use your full \$2500 on ABA, you cannot also receive respite hours.

TRICARE's ABA Policy

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy is a structured one-on-one program to identify and address problem areas unique to each individual child with Autism and is currently approved through ECHO. When this program changed from the PFPWD to ECHO, the criteria to get ABA changed. They are currently listed in sections 2.2 through 2.4 of chapter 9 of the TRICARE Policy Manual 6010.54-M, dated 1 AUG 02. Most child with Autism qualify for services under the "Significant Physical Disabilities" at section 2.3 by having problems with "unaided performance" with the major life activities of cognition and age appropriate abilities. A number of potential qualifying conditions are listed in this section. Some TRICARE personnel may insist that the child must also have a mental retardation (MR) diagnosis too, but that is absolutely not correct. TRICARE will not approve ABA therapy for what is viewed as only educational issues, but only for behavioral or medical problems, which is why you also have to have your school system or county health agency complete the Public Use Certification Form, which should be provided by your case manager. Again, a home ABA program is possible, if the local school system states that they "only provide ABA for educational purposes", if they do that at all. The CPT code to be used for ABA therapy is 99199 for TRICARE. A list of certified providers is on the certificant registry at http://www.bacb.com/consum_frame.html.

2008 Autism Demonstration Project

For more information on the Autism Demonstration Project please refer to **Chapter 20 of TRICARE Operations Manual 6010.51-M** at <http://manuals.tricare.osd.mil>, dated 15 March 2008, however changes seem to be ongoing. **Department of Defense Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration**, TRICARE Operations Manual 6010.51-M, August 1, 2002

This project only cover ABA; no other types of behavioral interventions reimbursable. No more than \$2500 per ECHO-registered beneficiary in any single month.

Eligibility (Section 5.0):

Diagnoses of only AD, PDD-NOS, AS, and CDD. Over age of 18 months and receiving special education under an IEP or IFSP. Nonverbal or verbal intelligence testing or a letter of "inability to participate in intelligence testing every six months". Between ages 18 months through 8 years, standardized testing of language skills and adaptive behavior must be completed "within 12 months of initiating services". Clinical review by TRICARE required, and a denial cannot be appealed.

Providers (Section 4.0):

Must sign participation agreement and undergo a criminal history review. Tutors employed by or contracted with TRICARE provider. Certify tutor education, training, experience, competency requirements and that have successfully completed a criminal background check. Certify tutor supervision requirements quarterly. Maintain all records for three years. Complete Behavior Plan and EIA Progress Report for each child every six months. (Section 3.6).

Must be a BCBA, or a BCABA supervised by a BCBA, or have finished ABA academic coursework and 75% of experience requirements.

Carry liability insurance of \$1M per claim and \$3M aggregate.

"Shall organize and direct required quarterly family treatment progress meetings". (Section 4.4.1).

Provider's rates: Up to **\$125/** hour for BCBAs, up to **\$50/** hour for tutors.

Tutors (Section 4.5): (Requirements prior to billing TRICARE)

Education- Minimum of 12 semester hours of college coursework and currently enrolled in associates or bachelor's degree in psychology, education, social work, behavioral sciences, human development or related field) –or- minimum of 48 hours of any college coursework.

Classroom training: 40 hours required.

Experience: 50 hours of prior directly supervised fieldwork and a minimum of 500 hours of prior indirectly supervised fieldwork or 40 hours of directly supervised fieldwork over no more than 12 weeks within the past 12 months.

Competency- no specific, quantified requirement.

Ongoing Supervision- If have 500 hours of prior indirectly-supervised fieldwork, then a required minimum of 1 hour of direct supervision and 2 hours of indirect supervision for every 40 hours of services.

If not yet completed 500 hours of indirectly-supervised fieldwork, then a required minimum of two hours of direct supervision and two hours of indirect supervision for every 40 hours of services.

Parent/ Caregivers training (Section 6.4)

Classroom training- six hours is required in the first year by one parent. This can be waived through certificate to contractor by sponsor.

Practical training- 6 hours are required each year by one parent/ caregiver. If child is between ages 18 months through 8 years, then 10 hours are required each year by one parent/ caregiver.

Reimbursement- Up to \$1500 per parent/ caregiver and \$4500 per family each year.

TRICARE will not cost share (Section 6.6)

Training for tutors to meet training requirements, or tutor supervision. Program development or administrative fees for creation of Behavior Plans are separate from evaluation costs.

When in doubt, submit a claim to TRICARE for anything that you think might qualify. If denied, appeal right away using the info from their denial letter and the justification from the TRICARE policy manual.

Durable Medical Equipment (DME) TRICARE covers durable medical equipment (DME) when prescribed by a physician and if the DME: 1) Improves, restores, or maintains the function of a malformed, diseased, or injured body part, or can otherwise minimize or prevent the deterioration of the patient's function or condition 2) Maximizes the patient's function consistent with the patient's physiological or medical needs 3) Provides the medically appropriate level of performance and quality for the medical condition present 4) Is not otherwise excluded by the regulation and policy
TRICARE also covers the repair, replacement or modification of covered DME when necessary to accommodate the beneficiary's condition.

<http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/jsp/Medical/IsItCovered.do?kw=Durable+Medical+Equipment>

Biomedical Treatment

Seeing Defeat Autism Now! (DANI) Doctor Under TRICARE Prime

Referrals may be requested through your military pediatrician to see a Defeat Autism Now! Doctor. You may request an "Autism specialist to medically evaluate and treat Autism" under section 3.10 on treatment of mental disorders, chapter 7 of the TRICARE Policy Manual 6010.54-M, dated 1 AUG 02. You can try to find a Defeat Autism Now! Doctor in your area by checking the Defeat Autism Now! Clinicians list at <http://www.autism.com/dan/danusdis.htm>. TRICARE will only pay for an MD. It is good to have the specific Defeat Autism Now! Doctor listed on the referral, since that makes the authorization process go a lot faster. Yearly laboratory tests and heavy metal chelating (authorized under TRICARE section 2.7 of chapter 7) are covered.

Under TRICARE Standard

Under TRICARE Standard you do not need a referral to see a Defeat Autism Now! Doctor. With Standard you are responsible for the first \$350 then Standard pays 80% of the allowable amount up to \$1000. After the \$1000 they pay the full allowable amount. Defeat Autism Now! Doctors are not likely to be contracted through TRICARE and their rates will be much higher than the TRICARE allowable amount. For example, if your doctor charges \$400/hour and TRICARE allows \$150, TRICARE will pay 80% of \$150 (\$120), you will be responsible for the remaining \$280 until you have paid out of pocket \$1000.

Using TRICARE Supplements with TRICARE Standard

Purchasing a TRICARE supplement when using Standard can be a wise investment. Do a Google search for "TRICARE supplement" and check out the plans available. They are often listed in the back of the Military "Times" newspapers.

MOAA Example: The Military Officers Association offers a plan for active duty officers. There is a 6-month pre-existing condition clause. This means that for the first 6 months they will not pay for something you have already been receiving. For example, if your child has been attending speech therapy, you will have to pay the co-pays for the first 6 months. After 6 months the supplement will pay the difference between the TRICARE allowable amount and the doctor's billed amount. In the example above of the Defeat Autism now! Doctor fees the supplement would pay \$260 and you would pay \$20. After you have reached your cap you won't even have to pay the \$20.

Nutritional Supplements

TRICARE covers only nutritional supplements delivered via a feeding tube, ordered by an MD, received from a pharmacy, which serve as the child's primary source of nutrition.

Kirkman's Labs offers a 25% military discount. This offer is only for nutritional supplements and other products that they manufacturer themselves, so it does not include many of their GFCC items and anything else that they buy from another manufacturer. The sales reps can verify which items do or do not get the discount when you talk to them. If you order a very large dollar amount of products, they may offer reduced or free shipping; but that is up to the sales rep. Orders can be placed by phone at 800 245-8282 (or by email, if overseas at sales@kirkmanlabs.com). Their sales reps MUST communicate with you directly, so they can verify info off of your military ID card. Their website is www.kirkmanlabs.com.

Testing

Any military pediatrician can order tests for children with Autism from outside labs, however military labs often insist that they can do tests like them for free and just as well, this is not always the case. Great Plains Lab (GPL), Doctors Data (DD), Great Smokies Lab, Genova Diagnostics, Quest and Lab Corp are TRICARE-authorized.

Tests can be done without any payment from you at all, or, you may prepay at a lower rate. Verify with TRICARE claims that they will pay for these tests before you take the samples and send it to the lab, just to be sure. You or your doctor order the appropriate test kits from the lab using their web site or by phone. Have a doctor sign off on the test request form, and then send the sample to the lab using the express package service that they provide. The doctor will need to put the lab request into TRICARE through the military referral system (for Prime only) electronically and list the specific test (and non-network lab to be used if it is for Quest or Lab Corp). A military lab will take and process a blood sample if it is necessary and you have a valid test request form. Then, complete the form for an insurance payment, which will have to be backed up by your credit card number in case TRICARE does not pay. Be sure to note that you want a copy of the test results sent directly to you when you send back in the test kit and form, as well as to the doctor. (Source: Autism Research Institute DAN page)

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid benefits. Beginning on 1 April 2003; BAH, Combat Zone pay, hostile fire pay, imminent danger pay, hazardous duty pay and separation pay will be exempt for SSI calculations to qualify a special needs child for SSI benefits. This will make an incredible difference for those military families who have a dependent family member with a disability. In the past, the types of income noted above are what typically what cause a military family to be denied SSI benefits. Those who are already receiving SSI are expected to receive an increase within the next 60 days. Those who do not should contact the SSI office at (800) 772-1213 .TQY 1-800-325-0788 7AM -7PM. Electronic records can be accessed at <http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/11000.html>. Individuals who have been turned down for SSI benefits in the past or whose SSI benefits have been cut off will not be notified by the Social Security Administration of this change. I highly recommend that any military family who has been denied SSI benefits --and even families who just never applied because they thought their income was too high to qualify-- complete a new application immediately. Do not wait. Local Army Community Service (ACS)/EFMP offices should be able to direct these families to the local Department of Family Services (or other appropriate health department agency-- each state has a different name for their agency that handles this). Individuals should begin the process as soon as possible, because payments are retroactive from the day you apply, not the day you are deemed qualified. If the individual's family income is below a certain threshold, the individual will receive monthly SSI payments. These payments defray the costs associated with caring and providing supplies for a person with a disability. In addition, if an individual qualifies for SSI, he or she will also receive Medicaid benefits. Medicaid is a form of public health "insurance", and it will, in almost all instances, pay any portion of medical services and supplies not covered by the individual's other insurance. In the case of military families, Medicaid will cover in almost all instances, the costs not paid by TRICARE.

Incapacitated Dependent Program (INCDP):

A program for dependents over age 21 of active-duty military personnel that allows incapacitated dependents to retain military benefits past age 21. Phone: (901) 874-3360 or DSN 882-3360

Department of Defense Guidance: DoDI 1315.19 Dec 05 Authorizing Special Needs Family Members to Travel Overseas At Government Expense

DoDI 1342.12 Apr 05 Provision of Early Intervention and Special Education Services to Eligible DoD Dependents

ARMY

Governing publication is Army Regulation 608-75, Personal Affairs, Exceptional Family Member Program, 22 Nov 06

Respite

(Source: 2008 Army Posture Statement on Exceptional Family Member Program Respite Care at http://www.army.mil/aps/08/information_papers/sustain/Exceptional_Family_Member_Respite_Care.html retrieved 11Jul08)

What is it?

Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) respite care is a program that provides temporary rest periods for Family members responsible for regular care of persons with disabilities. Care may be provided in the EFMP respite care users home, EFMP respite care worker's home or other settings such as special needs camps and enrichment programs.

What has the Army done?

In FY07 and FY08, the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command (FMWRC) received \$8.2M Global War on Terrorism funds for respite care to cover deployment needs.

Qualifying Families are eligible to receive up to 40 hours of EFMP respite care monthly for each certified EFM. Parents select respite care worker and sign a Hold Harmless Agreement.

The FMWRC conducted training on execution of respite care funds at the worldwide Army Community Service Director's Workshop (June 2007) and at Army Community Service EFMP Training held in conjunction with Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) Conference (July 2007).

In September 2007, the IMCOM awarded a contract for respite care training and awareness programs.

What continued efforts does the Army have planned for the future?

In FY 09, respite care funding is in the QACS base.

The FMWRC is establishing a worldwide network of respite care workers, special needs camps and enrichment programs for exceptional Families to use in provision of respite care.

In FY08, the FMWRC established the monthly Respite Care Newsletter, available at MyArmyLifeToo.com.

Additional training on respite care will be conducted for EFMP managers at the July 2008 MCEC Conference, to include eight training modules developed specifically to address processes and procedures. The modules will also be made available on the Army website, MyArmyLifeToo.com, for availability to EFMP managers throughout the year.

Why is this important to the Army?

Respite care decreases Family stress, increases Family stability and reduces costly out-of-home placements, thereby contributing to Soldier readiness. Due to increase in mobilization and deployments because of Global War on Terrorism, remaining parent/sponsor has sole responsibility for all Family support needs.

ARMY WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

Army Compassionate Assignments: http://www.hqda.army.mil/mpsc/compassionate_assignment.htm, and <http://usmilitary.about.com/od/armyassign/a/humanitarian.htm>

Family Support Web Portal: <http://www.myarmylifetoo.com>

U.S. Army MWR Family and MWR Command, <http://www.armymwr.com/> has some good links to resources base by base.

From the Enlisted Soldier's Guide, 7th edition, page 139 (search www.books.google.com): "AR 614-200 establishes specific policies governing individual requests submitted by soldiers for a PCS or deletion from assignment instructions. A soldier may submit a request for any of the following reasons: Extreme Family Problems—These are divided into problems that are temporary and can be resolved in one year

and those that are not expected to be resolved in one year. Soldiers making compassionate requests are not exempt from PCS moves or temporary duty (TDY) while waiting for resolution.”

AR 614-200: http://www.army.mil/usapa/epubs/pdf/r614_200.pdf

FT BRAGG

Ft Bragg's MWR EFMP link is at <http://www.fortbraggmwr.com/efmp.php>. This link provides good information on the EFMP and items specific to Ft Bragg as well as workshops and events offered.

Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)

Soldier Support Center - 3rd Floor

Bldg.4-2843 Normandy Drive, Fort Bragg

Fort Bragg, NC 28310-5000

Phone: 910-907-3395

Email: trisha.m.newton@us.army.mil

Rachel A. Kiwaha

Exceptional Family Member Program Specialist

Information, referrals and advocacy

Phone: 910-907-3405

Email: rachel.anne.kiwaha@us.army.mil

RESOURCES IN THE FT BRAGG/POPE AFB COMMUNITY

Autism Society of Cumberland County, website: <http://www.Autismcc.org>, monthly meetings, support groups, and an excellent resource directory at <http://www.Autismcc.org/directory.html> for doctor's, therapists, childcare, recreation, and a variety of specialists in the local area

Gilmore Recreation Center, Therapeutic Recreation 1600 Purdue Drive, (910) 433-1000

Child Inc., 5959 Fisher Rd, Fayetteville, NC 28304, (910) 822-4453

ARC of Cumberland County, 3623 Sycamore Dairy Road, Fayetteville, NC 28303
(910) 867-2141

Easter Seals UCP of North Carolina (has an Autism program) 511 Wilson Avenue, Spring Lake, NC 28390, (910) 436-1211

You may locate your EFMP coordinator's contact information at <http://www.militaryinstallations.dod.mil/ismart/MHF-MI/home.jsp>.

Program References: Army Regulation 608-75, Personal Affairs, Exceptional Family Member Program, 22 Nov 06.

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE

Family members are eligible for services if the member is on active duty orders for 30 or more days.

Army Family Reserve Program website is <http://www.arfp.org/skins/ARFP/home.aspx?mode=user>, nothing specific to Exceptional Family members or Autism

AIR FORCE

Please be advised that AF PD 40-3, Family Advocacy Program, and AFI 40-301, Family Advocacy, no longer cover Special Needs Identification and Assignment Coordination (SNIAC). SNIAC is not funded by congressionally fenced money from the Family Advocacy Program.

Exceptional Family Member Program

The Air Force SNIAC process identifies family members with special medical and/or educational needs for reassignment purposes. SNIAC is a mandatory enrollment process that ensures the availability of medical and educational services required for sponsors' exceptional family members prior to reassignment.

The Air Force defines a special medical need as any condition that cannot be resolved by a family practice physician and requires ongoing care or treatment by a specialist. Even if a patient is not currently receiving treatment but has a physical or emotional condition that may require medical care, he/she is considered to have a special need. Children with special educational needs are those from 3-21 whose schools have them on an Individualized Education Program (IEP), those from 0-3 years who have an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), or those who are being evaluated for special education, related services, or early intervention services. A new Air Force instruction (AFI) on special needs and Educational and Developmental Intervention Services is being developed following the separation of the special needs/family member relocation clearance process from the Family Advocacy Program. Interim policy letters and the AFI (when published) may be found on the Air Force Special Needs web site.

Air Force Special Needs Identification and Assignment Coordination (SNIAC)

Screening. Family Member Relocation Clearance (FMRC) is a mandatory process that the Air Force uses to screen all family members traveling overseas with their sponsors, as well as those family members with previously identified special medical and educational needs who are relocating within the continental United States (CONUS).

The FMRC process follows these steps:

1. Airman receives assignment notification and obtains FMRC paperwork during initial appointment with military personnel flight (MPF) for outbound assignments.
2. At least six month prior to travel, Airman completes AF Form 1466 (Request for Family Member's Medical and Education Clearance for Travel) and AF Form 1466D (Dental Health Summary) for each family member over age 2 who has not had a dental check up in the past year or has unresolved dental needs. (Please note: Viewer Software 6.5 may be required to download Air Force forms. Visit the Viewer Software 6.5 Download Area page for additional information).
3. Airman coordinates completion of DD 2792-1 by school/early intervention staff for each child with an IEP/IFSP.
4. Airman coordinates completion of DD 2792 and appropriate addenda by medical care provider for each child with a special medical condition.
5. FMRC coordinator at MTF meets with airman to review and help complete forms, schedules joint screening interview, and gathers medical records for all family members.
6. Airman and all family members have joint screening appointment at MTF with special needs coordinator (SNC) and medical review officer (only the exceptional family member is required to attend if assignment is in CONUS).
7. If special needs are identified, FMRC coordinator sends facility determination inquiry (FDI) to gaining MTF for determination (in coordination with DoDDS, if overseas).
8. If needs can be met, FDI is returned within two weeks and assignment processing continues; if needs cannot be met at overseas assignment location, FDI is forwarded to the gaining MAJCOM Behavioral Health Consultant to find an alternate assignment.

9. For EFMs not recommended for travel to a CONUS location, the FDI is returned to the FMRC coordinator who notifies the SNC and sponsor and forwards documentation to the MPF.

Enrollment Process. Enrollment in the SNIAC process is mandatory. Airmen are required to initiate enrollment at their MTF as soon as special needs are known without waiting for the FMRC process. Information on the DD 2792 and DD 2792-1 is used by the SNC in consultation with the medical reviewer to make enrollment decisions. Enrollment criteria is provided by the Air Force Medical Support Agency and based on DoD guidance. For a service member to become enrolled in the SNIAC, the SNC must: Initiate an assignment limitation code "Q" (by forwarding an authorization letter to the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) via the MPF).

Open a "special needs assignment coordination record" at the MTF.

To initiate enrollment of an Air Force family from another Service's MTF, DD 2792 and DD 2792-1 should be completed and forwarded to the SNC at the Air Force MTF where the sponsor is assigned or to the nearest Air Force MTF.

SNC. A SNC is placed on the cover of the service member's medical record at in processing is used to alert the SNC at the gaining MTF of a new Q-coded sponsor. The SNC ensures assignment coordination record is transferred in.

Enrollment Updates. The Air Force does not code specific disabilities or require service members to update their enrollment status. Instead, special needs are re-evaluated each time a service member receives reassignment notification. At these times, and also during routine health care, removal of the Q-Code and closure of the assignment coordination record may be initiated if the criteria for special needs are no longer present.

Assignment Considerations. The Air Force will authorize family travel for a Q-coded airman to any location overseas where the MTF, in coordination with DoDDS, indicates that medical and/or educational needs can be met. Reassignments within CONUS are based on the gaining MTF's assurance that medical needs can be met. Airmen with exceptional family members are not exempt from unaccompanied assignments to remote locations and must remain worldwide deployable. Families whose sponsor takes an unaccompanied remote assignment with a follow-on assignment must be screened prior to the remote assignment and again within six months prior to traveling to the follow-on assignment. Air Force assignment options are sometimes limited by the service member's occupational specialty. Airmen in this situation will often change specialties in order to better support the needs of their families.

Sources of Information about Air Force SNIAC. Air Force families seeking information about SNIAC should be referred first to the Air Force Special Needs web site at <https://www.afspecialneeds.org>, please note this is a secure website. For questions and concerns not addressed here, contact your local Exceptional Family Member Coordinator at the nearest Force MTF.

POPE AFB

Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)
383 Maynard Street
43 MDSS/SGSBT
Pope AFB, NC 28308
Phone: 910-394-1927

Please refer to information under ARMY Ft Bragg for resources in the Pope AFB community.

SEYMOUR JOHNSON AFB

Exceptional Family Member Program
1050 Jabara Avenue
Seymour Johnson AFB, NC 27531
Phone: 919-722-1123
Phone: 919-722-1124
Fax: 919-722-1126
DSN Voice: 722-1123
DSN Fax: 722-1126

You may locate your EFMP coordinator's contact information at <http://www.militaryinstallations.dod.mil/ismart/MHF-MI/home.jsp>.

AIR FORCE WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

Air Force Cross Roads is the official community website for the United States Air Force at www.afcrossroads.com.

K-12 Information for Special Needs children http://www.afcrossroads.com/education/k12_special.cfm

Air Force Humanitarian Assignments: <http://usmilitary.about.com/od/airforceassign/a/humanitarian.htm>

The Chief of the EFMP Assignments Branch at the Air Force Personnel Center is Chief William Warner. His email is William.warner@randolph.af.mil, DSN: 665-3737 or commercial (210) 565-3737.

NAVY

Fleet & Family Support Center (FFSC) 1-800-FSC-LINE.

FFSC of Hampton Roads VA (757) 444-NAVY or online at www.ffscnorva.navy.mil

Exceptional Family Member Program/Program for Persons with Disabilities:

A program available to dependents of active-duty military personnel designed to offset the costs of health care for those with disabilities. Monthly benefit does not exceed \$1000 and a deductible may apply.

Contact Naval Medical Center Portsmouth VA EFMP Office (757) 953-5833 or the EFMP Case Manager at 1-800-931-9501.

Worldwide Navy FFSC contact information at <http://www.cnrsw.navy.mil/fsc/Locations/Worldwide.htm>

Exceptional Family Member Program Support Group (Norfolk/Virginia Beach):

Ms. Ladene Suggs

Phone (757) 460-1236

E-mail: nadine244@juno.com

MARINE CORPS

GWOT Respite childcare is available for Marine Cops members with an exceptional family member. For more information please contact your EFMP manager. The Marine Corps' respite care is now running. It is 40hr per month and is covered through their EFMP office (MCCS.) There is an application process. This is so the EFMP office can decide the hourly amount based on care needs. There are two models that the Marine Corps is using for receiving services. Option 1: Going through the EFMP office and having them find a provider through their contract with NACCRRRA. Option 2: The family finding their own provider and being reimbursed from the EFMP office. There are benefits to both. There is only one thing that is not happening with this program...Marines are not requesting it. This is a great opportunity that all EFMP families should take advantage of. We are in the process of filling out our application now.

Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Website developed in detail to assist Marines, their family members, Commands, EFMP Coordinators and other professionals who have an interest in becoming more knowledgeable about the Exceptional Family Member Program and other resources and information that can be helpful to families with special medical or educational needs <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/efmp/>

National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRRA) has a new program, EFMP Respite Care for Marine Corps families. For more information call Child Care Aware at 1-800-424-2246 or www.naccrra.org/MilitaryPrograms/EFMP

CAMP LEJEUNE

EFMP mailing address is:

MCCS-EFMP
1401 West Road
Camp Lejeune, NC 28547

They are physically located at Building 40 the Russell and Marine Family Service Center Room 138.

Scottie Hampton, MA
Exceptional Family Member Program Specialist
Marine Corps Family Team Building
Marine Corps Community Services
Building 40 Brewster Blvd
Camp Lejeune, NC 28542
910-451-9372/0176

Camp Lejeune's MWR EFMP link is at <http://www.mccslejeune.com/mcftb/efmp.html>. This link provides information on the EFMP, forms, and an e-mail link to the EFMP coordinator.

STOMP Representatives

Angela Mink
Phone: 910-449-5435
Email: angela.mink@usmc.mil

Gerri Smith
Phone: 919-832-2660 x 102
Email: gerrismith1959@yahoo.com

Terri Meyers
Phone: 919-571-8092 x 12
Email: tmeyers@ecacmail.org

MCAS NEW RIVER

Thomas Gonsalves and Vicky Finnell
Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Managers

Curtis Road
Bldg AS-90, Marine & Family Services
MCAS New River
Jacksonville, NC 28545
Phone: 910-449-5251/910-451-9372
Fax: 910-449-6240
DSN Voice: 312-752-5251
DSN Fax: 312-752-6240

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Autism Society of NC Onslow County Chapter
3rd Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. Onslow Memorial Hospital, Education Bldg., Jacksonville.
Contact: Kristy Stroll, (910) 346-2863 or kstroll@ec.rr.com

Child Care Health Net – Onslow County Health Department. Assists child care providers with caring for children with special medical needs. Provides hearing and speech screenings for children upon request.
Contact: 910-347-2154

Child Care Resource and Referral – Onslow County Partnership for Children. Assists parents and child care providers in locating appropriate resources. Contact: 910-938-3402

Child Service Coordination Program – Onslow County Health Department. Provides service coordination. Assists parents in accessing resources. Provides developmental screenings and parent education.
Contact: 910-347-2154

Children’s Developmental Services Agency – 866-543-7662 (toll free). Provides developmental evaluations and early intervention services for children with developmental delay or medical risk factors from 0-36 months who live off base. Contact: 910-347-2154

Onslow County Schools, Office of Exceptional Children– Provides special education services through local schools. With parent permission, teachers may consult with childcare providers about strategies for specific children. Contact: 910-938-5452 (for children 3-5) or 910-455-2211

PARENTSS (Positive Action for Recreational & Educational Needs of Today’s Special Students) provides modified bowling/softball/T-ball leagues, support meetings, holiday parties.
Contact: Laura Quinn (910) 455-9539

Special Education Alliance (SEAL) – families advocate for children’s educational needs
4th Thursday at Onslow Memorial Hospital. Contacts: Wendy Boyd (910) 577-3969 or webo5ksod@yahoo.com or Joan Parker (910) 355-1646 or jbpar1@charter.net

Special Olympics – Onslow County -The Special Olympics goal is to improve the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities through sport, by empowering them both on and off the playing field and bringing them into the larger society where by they are respected and accepted. Contacts: Dot Hochstrasser (910) 346-8366 sooc@ec.rr.com

Student Services Office, Camp Lejeune Dependents Schools – Provides special education services through base schools. With parent permission, teachers may consult with childcare providers about strategies for specific children. Contact: 910-451-2461 x241

Day Care Unit, Onslow County Department of Social Services – Provides child care subsidy payments for families (based on income) Contact: 910-938-5452

Educational & Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS) – Provides developmental evaluations and early intervention services for children with developmental delay or medical risk factors from 0-36 months who live in base housing at Camp Lejeune or MCAS New River. Contact: 910-450-4127

Exceptional Children’s Assistance Center – statewide resource provides information on special needs and educational rights. Contact: (800) 962-6817 or www.ecac-parentcenter.org

Family Support Network of North Carolina - statewide information line for resources

Contact: (800) TLC-0042

Family Support Network of the Crystal Coast – regional parent support information resource
Contact : Teresa LeRiche (866) 543-7662

GoMoms, a support group for mothers of twins, triplets
Contact: Rachel Nau (910) 554-2625; naugirl1@charter.net; <http://www.myspace.com/gomoms>

Mental Health Association Information and Referral Line – information on mental health issues
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Contact:: (800) 897-7494

Miracle Meadows Therapeutic Riding Center – provides safe, effective, professional therapeutic equine related programs for people of all age groups with a wide range of disabilities. Contact:: 910-938-9221
www.miraclemeadowstrc.org

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill – Onslow Co. Chapter
2nd and 4th Tuesdays at St. Peter's By the Sea Episcopal Church parish hall, Swansboro, NC
contact: John Gaskill (252) 838-0017

National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities (NICHCY) - national resource information and referrals. Contact: (800) 695-0285 or www.NICHCY.org

MCAS CHERRY POINT

Exceptional Family Member Program

Mr. Brad Lanto, EFMP Manager
Marine and Family Services
bradley.t.lanto@usmc.mil

Ms. Leah Boock
EFMP Family Case Worker
leah.boock.ctr@usmc.mil

PSC Box 8009
E Street and 4th Avenue
Cherry Point, NC 28533-0009
Phone: 252-466-4401/252-466-7547
Fax: 252-466-7261
DSN Voice: 312-582-4401
DSN Fax: 312-582-7261

MARINE CORPS RESERVE

Family members are eligible for services if the member is on active duty orders for 30 or more days.

RESERVE RESPITE CHILDCARE DURING DEPLOYMENTS (Source: <http://www.cngr.gov/May%2015-17/Rollins%20testimony.pdf>)

Respite childcare programs are designed to assist military families during deployments are a support program that active duty families depend on. However, Reserve families have had to rely on family members, friends or a supportive community for similar support. To address this concern, the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA) has developed several programs to assist military families who cannot utilize DoD childcare on installations. Details are on the NACCRRA website describing the programs and the assistance available for: Operation Military Child Care, Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood, and the Enhanced Child Care Referral Service. (Testimony for the Commission on the National Guard and Reserve (CNGR) Testimony by Mrs. Andrea Rollins Key Volunteer Advisor for 2nd Battalion, 25th Marines Regiment 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve

COAST GUARD

Source: http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wk/wkw/work-life_programs/special_needs.htm, 12Jul08

Office of Work-Life (CG-111) Special Needs Program states The Coast Guard Special Needs Program is available to the following members of Team Coast Guard: Active Duty, Retirees and their dependents Civil Service employees and their dependents Reservists on active duty over 180 days.

Purpose of the program. The Special Needs Program is intended to ensure family and Coast Guard needs are met, assist the member with appropriate referral and resources before, during and after relocation, and ensure mission readiness. The program works closely with assignment officers, prior to transfer, to ensure appropriate resources are available for family members in proposed areas of relocation. All active duty members who have family members with professionally diagnosed special needs are required to enroll their dependents in this program

Definitions. The following definitions apply to the Special Needs Program: Special Needs are long-term and professionally documented medical, educational, physical, psychological and mental condition(s):

Conditions. Such conditions may include, but are not limited to: vision, hearing or speech impaired; learning disabilities and Attention Deficit Disorder; medical conditions (asthma, arthritis, heart and kidney conditions, Cystic Fibrosis or cancer/Leukemia); depression or any other mental illnesses; emotionally disturbed; mental retardation; orthopedically handicapped and any combination of one or more of the above. Your local Family Resource Specialist (FRS), or Family Advocacy Specialist (FAS) can advise members if their individual circumstances meet the criteria for enrollment.

Confidentiality. All discussions between a person using the Special Needs Program and the local Work-Life FRS or the FAS are confidential, with the exception of notification to the member's command of that member's enrollment in the program.

The FRS/FAS manage each individual member's special needs record. The information contained in that record shall not be made part of the member's service record or the civilian employee's personnel file. All information is kept confidential and access is strictly limited to the local Work-Life Supervisor, FRS, FAS and HQ's Special Needs Program Manager.

The following services and resources are available within the Special Needs Program:

Assistance with enrollment in the program

Resources and referrals

Advocacy on behalf of families with the Coast Guard and with civilian agencies

Assurance that appropriate resources are available in areas of proposed relocation by working closely with assignment officers and other Work-Life Staff.

Requesting Services or Resources These services or resources can be obtained by contacting the FRS or FAS at your Regional Work-Life Staff. Work-Life Staffs are located at Integrated Support Commands CG-wide. To contact the Work-Life Staff closest to you, call 1-800-872-4957, followed by the extension listed next to the following ISC locations:

Alameda (252)	Boston (301)	Cleveland (309)	Honolulu (314)
Ketchikan (317)	Kodiak (563)	Miami (307)	New Orleans (308)
Portsmouth (305)	San Pedro (311)	Seattle (313)	St. Louis (302)
Washington, Dc (932)			

Related Program Information Active duty members shall not be adversely affected in their selection for promotion, schools or assignments due to enrollment in the program.

Active duty members will be enrolled in the program until the member has separated from the service, the family member is no longer a dependent or professional documentation has been provided verifying the special need condition no longer exists.

Active duty members are required to update their dependent's special needs enrollment forms (one for each family member) and professional documentation every two years or sooner if the special needs condition changes significantly.

Enrollment, resources and assistance are also available for retirees and civilian employees

Program References The following references provide details of the Coast Guard Special Needs Program:

COMDTINST 1754.7A, Coast Guard Special Needs Program

COMDTINST 1754.12, Management of Family Advocacy and Special Needs Cases

Point of Contact if you are unable to contact the FRS or FAS at your Regional Work-Life Staff, or need additional assistance beyond the information provided here, please contact the Headquarters Special Needs Program Manager, Ms. Sheila Langston at (202) 475-5156, or Email at Sheila.A.Langston@uscg.mil

GUARD AND RESERVE COMPONENTS

Family members are eligible for services if the member is on active duty orders for 30 or more days.

The following components with exceptional Family members must enroll in the program U.S. Armed Forces Reserve, Active Guard Reserve (AGR) program. Reserve members on active duty exceeding 30 days, and Army and Air National Guard AGR personnel serving under authority of Title 10, United States Code and Title 32, United States Code.

According to the TRICARE for Guard and Reserve, Your Passport to Quality Healthcare for National Guard and Reserve members and their families manual available at http://www.TRICARE.mil/mybenefit/Download/Forms/NGR_passport_07.pdf. Members are entitled to use ECHO while on active duty for 30 or more days. "Special Programs. There are a number of special programs that you and your family members may be eligible for while you are on active duty for more than 30 consecutive days. For example, the Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) provides financial assistance to active duty family members who have a qualifying mental or physical disability. To learn more about these and other programs that may be available to you and your family members while you are on active duty for more than 30 consecutive days, visit the 'Overview' section of www.TRICARE.mil/mybenefit/."

A booklet on how communities can support children and families of those serving in the National Guard and Reserve can be found at <http://www.militarychild.org/files/pdfs/GuardReserveForWeb.pdf>, contains nothing specific to children with special needs.

Troop and Family Counseling Services for National Guard and Reserve. "Helping you and your family during deployment, reunions and other times of change". Convenient 24-hour, year-round access, free, private services at 1-888-755-9355.

RETIRED MILITARY

Please contact your Senator & tell them to please pass bill HR-568 it has already passed in the House. It will give children of retirees continued coverage through the ECHO program.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that contains a plan for **including autistic dependents of military retirees in the Extended Care Health Option program (hereafter in this section referred to as the 10 “ECHO program”)**.

(b) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

- (1) The most current data on the number of military retirees with autistic dependents and an estimate of the number of future military retirees with autistic dependents.
- (2) The cost estimates of providing extended benefits under the ECHO program to autistic dependents of all current and future military retirees.
- (3) The feasibility of including autistic dependents of military retirees in any ongoing demonstration or pilot programs within the ECHO program.
- (4) The statutory and regulatory impediments to including autistic dependents of military retirees in the ECHO program.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

<http://autismsalute.blogspot.com/2008/07/autism-salutes-heros-with-handicaps-inc.html> Heroes With Handicaps, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded with the purpose of providing financial assistance to active duty, and retired military members who have a child(ren) with autism.

National Resources and Websites

Air Force Cross Roads, Special Needs section includes information on general resources; organizations; special education laws; inclusive educational programs; individualized education plans; special needs friendly colleges; ADD and ADHD; Autism, Asperger's and pervasive development disorders; blind; deaf; down syndrome and mental retardation; dyslexia; gifted; and other disabilities.
http://www.afcrossroads.com/education/sitemap_refresh.cfm?page=special_needs.

Association of the United States Army (AUSA), Arlington, VA has provided lobbying support for military families with individuals with Autism and has some web sources for special needs individuals at <http://www.ausa.org/webpub/DeptFamilyPrograms.nsf/byid/JRAY-733M2A>.

Autism Research Institute (ARI), San Diego, CA at <http://www.Autism.com/families/military/military.htm> has a web page specifically for military families with individuals with Autism, offering a free book titled "Recovering Child with Autism", a 468 page paperback book, which normally costs \$24.00. To order- print, complete and fax or mail in the form at <https://www.autismwebsite.com/ari/militarybookrequest.htm>, along with a copy of the front of your military ID card. Please fill out all the blocks, so we can start a database on what services military children with Autism may be getting from TRICARE. Fax the form to 619-563-6840 with a copy of your military ID card along with your name and postal address, or mail it to Autism Research Institute, 4182 Adams Avenue, San Diego, CA 92116. There is a strict limit of one copy per family. "Recovering Child with Autism", edited by Stephen M. Edelson, Ph.D. and Bernard Rimland, Ph.D. is the extensively updated and enlarged revision of "Treating Child with Autism", which was published in 2003. To request a military discount for a DAN! Conference please email Tanya from ARI at Tanya@DANconference.com. She will then provide simple instructions as to how to register online and receive the 25% discount. You will need to show your military ID when picking up your materials at the on-site registration booth at the conference.

Autism Society of America (ASA), Bethesda, MD at <http://www.Autism-society.org> has provided lobbying support for military families with individuals with Autism.

Autism Speaks, New York, NY at <http://www.Autismspeaks.org> has provided lobbying support for military families with individuals with Autism.

Department of Defense Special Needs Tool Kit contains 110 pages of comprehensive information and tools geared towards helping military families with special needs children navigate the maze of medical and special education services, community support and benefits and entitlements. Each module contains valuable resources and important facts; record keeping tools and sample letters have also been incorporated. The Tool Kit is divided into six colorful modules that can be easily downloaded and printed or saved on to a CD.
http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/portal/page/itc/MHF/MHF_DETAIL_1?section_id=20.40.500.570.0.0.0.0&content_id=218947

Exceptional Parent magazine has frequent articles on military families, including ones specifically for Autism at http://www.eparent.com/main_channels_military/index.asp, and on line seminars at <http://epliveonline.com>.

Fischer House for families of patients receiving medical care at major military and VA medical centers provides a home away from home, usually walking distance to treatment facility. www.fisherhouse.org

4Families has web resources and links for military families at www.4militaryfamilies.com.

Health net Federal Services (TRICARE North Region provider) has TRICARE and Extended Health Care Option (ECHO) program information at <https://www.hnfs.net/common/caremanagement/echo.htm>.

Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) has a Special Education Leaders Institute (SELI) at <http://militarychild.org/SpecialEdu.asp> offers training for special educators.

Military Family Network at <http://www.emilitary.org/forums/index.php?showforum=664> has an email list serve for military families with individuals with special needs, but not specifically for Autism.

Military HOMEFRONT at http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/portal/page/itc/MHF/MHF_HOME_1?section_id=20.40.500.570.0.0.0 has a web page for military families with individuals with special needs, but not specifically for Autism.

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), Alexandria, VA at <http://www.moaa.org> has provided lobbying support for military families with individuals with Autism.

Military One Source at <https://www.militaryonesource.com/skins/MOS/display.aspx?ModuleID=ae74eaa3-d1b6-4dbd-b23e-354880172094&Mode=User&action=category&ObjectID=4cff2760-fa4c-41b9-85a1-3996e688f0c6> has a Special Needs web page for military families with individuals with Autism.

National Autism Center and the May Institute, Randolph, MA at <http://www.nationalAutismcenter.org> has offered possible assistance for military families with individuals with Autism. More details will be forthcoming.

National Military Family Association (NMFA), Alexandria, VA at <http://www.nmfa.org> has provided lobbying support for military families with individuals with Autism.

The National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities.
<http://nichcy.org/index.html#about>

Organization for Autism Research (OAR), Arlington, VA at <http://www.researchAutism.org/about/index.asp> has offered to develop an online guide for military families with individuals with Autism in the future.

Parents of Child with Autism of Northern Virginia (POAC-NoVA), Vienna, VA has Autism awareness and safety information at http://www.poac-nova.org/base.cgim?template=Autism_awareness.

Sesame Street DVD Talk, Listen, Connect: Helping Families During Military Deployment. This bilingual multimedia outreach program is designed to support military families with children between the ages of 2 and 5 as they cope with the feelings, challenges, and concerns experienced during different phases of deployment. The DVD kit includes a copy of the first video Talk, Listen, Connect: Helping Families During Military Deployment and new additional video and parent/caregiver materials designed to help children of injured veterans and other returning service members adjust to the changes in their parents. Individuals may request a single copy, military organizations may request bulk orders by calling Military One Source at 1-800-342-9647 or filling out the online order form and e-mailing it to accserv@militaryonesource.com. <https://www.militaryonesource.com/skins/MOS/display.aspx?mode=user&action=material&ModuleID=ae74eaa3-d1b6-4dbd-b23e-354880172094&ObjectID=1dc99148-35bc-40c8-872b-8f56761da205&IssueID=ac5ef25c-0539-4f2c-99ee-fb99dd9d9d69&CatID=3af36530-4a38-44e7-bb41-c766657163cf>. The Sesame Street video and parent/caregiver materials are also available for download at <http://www.sesameworkshop.org/tlc>.

Special Needs Network of the Military Family Resource Center. Site offers families with special medical and/or educational needs access to information, resources and each other. Features a "members network" which allows you to communicate with other families with special needs
<http://www.mfrc.calib.com/snn/>

Specialized Training of Military Parents (STOMP) at <http://www.stompproject.org/publications.asp> has a number of fact sheets for military families with individuals with special needs and two email list serves for military families with individuals with special needs at <http://www.stompproject.org/listserv.asp>, including one specifically for Autism at TRI-FAT@topica.com.

TRICARE's Extended Health Care Option (ECHO) program information is at http://www.mytricare.com/internet/tric/tri/tricare.nsf/PGS/TRCRBscs_Pgrms_11.

Wrightslaw at <http://www.wrightslaw.com/info/dod.index.htm> has some excellent resources on legal advice and education best practices for military families.

Education Resources

Visit these web sites for special education information.

Military Child Education Coalition at www.militarychild.org. The Military Child Education Coalition is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, world-wide organization that identifies the challenges facing the highly mobile military child, increases awareness of these challenges in military and educational communities, and initiates and implements programs to meet the challenges. MCEC's goal is to level the educational playing field for military children wherever they are located around the world, and to serve as a model for all highly mobile children. Host of the Special Education Leadership Institute (SELI).

Exceptional Children's Assistance Center, <http://www.ecac-parentcenter.org/> ECAC offers a variety of projects and services designed to meet the needs of NC parents, families, students, educators, and other professionals.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 2004 Implementation at <http://idea.ed.gov>.

National Center for Learning Disabilities and National Center on Low-Incidence Disabilities at <http://www.nclld.org/content/view/974/456131>, http://www.handsandvoices.org/articles/education/popup/pop_index.html, and <http://www.unco.edu/ncssd/ssn/index.shtml> contains three IEP Pop-Up Tool Charts

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI) at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/ec> or telephone: 919-807-3969. DPI sets curriculum goals, establishes policies and procedures for the enforcement of IDEA at the state level, and provides mediators for parents and schools, among other duties.

Policies Governing Children with Disabilities in NC public schools can be accessed at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/ec/policy/policies/2007policies.pdf>

Handbook on Parents Rights can be accessed at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/ec/policy/resources/rights>
Disability Rights of North Carolina <http://www.disabilityrightsn.org/>

STOMP East Coast Office - Valorie Patterson
115 Mazak Court
Ft. Bragg, NC 28307
Telephone/fax 910-864-0165
Email vpatterson@washingtonpave.com