



Fort Hood, Texas

January 2012



Exceptional Family Member Program

# EFMP Newsletter

## Upcoming Events

### EFMP Support Group

#### "Resource Connection"

2nd Wednesday of the month

1000-1100

Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Center Training Facility

Bldg. 12012 on the corner of 31st St. and Battalion Ave.

1830-1930

Education Connection

2207 Florence Rd., Killeen

### EFMP Orientation

2nd Tuesday of the month

1000-1130

Oveta Culp Hobby

Soldier & Family Readiness Center

Bldg. 18000 on Battalion Ave.

### Heart of Texas Multiple

#### Sclerosis Self Help Group

3rd Tuesday of the month

1800-2000

Robertson Ave. Baptist Church

305 E. Robertson Ave.

Copperas Cove, TX 76522

### EFMP Sea Dragons

Fridays, 1800-2000

Abrams Gym, Bldg. 23001

62nd St., Ft. Hood, TX

## EFMP Toolbox

Military HOMEFRONT offers a wonderful EFMP Toolbox Families can use as a resource to help get organized in the new year. Within the toolbox there are several kits that can be ordered or downloaded for use.

### Department of Defense Special Needs Parent Tool Kit

The Tool Kit has comprehensive information and tools that are geared towards helping military Families with children with special needs navigate the maze of medical and special education services, community support, and entitlements. The Toolkit is broken down into six colorful modules that can be easily downloaded and printed.

### Exceptional Family Member Program Mobile Website

The EFMP mobile website helps military Families quickly and easily access information about the EFMP and services using a mobile device with an Internet connection. Features include program overview, links to enrollment forms and Service-specific EFMP websites, updated tools and resources, and an EFMP locator application.

### Special Care Organizational Record (SCOR) for Children with Special Health Care Needs

This records organizer was designed as an organizing tool for parents with children with special health care needs. It is intended to help track and organize a child's information to make it easier for someone else to care for the child in the parent's absence.

### Special Care Organization Record (SCOR) for Adults

This records organizer is specifically designed as an organizing tool for Families with an adult member with special health care needs. This includes spouses and adult children with special health care needs as well as any other adult dependent Family member.

### Special Care Organization Record (SCOR) for Eldercare

The Records Organizer for Eldercare is designed to facilitate the care of the older members of your Family. It is intended to provide a central location for keeping and tracking your older relative's records and other pertinent information.

Toolbox information can be located by logging onto: [www.militaryhomefront](http://www.militaryhomefront)

## Exceptional Family Member Program

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Please join us in welcoming **Jody Mansell**, our newest Systems Navigator, to the EFMP team. Along with Angela Powell Lewis, Leslie Gallagher and Cheryl Morehead, she is a community support component of EFMP who connects Families with special needs to the system of care they need both on and off the installation. Anyone interested in Systems Navigation services may call (254) 287-7501 or (254) 618-7763 for more information.



## It's A New IDEA 2011! The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act has been updated

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a law ensuring all students with disabilities have access to a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment. It emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare these students for employment and independent living. This law provides a framework for school systems across the nation to use in delivering an individualized education program (including early intervention, special education and related services).

The IDEA is a legal framework that guarantees specialized educational attention for children who have a range of conditions and disabilities. The IDEA itself is a vast document, because it provides detailed procedures to ensure results and accountability, not just general protections.

The IDEA and its predecessors have allowed more children to be educated in their neighborhood schools, rather than in separate schools and institutions, and contributed to improvements in the rate of high school graduation, post-secondary school enrollment and post-school employment for youth with disabilities.

Under IDEA, every state educational agency (SEA) and local educational agency (LEA) is responsible for offering a free, appropriate public education. Federal grants to every state help guarantee this. In fact, the law mandates not only that children with disabilities have access to free education, but also that each child's specific needs be addressed.

Behind most of the IDEA's provisions is direct accountability on the part of LEA's and SEA's, which are required by law to work together towards IDEA goals. Other provisions focus on procedures with specific steps that must be followed by schools.

The IDEA, The Manual for Parents and Students about Special Education Services in Texas, 2012 is the newest version of what has become known as The IDEA Manual. The 2012 IDEA Manual is an invaluable resource for families trying to understand the Texas special education system and is available in both English and Spanish to view the most recent version of IDEA log on to: [www.thearcoftexas.org](http://www.thearcoftexas.org).

