

PRE-DEPLOYMENT SOCIAL MEDIA PLAN RESOURCES FOR SOLDIERS & FAMILIES





This Social Media Plan is presented as a template from Fort Carson Army Community Service for your use to communicate deployment information and resources for Soldiers and Family members.



The links provided in this plan are accurate as of date of publication. Please double check all links before posting.



HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT:


1. Copy and paste messages into your own unit social media page(s).
2. Start at least 8 weeks prior to deployment, posting a new resource message every 1-3 days at various times.
3. Messages do not have to be posted in any particular order, and can be posted based on the trends or questions you are seeing.
4. Add a graphic for attention of those posts that do not have a hyperlink.
5. Replace text on page 2 to personalize your specific unit information.


ACS can provide additional Soldier & Family readiness information and resources. Contact ACS at 719-526-4590 for assistance.

SUBJECT	SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGES	GRAPHIC/VIDEO FILES
	<p><i>Use the talking points on this page to craft your own social media message highlighting unit resources. PERSONALIZE these messages to work for your unit.</i></p>	
Rear Detachment Mission	<p>Our unit has Soldiers who will be serving the Rear Detachment mission to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Train and equip new incoming Soldiers. 2. Coordinate with the deployed element of the unit. 3. Enable readiness of the unit's Families by directing them to the helping agencies they need. 4. Ensure that buildings and equipment left behind here at Fort Carson are safe and secured. <p>You can reach Rear Detachment by calling xxx-xxx-xxxx or emailing xxxxxxxxxxxx.</p> <p>Our unit website/vFRG/Social Media site, etc. is: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx</p>	
Communication	<p>Communicating with my Soldier:</p> <p>How will communication during deployment work? Will mobile phones work, allowed? Special APPS? Mail, when can it start, how will Families get the mailing address? Anything prohibited in the mail? Morale phones available, etc. ??</p>	
Unit vFRG site	<p>vFRG is a great way to stay connected! You must be registered on www.armyfrg.org to gain access. To register: (include unit registration procedures and hyperlink)</p>	
Accountability	<p>Discuss any Emergency Data sheet or Spouse Preference Form you would like FM's to complete prior to deployment. Ensure you express that this form will be secured and used for official use only and does not replace the DD93. Inform FM's how you'd like them to update contact information that changes during the deployment.</p>	
AO	<p>Share any information that you can to Family members regarding deployed living conditions, living spaces, food options, amenities, cultural information about the AO, etc. Share any actual graphics you might have of the living areas.</p>	
Religious Support	<p>Share information about your unit Chaplain and their services</p>	

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POA's	<p>A Power of Attorney (POA) is a written instrument that allows the “principal” to authorize the agent to conduct certain business on the principal's behalf. What types of events do you anticipate needing a POA for during your deployment? POA's may be needed to renew license plates or dependent military ID's; handling income taxes; handling real estate or vehicle transactions; applying for an Army Emergency Relief loan or conducting other business on behalf of the Soldier.</p> <p><i>Add message on unit opportunities or procedures for acquiring POA's.</i></p>	 07_powers-of-attorney.wmv
Preparedness	<p><i>Checklists can be separated into different posts based on subject</i></p> <p>For Soldiers and Families: use the following checklists before deployment to ensure you have the paperwork needed before your Soldier deploys.</p> <p><u>Legal Matters Checklist</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a Power of Attorney (POA). Contact your legal office for information on types of POAs and advice on which one you should use. • Create and/or update your will. • Plan how bills will be paid. Do you need to set up a joint account? • Review your current life insurance coverage. • Confirm your Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI) beneficiaries are correct and update if necessary. • If you are currently renting your home and need to cancel your lease, notify your property management company of your deployment. Understand your rights under the Service Members Civil Relief Act. <p><u>Legal Documents</u> Keep copies of the following documents (if applicable) together in a secure place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wills (for both Soldier and spouse) • Power of Attorney (POA) • Insurance policies (including life, health, home, and vehicle) • Tax records • Court orders (e.g., child support and custody documents or divorce paperwork) • Social Security cards • Birth certificates • Marriage license • Passport • Visas and citizenship/naturalization paperwork • Vehicle titles, registrations, and inspections • Copy of your most recent LES 	


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	<p><u>Family Matters Checklist</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update your Emergency Data Form with your family's most current contact information. • Ensure dependents are enrolled in DEERS. • Ensure ID cards are current and will not expire during deployment. • Confirm all Family members have all necessary TRICARE and Dental information. • Create a list of important phone numbers and email addresses. • Personal Property Checklist (if applicable) • Notify your homeowners insurance if your home will be vacant during deployment. • Notify your renters insurance if you are storing your belongings in a storage facility. • Notify your auto insurance if you will be storing a vehicle. • Make sure you have the appropriate household goods/personal property insurance. • Know the location of your car title. • Have an up-to-date vehicle registration and proof of registration. • Know when your vehicle will need its next inspection, emissions, oil change, tune-up, etc. • Make sure the vehicle is in good working order. • If you own firearms, make sure they are registered with the appropriate authority, placed in a locked, secure location and that your spouse/family member is trained to operate them. <p><u>Financial Matters Checklist</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a deployment spending plan (budget). Anticipate that deployment expenses and income may be different. • Will taxes become due while you're deployed? • Notify your credit card companies that you will be deployed. • Make sure your family will have money available to them on a continuous basis. • If you have a safe deposit box, make sure a family member has a key. • Create a record of accounts with account information and bill due dates—store in a secure place. • Set up automatic payments for bills (if desired) and make sure the credit cards you are using will not expire during deployment. • Create a list of any computer or banking passwords—store in a secure place. • Make sure you know where to go if you need financial assistance (e.g., Family Service Center, Command Ombudsman, Personnel Support Detachment (PSD), or Navy Marine Corps Relief Society). • Understand the status of your finances (including debts, income, etc.). • Reevaluate savings and financial goals. Consider utilizing the Savings Deposit Program (SDP) and Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). 	 

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Preparedness	<p>Family Care Plan Checklist Use the following checklist to develop your family care plan if you are a single parent or in the event that both parents or caregivers for minor children will deploy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assign a guardian for your family in a special Power of Attorney (POA) and confirm the guardian understands his or her responsibilities. • Obtain ID and commissary cards. To ensure military health coverage for you and your children, register all dependent family members in Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), and check to make sure all ID cards have not expired. • Make sure Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI) is correct. • Arrange for housing, food, transportation, and emergency needs. • Inform caretakers of your financial matters. • Arrange for guardian to have access to necessary funds. • Arrange for child care, education, and medical care. • Arrange necessary travel and escort to transfer family members to the new guardian. <p>Discuss these plans with your children.</p>	
Financial	<p>What are your financial goals during deployment? The SDP can help you get there! The DOD Savings Deposit Program (SDP) was established to provide members of the uniformed services serving in a designated combat zones the opportunity to build their financial savings. Amounts up to \$10,000.00 may be deposited, earning 10% interest annually. Members must be receiving Hostile Fire Pay and be deployed for at least 30 consecutive days, or 1 day in each of 3 consecutive months in order to participate in the program.</p> <p>https://www.dfas.mil/militarymembers/payentitlements/sdp.html</p>	
Resilience	<p>In the Emotional Cycle of Deployment, pre-deployment can be a time of increased stress. Family members may feel more emotional towards the anticipation of separation. The focus can change towards completing family pre-deployment activities. The frequency of stress and arguments may increase. Parents may struggle with how to talk to children about deployment. All of this can lead to feelings of anger, restlessness, depression, irritability, sadness, fear and guilt. What coping strategies do you and your family use during this time?</p> <p>Www.militaryonesource.mil is one of the agencies that can help provide support.</p>	

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Resilience	<p>In the Emotional Cycle of Deployment, pre-deployment can be a time of increased stress. The Soldier is more focused on preparing for their mission and may be distancing themselves from Family. In preparation of loss, Family may begin to act like the Soldier is already gone. Everyone may be experiencing anxiety about the upcoming separation and feelings of sadness, despair and indecision can appear. What are some healthy coping strategies you use to help combat the stress during this time?</p> <p>Your unit Military Family Life Counselor (MFLC) is available. Call xxx-xxx-xxxx to reach them!</p>	
Emergency Communication	<p>Red Cross Emergency Messages can be initiated by you, a Family member, Rear Detachment, your Doctor or other helper in the case of an emergency.</p> <p>Caller needs to know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soldier's full legal name and Rank • Military full unit address (Company, Battalion, Brigade, Division, Branch) • Social Security Name or Date of Birth • Name and contact for Family member experiencing the emergency • Circumstance of the emergency • Who they can contact to verify the emergency (hospital, doctor, funeral home, etc) <p><i>*The Red Cross does NOT authorize emergency leave, they verify the emergency for the chain of command.</i></p> <p>Call Toll Free 1-877-272-7337, online at redcross.org or download the free HERO Care APP</p> <p>https://www.redcross.org/get-help/military-families/emergency-communication.html</p>	
Financial	<p>The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) is a program that provides servicemembers a wide range of legal protections. Read more here!</p> <p>https://scra-w.dmdc.osd.mil/scra/#/home</p>	

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Preparedness	<p>What is your Spouse Emergency Plan? Do you have a plan in case something happens to YOU while your Soldier is deployed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you completed your family emergency data form with the unit? • Do you know your Soldiers full name, rank and complete unit information? • Do you have a back-up childcare plan? • Do you need a Delegation of Parent Authority or Child Medical Power of Attorney? • Do you know and have the phone number for at least two neighbors or local friends? <p>Have a plan!</p>	
Children	<p>CYS offers discounted rates and free respite care for Families of deployed Soldiers.</p> <p>https://carson.armymwr.com/programs/deployment-support-services</p> <p>*at time of publishing, childcare for readiness critical only</p>	
Resilience/ Resources/ Mental Health	<p>Military OneSource is your 24/7 connection to information, answers and support to help you reach your goals, overcome challenges and thrive. As a member of our military family, you are eligible to use this Department of Defense funded program anytime, anywhere. Turn to Military OneSource for tax services, spouse employment help, webinars and online training, relocation and deployment tools, mental health counseling, and more!</p> <p>Www.militaryonesource.mil</p>	
Children	<p>The Fort Carson School Liaison Office specializes in education transitions and can support in a variety of ways. Contact the School Liaison Office about school enrollment, access to home school resources, special education resources, Child & Youth Behavioral MFLC's, teen activities and events, and resources and information necessary to achieve academic success.</p> <p>https://carson.armymwr.com/programs/school-support-services</p>	

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OPSEC	<p>Operations Security (OPSEC) is means keeping dates, locations, times, equipment and mission information from our adversaries.</p> <p>We can't tell family and friends EVERYTHING we know about our upcoming deployment. We want to keep our Soldiers safe. Don't talk on the phone, email, online, in public or on social mediate about any specific facts about military intentions, capabilities, operations or activities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When your Soldier is leaving or coming home • What your Soldier is doing in the Area of Operations • Where he or she is specifically located <p>https://www.facebook.com/notes/army-operations-security-opsec/opsec-material-for-family-members/1163611047072825/</p>	
ACS	<p>Looking for deployment resources for your Soldier, yourself, your children, or your group? The ACS Deployment & Reintegration page has the information and material you need!</p> <p>https://carson.armymwr.com/programs/mobilization-deployment-readiness-stability-support-operations-mdrsso</p>	
ACS	<p><i>Are you looking for new employment opportunities while your Soldier is deployed? Would you like more information on Military Spouse Priority, a resume critique or help in identifying job opportunities? The ACS Employment Readiness Program can help! They can provide:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Local and virtual job opportunities</i> • <i>Certification resources</i> • <i>Job fair information</i> • <i>Resume critiques</i> • <i>Interview prep</i> • <i>Military Spouse Priority Placement Program information</i> • <i>Career counseling</i> • <i>Career assessments</i> • <i>Networking opportunities</i> • <i>State Licensure Reimbursement information</i> <p>https://carson.armymwr.com/programs/employment-readiness</p>	

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ACS	<p>The Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program provides finance education, budget assistance, personalized budget counseling, credit counseling, debt management along with a host of other financial support programs.</p> <p>https://carson.armymwr.com/programs/financial-readiness</p>	
AER	<p>Army Emergency Relief is a private non-profit organization whose mission is to provide financial assistance to Soldiers, Family members, widows and widowers, retirees and retiree Family members needing financial assistance in an unforeseen emergency situation. On our website you can see all the details of this program and download an application.</p> <p>https://carson.armymwr.com/programs/army-emergency-relief-aer</p>	
Domestic Violence	<p>The ACS Victim Advocacy Program provides emergency and follow-up support services to adult victims of domestic abuse. Advocacy services are available to service members, their current or former spouses, and those who can be seen by a military medical facility. Our services are available 24/7 through our 24 HR Victim Hotline: (719) 243-7907</p>	
Immigration	<p>The ACS Immigration and Naturalization program provides free services in partnership with the Denver U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Whether you need help with Immigration information, Naturalization, Green Card (Renewal, Removal of Conditions), or how to fill out various forms, our team is here to help you!</p> <p>https://carson.armymwr.com/programs/multicultural-program</p>	
Community Information	<p>Are you looking for the latest information on the Fort Carson community programs, services and events? Keep yourself current with this great resource!</p> <p>https://carson.armymwr.com/programs/pass-it-on</p>	

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ACS/ Parenting	<p>Looking for ways to cope with the stress of deployment for you and your children? The ACS New Parent Support Program (NPSP) promotes healthy Families through a variety of services including home visits, support groups, and parenting classes. Check out their Facebook page at:</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/Fort-Carson-ACS-Nurturing-and-New-Parent-Support-Program-100742954895152/</p>	
ACS/ Volunteering	<p>Looking for a way to learn a new skill, meet new people, advance your employment goals or give back to the community during deployment? The ACS Army Volunteer Corps can help! Call us today to find information on current volunteer recruitment needs! 719-526-4590</p> <p>https://carson.armymwr.com/programs/army-volunteer-corps</p> <p><i>*Volunteer access to the installation may be limited at time of publication</i></p>	
ACS/ Resilience	<p>Is your Soldier deployed, on an unaccompanied tour or apart from you due to other mission requirements? The ACS Waiting Families Program can help make the separation more bearable! This group provides extra connection and more information on resources while linking you with other Families!</p> <p>Call 719-526-4590 or visit the website to enroll https://carson.armymwr.com/programs/relocation-readiness-program</p>	
ACS/Special Needs	<p>Need some help navigating the path of special needs while your Soldier is deployed? The ACS Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) offers personalized services to provide you family focused and consistent EFMP family support, and to assist you in connecting with military and community resources so that you and your family can gain the care and support you need. Check out their Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/FortCarsonEFMP/</p>	
ACS/Multi- Cultural	<p>ACS has Multicultural Meet-Up Groups! Get acquainted with ACS offerings and find new friends in a community at Fort Carson that includes people with similar backgrounds and experiences. Children are welcome.</p> <p>https://carson.armymwr.com/programs/multicultural-program</p>	

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Housing	<p>Do you live on Fort Carson? Fort Carson Family Homes offers assistance through their Deployed Spouse Program. Among other services, they can provide pre-deployment preventive maintenance inspection and services, backyard mowing and assistance with standard household tasks such as hanging pictures, moving furniture, etc.</p> <p>https://www.fortcarsonfamilyhomes.com/custompage.aspx?sectionid=16570538</p>	
Health	<p>As the traumatic brain injury (TBI) Pathway of Care manager within the Military Health System, the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC) promotes state-of-the-science care from point-of-injury to reintegration for service members, veterans, and their families to prevent and mitigate consequences of mild to severe TBI.</p> <p>DVBIC works at the macro-level, screening and briefing troops heading into theater, performing pre-deployment provider training at military treatment facilities, gathering data mandated by Congress and DoD, and overseeing research programs. DVBIC develops, provides and distributes educational materials for both military and civilian providers, families, service members and veterans.</p> <p>https://dvbic.dcoe.mil/location/fort-carson-co</p>	
Health	<p>Is your Family planning to move while you're deployed? Make sure you plan before you go to ensure their TRI-CARE moves with them!</p> <p>https://www.tricare.mil/LifeEvents/Deploying</p>	
Health	<p>Searching for help with sleep, weight management, nutrition or wellness coaching? The Army Wellness Center at Fort Carson assists Soldiers and Families in facilitating a healthy lifestyle!</p>	
Education	<p>Looking for education opportunities, starting college, or using Tuition Assistance? Have questions about the GI Bill or on-post classes? The Fort Carson Education Center can help!</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/Fort-Carson-Army-Education-Center-123625425699127/</p>	<p>https://www.carson.army.mil/assets/docs/cie/FEB2019/ed-center-brochure.pdf</p>
Religious Support	<p>Whatever your religious background, there are many worship opportunities representing a wide variety of faith groups here on Fort Carson!</p> <p>https://www.carson.army.mil/organizations/chaplain.html</p>	

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Community Support	<p>Are you looking for a way to get involved while your Soldier is deployed? The Mountain Post Spouses Club is a non-profit, all ranks, spouses group at Fort Carson, dedicated to giving back to Soldiers and their Families. Membership is open to all spouses of Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard and retired personnel of the Armed Forces. We are also honored to extend membership to Gold Star spouses.</p> <p>https://www.mpssc.us/</p>	
Community Support/ Children	<p>The Fort Carson Parent to Parent program empowers parents to be their child's strongest advocate on educational and social issues. They ensure inclusive, quality educational opportunities for all military-connected children affected by deployments and family separation.</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/ParenttoParentColoradoSprings</p>	
Community Support	<p>Citizen Soldier Connection is a local community partner that provides opportunities for growth and connection. They host many events free to military members such as photography classes, car care classes, music lessons, speed networking, community activities, etc. They also provide Holiday Connections that help connect local families with Soldiers for holiday dinners.</p>	
Community Support	<p>Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) provides programs and services to meet the needs of military-connected students, parents and professionals. Looking for ways that a parent can support their student from afar, or how to navigate through your students transition at reintegration? Check out all the resources that MCEC has to offer!</p> <p>https://www.militarychild.org/</p>	
Community Support	<p>Military Kids Connect is an online community for military children ages 6-17, and provides access to age-appropriate resources to support children dealing with the unique psychological challenges of military life. MKC offers informative activities, helpful videos, and an online community that can build and reinforce understanding, resilience, and coping skills in military children and their peers.</p> <p>https://militarykidsconnect.health.mil/</p>	

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Community Support	<p>Sesame Street for Military Families is a free, bilingual (English and Spanish) website where families can find information and multimedia resources on the topics of military deployments, multiple deployments, homecomings, injuries, grief, and self-expression. There are free Apps to download, and free printable activity pages along with kid's games, videos, and more!</p> <p>https://sesamestreetformilitaryfamilies.org/</p>	
Community Support	<p>Do the kids need a little extra homework help? Tutor.com is an online tutoring and homework help for U.S. military and their families provided 24/7 at no cost by the U.S. Department of Defense.</p> <p>https://military.tutor.com/home</p>	
Community Support	<p>Did you know that having a deployed parent may qualify your child for free preschool or Head Start eligibility, regardless of income? Community Partnership for Child Development offers a variety of programs that prioritize military families. Start your application today!</p> <p>https://www.cpcdheadstart.org/</p>	
Community Support	<p>The Warrior Warehouse can help you turn your house into a home! Soldiers and Families in the grades of E1-E5 can pick up five free household items a month from this Fort Carson partner organization every Wednesday and Thursday from 9am to 1230pm.</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/Warriors-Warehouse-and-The-Redistribution-Center-Inc-Fort-Carson-512905145507687/</p> <p>Currently closed due to COVID-19</p>	

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Community Support	<p>United Through Reading unites military Families facing physical separation by facilitating the bonding experience of reading aloud. Download their APP today to find new ways to stay connected to your children during deployment!</p> <p>https://unitedthroughreading.org/service-members/recording-locations/app/</p>	
Community Support	<p>The Peak Military Care Network connects service members, veterans and their families to the local resources provided by trusted community partners. They help Families connect to any community service they might need—from education or child care to behavioral health and much more. Check out their website to find programs and services near you!</p> <p>https://pikespeak.co.networkofcare.org/veterans/</p>	
Community Support	<p>From entertainment and holiday celebrations to spouses coffee connections, the United Services Organization (USO) has something for deployed Soldiers AND their Families at home!</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/usocoloradosprings/</p>	
Community Support	<p>The Colorado Springs Southeast & Armed Services YMCA brings Operation Kid Comfort to children of deployed parents by providing a free photo quilt for children six and under and pillows for children seven and up. Visit their website for more information on this program, reduced membership rates and other military programming.</p> <p>https://ppymca.org/programs/military/operation-kid-comfort</p>	
Community Support	<p>The Comfort Crew Programs are provided to military families completely free of charge, and combine customized in-person live experiences, animated DVD's, and guided journals to open kids up to talking about the "tough stuff." These unique edutainment experiences allow us to talk about serious subjects in a way that is accessible to children. All Comfort Crew Kits are designed to support children ages 6-12.</p> <p>https://www.comfortcrew.org/militaryheroes.html</p>	