

STATEMENT BY

MAJOR GENERAL JOSE MAYORGA

ADJUTANT GENERAL

TEXAS MILITARY FORCES

BEFORE THE

JOINT

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND MILITARY INSTALLATIONS COMMITTEE

AND

SELECT COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' HEALTH

SEPTEMBER 30, 2010

**JOINT SENATE COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND MILITARY INSTALLATIONS
AND
SELECT COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' HEALTH
8:00 AM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2010**

Good Morning Madam Chair, Chairman Wentworth and Committee Members: I am Major General Jose Mayorga, the Adjutant General of the Texas Military Forces.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the TXMF support to our Soldiers, Airmen, and their Family Members. From the video you are about to see, The Texas Military Forces and its Joint Family Support Services Center have several programs to include the Resiliency Program, Yellow Ribbon Program, Strong Bonds Programs, and the Youth Summer Program that are designed to assist our service members and their families. The National Guard Bureau recently recognized the Texas Military Forces Joint Family Support Services as one of the Top 15 in the country for community partnerships and family support and we are very proud of this recognition.

The Resiliency Program team is composed of six (6) multi disciplined service members who provide resiliency training, aid in intervention with service members and their families. They serve as a liaison between the TXMF and our state partners, to include the Local Mental Health Agencies. Some of the services they provide include Peer to Peer training which is designed to train unit members to identify, intervene, and initiate the continuum of care for service members and families in crisis. They are an integral part of the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.

The Yellow Ribbon Program is a congressionally mandated program focused on preparing, sustaining, and reintegrating service members and their families before, during, and after deployments with 6 total sessions throughout the deployment cycle. Prior to deployment sessions, both soldiers and family members attend to learn of benefits available to the family members. During deployments sessions, family members receive training and resources focused on stress management, healthy communication, reintegration, and help set expectations for the service members' return with an emphasis on the needs of children. During post deployment sessions, training is focused on employment opportunities,

identifying potential warning signs related to PTSD, depression, substance abuse, and a host of other deployment related stressors and symptoms. The objective is to provide veterans and their families with information and resources available to assist with the reintegration process.

A third best practice is our Chaplain led **Strong Bonds Program** which provides relationship enhancement tools during weekend retreats. Marriage Enrichment Retreats target service members and spouses, Family Wellness Retreats focus on the entire family unit, and Single Soldier Retreats focus on issues specific to that population.

The Youth Summer Program assists young children of deployed service members deal with the stresses of their parents' deployment.

Family Readiness Group serves as a venue by which the spouses of deployed services members can connect, share common concerns, and address issues and challenges while their spouses are deployed.

Although we have several “Best Practices Programs” available to our service members and their families, we recognize there is more work to be done. We want to work with this Committee in addressing the issues family members face before, during, and after deployments and in advancing the benefits and assistance available to them. I hope you enjoy this short video and will address any questions you may afterwards.

Please play the video.

May I answer any questions?