



Helpful Military Terms and Acronyms

AD – Active Duty – (also sometimes referred to as **AC – Active Component**) Military members who are full time employees of the federal government. They receive pay and benefits reflecting this.

Branch – “Branch of Service” (sometimes called “component”) refers to whether the service member is in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or Coast Guard. Within the Army, “Branch” can also refer to the specialty (job) that the Soldier performs, the leadership of which is responsible for assigning Soldiers to specific duty stations.

CONUS – CONTinental United States – If a service member is stationed CONUS, they are assigned to a duty station within the Continental United States.

Deployment - refers to long separations, often characterized by a dangerous mission for the service member. Typically, the spouse of the service member has the responsibility of sole caregiver, often in a “new to you” area.

DHS – Department of Homeland Security - part of the United States government responsible for maintaining security within the United States

DoD – Department of Defense – the part of the United States government responsible for the military

EFMP – Exceptional Family Member Program – Program designed to ensure that Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force families are stationed where their children will have access to needed services. This program is run differently between branches, and often between duty stations, within the same branch of service.

MTF – Military Treatment Facility – Military hospital or clinic that treats the medical needs of service members and their families

NG - National Guard – Military members who are part time employees of the state government. Pay and benefits reflect part time status.

OCONUS – Outside CONTinental United States - Service members assigned to duty stations in Alaska, Hawaii or a country other than the United States are said to be “stationed OCONUS.”

Orders - Formal instructions directing a service member to a particular task, unit or area, with which the Service Member is legally obligated to comply.

PCS – Permanent Change of Station – A permanent move, often to a different state or country. Families typically are completely new to an area, so they must learn how to navigate the area and where hospitals, schools, stores, etc are located. Families must also research to understand how IDEA is implemented in their new state.

RC – Reserve Component – Military members who are part time employees of the federal government. Pay and benefits reflect part time status.

Retirees – Service members who have retired after 20+ years of military service.

Service Member/Sponsor – the family member who is in the military

SNP – Special Needs Program – Program designed to ensure Coast Guard families are stationed where their children will have access to needed services.

TDY – Temporary Duty – Temporary assignment of a service member to new location. This type of assignment is generally for specialized training and typically lasts less than 6 months. The Service Member may return to the current duty station or move onto another at the completion of the training.

Training Exercise – times of training when the service member is unavailable at home due to training. It differs from TDY in that the service member is often training locally.

Tricare – Name of the medical insurance that covers military families. Tricare is run by different contractors depending on where the family is located. Tricare covers Hearing Aids, Cochlear Implants, and Auditory Osseointegrated Implants (like BAHAs) for all Active Duty Service members and their dependents who meet the FDA's criteria for those devices. Tricare covered Cochlear Implants and Auditory Osseointegrated Implants for all Service Members and their dependents who meet the FDA's criteria for those devices.