



U.S. ARMY

OPERATION
READY
Resources for Educating About Deployment and You

GETTING PREPARED, STAYING PREPARED

Family Readiness Group Overview

Third Edition, 2006



U.S. ARMY

GETTING PREPARED, STAYING PREPARED

OPERATION
READY
Resources for Educating About Deployment and You

Objectives of FRG Overview

- To define the mission and role of the FRG
- To review the structure of FRG operations
- To highlight how FRGs need to adapt to changing times – what FRGs need to do now



U.S. ARMY

GETTING PREPARED, STAYING PREPARED

OPERATION
READY
Resources for Educating About Deployment and You

What is an FRG?

“An FRG is a command-sponsored organization of Soldiers, civilian employees, family members and volunteers belonging to a unit.”

(Source: AR 608-1, Appendix J)



GETTING PREPARED, STAYING PREPARED

OPERATION
READY
Resources for Educating About Deployment and You

FRG Purpose

- Assist unit commander in enhancing family readiness.
- Encourage self-sufficiency by providing information, referral assistance and mutual support.
- Provide a network of communications among family members, chain of command and community resources, which includes:
 - Providing feedback **to command** on state of unit families.
 - Disseminating official, accurate information **from command** to families
 - Offering referral assistance to community resources.



U.S. ARMY

GETTING PREPARED, STAYING PREPARED

OPERATION
READY
Resources for Educating About Deployment and You

FRG Mission

- Act as an extension of the unit in providing official, accurate command information.
- Provide mutual care and concern between the command and the FRG membership.
- Advocate more efficient use of available community resources.
- Help families solve problems at the lowest level.



U.S. ARMY

GETTING PREPARED, STAYING PREPARED

OPERATION
READY
Resources for Educating About Deployment and You

FRG Activities

Mission Essential

- FRG member meetings
- FRG staff and committee meetings
- Publication and distribution of FRG newsletters
- Maintenance of updated family rosters and family readiness information
- Establishment of FRG telephone tree and e-mail distribution lists
- Scheduling educational briefings for FRG members



U.S. ARMY

GETTING PREPARED, STAYING PREPARED

OPERATION
READY
Resources for Educating About Deployment and You

FRG Activities (continued)

Non-mission activities

- FRG social activities
- FRG fundraising activities

Note: While FRG social activities can be valuable, they are not funded by the unit's appropriated funds. The FRG must use its FRG informal fund.



U.S.ARMY

GETTING PREPARED, STAYING PREPARED

OPERATION
READY
Resources for Educating About Deployment and You

FRGs Are Not

- The ladies' coffee group
- Just for deployment
- Only for people with problems
- A long-term babysitting service
- Part of casualty notification process
- Fundraising entity for unit



U.S. ARMY

GETTING PREPARED, STAYING PREPARED

OPERATION
READY
Resources for Educating About Deployment and You

FRG Structure

Company Level: Typically establishes FRG.

Battalion Level: Advisory role to company level FRGs. May establish FRG for battalion or an FRG for battalion HQ unit.

- Battalion Commander
- FRG Steering Committee
- FRG Advisor

Brigade and Division Level: Advise battalion leadership on readiness issues and policy issues.



U.S. ARMY

GETTING PREPARED, STAYING PREPARED

OPERATION
READY
Resources for Educating About Deployment and You

FRGs in Changing Times

- Army reorganizing to more flexible, rapidly deployable force.
- Military operations conducted by Brigade Combat Teams (BCT) AND joint forces.
- Increased demands on military creating more frequent deployments. Some deployments lengthy and dangerous.
- Army recognizes broader Soldier's "family".



U.S. ARMY

GETTING PREPARED, STAYING PREPARED

OPERATION
READY
Resources for Educating About Deployment and You

What FRGs Need To Do in Today's Environment

- Support a diverse FRG membership
- Be operational in all phases of deployment cycle
- Support individual Soldiers and their families
- Prepare for situations that can impact a unit/unit family
- Conduct practice exercises



U.S. ARMY

GETTING PREPARED, STAYING PREPARED

OPERATION
READY
Resources for Educating About Deployment and You

FRG Supports the Unit's "Family"

Soldiers/Service Members

- Assigned
- Attached to unit for deployment (augmentees)

Family Members

- Spouses
- Children
- Extended family (parents, grandparents, etc.)
- Others as identified by Soldiers (e.g., boy/girlfriends, fiancées, guardians).

These individuals may be geographically dispersed.

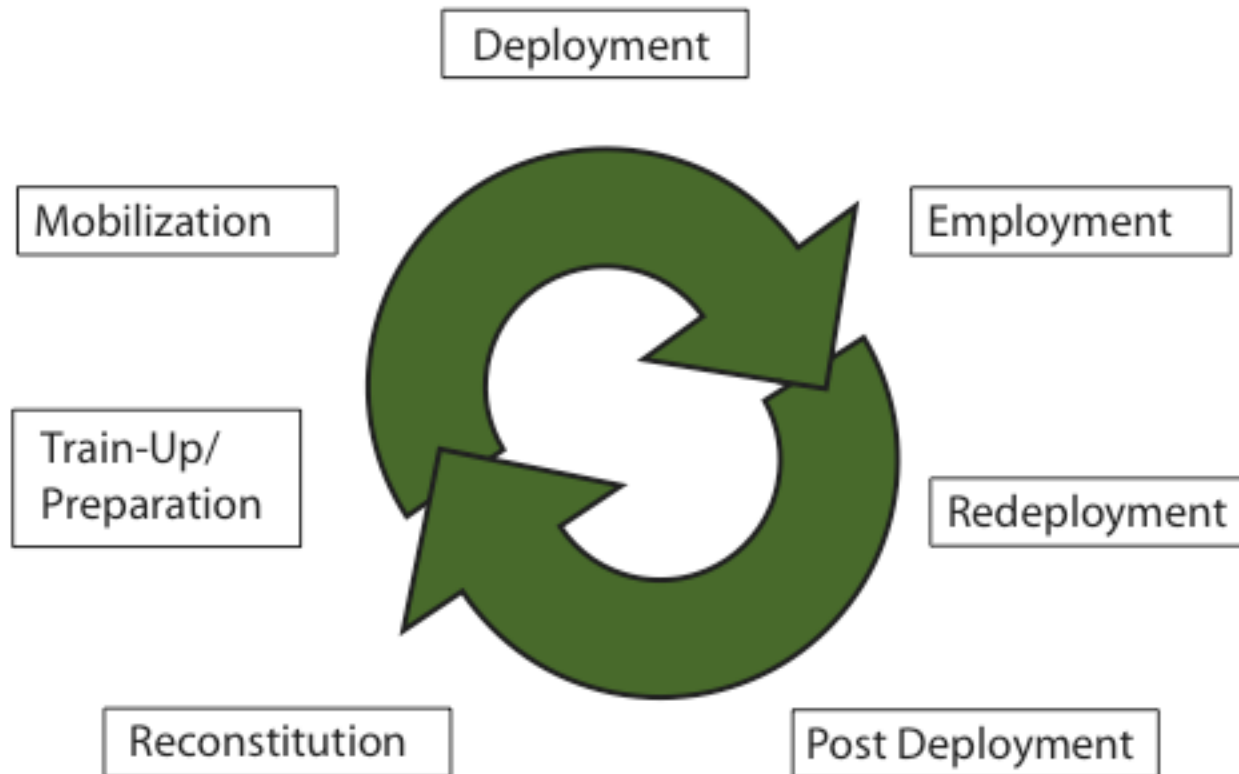


U.S.ARMY

OPERATION
READY
Resources for Educating About Deployment and You

GETTING PREPARED, STAYING PREPARED

FRG Supports Deployment Cycle





U.S. ARMY

GETTING PREPARED, STAYING PREPARED

OPERATION
READY
Resources for Educating About Deployment and You

FRG Planning and Preparation for Unit/Family Situations

- Get training
- Review the Operation READY materials
- Meet with unit leadership to discuss how unit families will be supported in deployment cycle and in emergency situations



U.S. ARMY

GETTING PREPARED, STAYING PREPARED

OPERATION
READY
Resources for Educating About Deployment and You

Benefits of FRGs

- Families
- Soldiers
- Commanders
- Communities



GETTING PREPARED, STAYING PREPARED

OPERATION
READY
Resources for Educating About Deployment and You

Benefits of Effective FRGs

Families

- Connection to unit and unit families
- Connection to community resources
- Able to problem-solve
- Ability to cope with deployments

Soldiers

- Peace of mind/
Reduced stress
- Ability to focus on mission



U.S. ARMY

GETTING PREPARED, STAYING PREPARED

OPERATION
READY
Resources for Educating About Deployment and You

Benefits of Effective FRGs (continued)

Commanders

- Ability to be more responsive to family issues
- Reduced time spent handling individual soldier/family issues
- Increased family readiness and deployment preparedness



U.S. ARMY

GETTING PREPARED, STAYING PREPARED

OPERATION
READY
Resources for Educating About Deployment and You

Benefits of Effective FRGs (continued)

Community

- Reduced occurrence of crisis situations
- Increased ability to support Soldiers and families where they live