



## MILITARY CAREGIVER SUPPORT PEER FORUM INITIATIVE

### About the Military Caregiver PEER Forum Initiative (Personalized Experiences, Engagement and Resources)

Providing resources and information for military caregivers who assist wounded, ill and injured Service members

First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden established the Department of Defense's Military Caregiver PEER Forum Initiative through Joining Forces, their joint initiative to engage all sectors of society to rally around Service members, veterans, their families and caregivers, supporting them through wellness, education and employment opportunities.

Military caregivers face a range of challenges that impact them on daily basis, including physical health, mental health, finances, education, family issues, transportation, housing and legal issues. Military Caregiver PEER Forums are coordinated efforts among the Office of Warrior Care Policy, Military Community and Family Policy, the military Services and US Special Operations Command to establish in-person and virtual opportunities for military caregivers to congregate, converse among their peers, share resources and best practices, and provide support.

The Military Caregiver PEER Forums meet, in-person, on 33 military installations across the United States that serve wounded, ill and injured Service members, their families and their caregivers. In addition to the in-person meetings, Virtual PEER Forums, webinars and other online tools are used to engage caregivers in remote locations, ensuring all those who are looking for support are able to find it.

The Offices of Warrior Care Policy, Military Community and Family Policy, and the military Services' Wounded Warrior Programs manage the logistics for the PEER Forums. Recovery Care Coordinators, Advocates and the Non-Medical Care Managers serve as conduits through which information about the Forums are conveyed to interested military caregivers.

During the Military Caregiver PEER Forums, military caregivers are able to discuss sensitive topics while their privacy is maintained. Military and Family Life Counselors who possess either a masters or doctorate degree, and are licensed or certified to practice in a mental health field, facilitate the discussions.

Contact [osd.caregiver@mail.mil](mailto:osd.caregiver@mail.mil) for more information about PEER Forums in your area and to RSVP for Virtual PEER Forums.