

## FRG FAQ

- What is an FRG?
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### What is an FRG?

A Soldier/Family Readiness Group is a command sponsored organization of family members, volunteers, soldiers, and civilian employees belonging to a unit, that together provide an avenue of mutual support and assistance and a network of communications among the family members, the chain of command, chain of concern, and community resources. For more details contact the Family Readiness Group Program at 568-1132.

### What is the Unit Commander's role in the FRG?

The FRG is a unit commander's program formed in accordance with AR 600-20. Unit commanders will ensure that their FRGs appeal to all service members, civilians, and family members regardless of rank structure or family size, composition, language spoken, and other characteristics. Additional information on unit commander's role can be found in AR 608-1 Appendix J.

### What is the role of FRG Leader?

The FRG leader should be a person in a non-deployable status, preferably a spouse. Often, the FRG leader is the commander's spouse, though not always. Any spouse in the unit who is willing and able to lead the efforts of the FRG can serve as FRG leader. The commander may select the leader, or the leader may be elected by the FRG membership. Either way, the commander prepares and signs appointment orders for the leader. However, after the FRG leader is selected, he or she needs to obtain the proper training.

The Army Leaders' Desk Reference for Soldier/Family Readiness defines the FRG Leader roles as:

- Supports the commander's family readiness goals
- Provides overall leadership of the FRG
- Recruits other volunteers to serve on FRG committees
- Delegates FRG responsibilities to selected volunteers as committee chairpersons, or presides over their elections
- Serves as a member of the battalion-level steering committee
- Identifies needs or unique problems of unit families
- Acts as unit FRG spokesperson for communicating family members' concerns and ideas to the unit commander and, if needed, the battalion-level FRG leader

The FRG is not a one-person job; therefore, additional volunteers need to be recruited in order to build a team that works together for the good of the families in the unit. Additional information is also discussed in the FRG Leader Essentials, FRG Intermediate and FRG Advanced Courses.

### What is the Role of Family Readiness Support Assistants (FRSA)?

The Family Readiness Support Assistants is a link between Soldiers, Families, Family Readiness Groups and community resources.

Their job is to assist the command in properly and effectively responding to Soldier and Family needs by:

- Providing information and referrals to families who need assistance to the appropriate installation/community resources
- Scheduling and coordinating training
- Assisting in establishing and updating FRG rosters
- Working with the Rear Detachment Commanders to provide FRG leaders with timely and accurate information
- Providing assistance with the preparation of pre-deployment, sustainment and reunion activities
- Assisting with FRG newsletters and websites
- Helping to lighten the volunteer load

**How do I register and log my hours as a volunteer?**

Check out the Ft. Bliss Army Volunteer Corps page [www.blissmwr.com/volunteer](http://www.blissmwr.com/volunteer) for more information.

### **FRG Regulations**

Appendix J of AR 608-1 was released in December of 2006. Appendix J outlines FRG Roles and functions; resources available to FRGs; fundraising guidelines, donations; and the budget process. Anyone looking for guidance or answers to FRG-related matters should refer to Appendix J or the Commander or Ethics Counselor.

Operation R.E.A.D.Y (Resources for Educating About Deployment and You) is a training resource which was developed after the Persian Gulf War from lessons learned in deployment. ACS provides the following OPREADY-based trainings:

### **FRG Leader Essentials Training**

Provides information on the Soldier/Family Readiness Group and how to effectively run the organization.

### **FRG Advanced Workshop**

Designed to follow the FRG Essentials course, the focus will be on the more difficult challenges the FRG may encounter during the cycles of deployment.

### **FRG Intermediate Training (Key Caller, Treasurer, Newsletter):**

#### **Key Caller Training**

Designed to provide training in Key Caller duties, communicating with Family members, dispelling rumors, handling crisis calls, etc.

#### **Treasurer Workshop**

Designed for FRG Leaders, Treasurers, Command representatives and anyone else who manages FRG money. It covers the various funds available and details the types of purchases that can be made with each fund.

### **Creating FRG Newsletters**

Designed to teach FRGs, FRG leaders and FRG Newsletter Editors how to create effective FRG newsletters in accordance with AR 608-1 Appendix J.

**Refresher Course**

The refresher course is a quick overview of changes that affect FRGs due to Appendix J. It covers updated demographics for the Army and policies on budgets and fundraising and is geared toward seasoned FRG Leaders. Its purpose is mainly to reach FRG Leaders who have attended training in past years and provide current materials.

**FRG Forum**

The quarterly FRG Forum is a venue for FRG Leaders and other FRG volunteers to discuss current FRG issues or concerns and to explore solutions.