



Military Community and Family Policy Biography

C. Eddy Mentzer

**Associate Director, Office of Military Family Readiness Policy
Children, Youth, and Families**



C. Eddy Mentzer brings more than 27 years of personal and professional experience in supporting military families through a variety of roles across the DoD and Federal Government. He assumed the duties of associate director in the Department of Defense's Office of Military Family Readiness Policy in August, 2010. As associate director, he is responsible for management of the Defense Department's family readiness and well-being policies and programs. These efforts include policy oversight and programmatic support to the military service-delivered family readiness system to include child care and youth development, family support centers, and a variety of initiatives designed to assist Service members and their families throughout their military life.

Mr. Mentzer leads a team focused on easing the impact of challenges faced by military families as a result of the often unpredictable and mobile nature of military life. In addition to policy and programmatic oversight across the DoD, he works regularly with a variety of stakeholders representing both intra-governmental, non-profit and community based organizations. In this role, Mr. Mentzer manages the DoD/USDA Partnership for Military Families. This unique federal partnership leverages the expertise of land grant university research, programming and faculty in support of military families.

Prior to his work in the DoD's Office of the Secretary of Defense, from 2004 to 2010, Mr. Mentzer was a national program leader within the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture where he managed multiple global programs in support of military children, youth and families. From 1992 to 2004 he was a Department of the Air Force civilian managing numerous child, youth, education, and family support programs at a variety of levels throughout Europe.

In addition to growing-up in a military family, Mr. Mentzer is married to an Active Duty Air Force Colonel and the parent of a military child. This combination of both professional and personal experience allows Mr. Mentzer to bring a unique perspective to the programs which he oversees. He is a recognized speaker on the challenges faced by military families having appeared at countless radio, television and face-to-face events.

The Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy is directly responsible for programs and policies, which establish and support community quality-of-life programs for service members and their families worldwide. This office also serves as the focal point for coordination for a broad range of quality-of-life issues within the Department of Defense.