



## North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Social Services

325 North Salisbury Street • Raleigh, North Carolina 27603  
Courier # 56-20-25 MSC 2408

Michael F. Easley, Governor  
Dempsey Benton, Secretary

Sherry Bradsher, Director  
(919) 733-3055

September 15, 2008

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**SUBJECT: MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN CHILD WELFARE**

Research has linked an increase in child maltreatment, family violence, and fatalities to military families that have experienced multiple deployments. There is increased stress on families when one of their members is deployed and increased stress when they return from deployment. North Carolina counties that have military bases in or near their counties have experienced this phenomenon over the years. These issues also affect families of National Guard and Reserve members in every county in the State.

In 2005, the Department of Defense began implementing a phase of strategic planning for all branches of the military, including the National Guard and the Reserves. This involves the re-positioning to North Carolina of approximately 40,000 troops from all branches of the military, the National Guard/ Reserves and their families. The relocation of troops to NC has begun, but the major impact is not expected to be felt until 2009, with a completion date of 2012. The major military installations that will be impacted are **Pope AFB, Fort Bragg, Seymour Johnson AFB, Cherry Point, Camp Lejeune and some National Guard/Reserve locations.**

The Division has been told that the following counties will be impacted the greatest. However all 100 counties may see an impact: **Moore, Lee, Hoke, Robeson, Harnett, Pitt, Craven, Beaufort, Pamlico, Carteret, Cumberland, Bladen, Sampson, Johnston, Wayne, Duplin, Pender, Wilson, Green, Lenoir, Jones, Montgomery, Richmond, Scotland and Onslow.**

This influx of military personnel and their families, combined with the research on the impact on families from the stressors of multiple deployments has raised the awareness of the Division of Social Services. The Division believes that it is important to offer our assistance to counties at this time in assessing their capacity to deliver services and to determine strategies to ensure adequate service provisions.

The Division has developed a short survey, with which we need your assistance. The survey is on line and has only ten questions. It should take less than ten minutes to complete. The purpose of this survey is to determine what impact on county Department's of Social Services that the military and National Guard/Reserves community has on the provision of child welfare

services. Information obtained from this survey will assist the Division in determining what level of advocacy will be required from the Division, as the number of military personnel assigned to North Carolina increases.

To access this survey please click on this link, or copy and post it into your internet browser, <http://www.ncsurveymax.org/LandingPage.aspx?SurveyID=c7620770-3256-48ab-874f-899155baee30&Publish=WEB&Size=STANDARD>

We ask that you complete the on-line survey by October 15, 2008. Should you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact, Terri Reichert, CPS Policy Consultant at (919) 334-1106.

Sincerely,



Charisse S. Johnson, Chief  
Family Support and Child Welfare Services

CJ/ttr

cc: Sherry Bradsher  
Jo Ann Lamm  
Hank Bowers  
Children's Program Representatives  
Family Support and Child Welfare Services Team Leaders  
Local Business Liaisons  
Work First Representatives

**FSCWS-53-08**