



**Monthly Convening Activity: March 2018-Military Blended Families Activity**

For this activity, please create groups of 7-10 members (Please try to have members from varied areas of expertise for the best experience/discussion☺).

**Group Input Colors:**

**0-5 Group**

**K-5 Group**

**Middle School Group**

**High School Group**

**Universal Group**

**Questions to Consider:**

1. What are some of the challenges that impact military blended families in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

**Cannot advocate for self, vulnerable**

**Zero parenting knowledge**

**Attachment disruptions**

**Imbalance legal support**

**Imbalance command support**

**Relocation**

**Different Standards**

**Social Skills/ Support**

**Lack of access to military resources**

**Parents involved in education**

**Friendship**

**Holiday Planning**

**Guilt**

**Military vs. Non-Military**

**Cultural/Bi Racial**

**Location/Base vs Off Base**

**Schedules**

**Non-Custodial Parents**

**Deployment support**

**Lack of communication**

**Lack of peer/ social support**

**Change in duty station**

**Scheduling**

**Discipline**

**Life moments**

**Subsequent Divorces**

**Vacation Integration**



**S.D.M.F.C.**  
**SAN DIEGO MILITARY**  
FAMILY COLLABORATIVE

2. How might relocation impact the military blended family's children's emotional well-being?

**Attachment/Development**

**New sibling**

**Reentry/relocation**

**Parents missing childhood milestones**

**Additional children in family**

**Death**

**New Schools**

**Sports**

**Lack of coping skills**

**Don't understand context of blended families**

**Stability of household/routines**

**Services/Resources**

**Links**

**YMCA**

**Church**

**Lack of knowledge**

**Prevention Specialist**

**Command meetings**

**Counseling (Family/Individual)**

**Online Services**

**Discipline**

**Intimate relationships**

**Constant adjustments**

**Discipline**

**Who's Mom/Dad?**

**Family you didn't get to choose**

**Belonging to two families**



3. In terms of services and resources what might be done to increase the stability of blended families and the well-being of their children?

**NPSP and NMC support groups**

**Dad Corps**

**United Through Reading**

**ASY Quilt**

**Daddy Doll**

**Family Readiness Services**

**Mediation**

**Kids Turn SD**

**Religion/Church**

**Child Support Services**

**Childcare**

**Sponsorship programs**

**School Liaison**

**Youth Support Programs**

**Links**

**YMCA**

**Church**

**Lack of knowledge**

**Prevention Specialist**

**Command meetings**

**Counseling (Family/Individual)**

**Online Services**

**Connect with noncustodial parents (facetime)**

**Get involved on campus**

**Communication**

**Kids First Mindset**

**Focus on child**



4. Describe some of the characteristics of a supportive military blended family environment. What does this environment include and how are we supporting its sustainability?

Co-parenting skills  
Independence  
Family roles +language  
Support system

Strong communication  
Same standards in both homes  
Time to adjust  
Positive reinforcement/environment  
Maintaining relationships with kids  
Being positive about other parent

Good communication and listening  
Patient  
Open to change  
Family members feel they have some control  
Acknowledge the situation is difficult  
Focus on strengths  
Have children get involved with scheduling

Open communication  
Patience  
Listening  
Adaptable to change

5. What community resources are needed to assist military families that create and maintain supportive bonds?

Outreach  
Safety plan

Safety plan  
SDFMC visibility, outreach, share resources, and be proactive  
Family Readiness Services

Education programs  
Talk with both parents mediation  
Family group meeting

Outreach programs  
Involvement on school campus  
Social support programs

Operation Family Care Giver  
Library  
Internet  
School Military Kid Clubs  
Churches