



# BARACK OBAMA FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

## ACTIVE-DUTY FAMILIES

### **Create an Advisory Board**

Barack Obama will create a *Military Families Advisory Board* of experts and family representatives to identify and develop actionable policies to ease the burden on spouses and families.

### **Support Family Readiness Groups**

Family Readiness Groups are command-sponsored networks of volunteer spouses who provide military families with deployment and training information, service referrals and social support. In 2005 alone, Army volunteers logged 632,897 hours of service. Senator Obama will provide better support for these networks, including better training and support staff.

### **End Stop-Loss**

Barack Obama will end the policies that allow a service-person to be forced to remain on active duty after his or her enlistment has expired.

## GUARD & RESERVE FAMILIES

### **Fight Guard/Reserve Employment Discrimination**

Federal law protects guardsmen and reservists from job discrimination, but the process is ineffective. A complaint can take months to resolve, leaving veterans vulnerable. Obama will invest additional resources into enforcement and investigation in order to crack down on employers who are not following the letter and spirit of the law.

### **Help Military Spouses Cope with Deployments**

When guardsmen or reservists are activated, their spouses have to make a tremendous transition to

balance work and family obligations. Obama would extend job protection for their spouses to allow them to take time off work to care for family and get their affairs in order.

### **Let Our Reservists Train & Rest Between Deployments**

Uncertain and repeated deployments have strained Guard and Reserve families. Obama would ease this deployment tempo by beginning an immediate redeployment of troops from Iraq and increasing the size of the military. This will allow units to retrain properly and decrease the strain on military families.

## VETERAN FAMILIES

### **Expand Vet Centers**

Vet Centers provide vets and their families mental health care, substance abuse counseling, vocational and employment assistance, VA benefits information, and social services. Obama will expand and strengthen Vet Centers.

### **Update GI Bill**

Obama has been a long-time supporter of the bipartisan legislation signed into law in June 2008 to update GI Bill benefits. It will cover tuition up to the cost of the most expensive in-state public school, plus a monthly housing stipend and additional benefits. The bill enables transfer of education benefits to spouses or children.

### **Fully Fund VA medical Care**

Veterans face delays and long wait times seeking VA health care appointments. Obama will fully fund VA health care so it can serve the veterans who need it, when they need it.

OBAMA WILL CREATE REAL CHANGE FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

TELL BARACK YOUR STORY

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