



Suggestions for Elemental Ministry Teams (EMTs)



Each EMT forms one Element of your total ministry to the Military.

General Need Teams

- 1. Prayer Patrol** – Prayer warrior team to keep track of the needs of military families and deployed troops, lifting them consistently before the throne of grace. They can field prayer requests, take the initiative to contact military personnel to find out how they could pray for them, put the requests on an internet prayer chain, etc. Pray *with* them, too. Coordinator needed.
- 2. Deployment Preparation Team** – A group of people who, when it is learned that a member of the congregation has received deployment orders, comes alongside the family to help them get prepared for the long separation physically, spiritually, emotionally, and in practical ways. They will also arrange for a rousing, all-church-involved sendoff for the troop, affirming and assuring him/her that the church will watch over the family in his/her absence. When the troop heads overseas, this team could then hand off the left-behind family to the . . .
- 3. Deployment Oversight Team** – A group of people who would monitor the family of the deployed troop while he/she is overseas, making sure that their needs are being met. Coordinate needed help with other EMTs. This team would also make sure the church is in contact with the deployed troop, finding out if he/she has any needs the church could help with, and reporting on how the family is doing. When the deployed troop is about to return home, they turn the family over to the . . .
- 4. Welcome Home/Reintegration Team** – A group of people who will arrange for a very affirming Welcome Home celebration for the troop and his/her family with the congregation, and then stick with them through the rocky reintegration period, providing counsel, help, support and encouragement. Help the troop work with the VA, DOD, former employer, etc.
- 5. Local Resource Reconnaissance Team** – This team would find out about all the resources in the local area that could be of use to a military family, including VA and Vet Center programs, chemical dependency programs, Assn. of the US Army, legal, financial, medical, employment, auto purchase, home purchase, etc. They would put all this information in a booklet or on the internet for the local troops to access, and help walk them through processes or help them access providers that could be helpful.
- 6. Medical Reconnaissance Team** – A team that tries to find hurting vets at the VA hospitals and other facilities. Visit those who are bedridden; coordinate with the military and hospital chaplains, doctors, case-workers.
- 7. Homeless Vets Outreach** – A team that could coordinate with local Vet Centers, shelters and other charitable organizations to find veterans who are homeless and need help. Connect them with various resources or other EMTs who could give them direct or indirect aid.
- 8. Outreach Team** – A team that would stage special events specifically for veterans – to honor them, support them, affirm them. It would be a way of “getting them out of the woodwork” so they could hopefully be drawn into the fellowship of the church. They could be small events (neighborhood barbeque) or big events (city-wide; see “Houston Freedom Festival” as an over-the-top example).
- 9. Military Ministry Integration Team** – This group would work to involve military personnel and their spouses in the church’s ministry – as givers, not just receivers. Military personnel have a lot to give, if they just have clear opportunities presented to them. They are rich in talents of teaching, administration, helps, can be involved in drama, music, working with youth, counseling, mentoring, etc. In addition, it’s

very positive and therapeutic to involve Combat Trauma sufferers in service and ministry projects – helps them see that they still have something to contribute to others, they have value.

10. Champions of Child Care – Put together a list of people willing to provide childcare so that military couples can get out and enjoy some time alone – especially before and after deployment. The church could also schedule certain nights where military couples could bring their kids to church and leave them there for a couple hours of fun group activities while mom & dad have a date night.

11. Serving the Servers – Canvass the church and community businesses who would be willing to give military personnel a discount on their goods and services. Offer gift cards from local businesses such as gas stations, restaurants, department stores, grocery stores, mechanics, hair salons, etc.

12. Financial Counseling – Offer workshops or one-to-one sessions to military personnel to help them with budgeting and financial issues – especially prior to deployment.

Teams that Offer Fellowships/Bible Studies/Support Groups

13. Combat Trauma Care Group – Put together small groups of those suffering with Combat Trauma and take them through the *Combat Trauma Healing Manual*. When they’ve finished the manual, they could “graduate” to a Veterans Fellowship, or lead another group through the *Manual*, or simply be integrated into your church’s normal on-going discipleship systems.

14. Military Wives’ (Mom’s) Support Group – This could take the form of a simple fellowship, prayer group, sharing forum or Bible study. They could study and discuss *When War Comes Home* together. It could be composed exclusively of military wives and/or mothers, or include others who could act as support people. There could be enough deployed women in your area that would accommodate a Military Husbands’ Support Group, too! (Manual for them is on the drawing board.) Other excellent wives’ studies would be *Loving Your Military Man* by Bea Fishback, and *Hope For The Homefront* by Marshele Carter Waddell (comes with a study guide as well).

15. A Band of Mothers – A weekly or biweekly meeting where mothers of deployed troops can meet together to pray, share, support, and exchange helpful information with each other. They could also undertake projects together on behalf of their deployed kids.

16. Veterans Fellowship – Start a weekly or biweekly meeting, inviting veterans to come. Options (depending on your group’s situation): one for each war/age group or mix them all together (pluses and minuses both ways); keep it to just fellowship and sharing – not too heavy; or go deeper, more intimate sharing; make it an actual Bible study group. Always include food!

17. Pre-deployment Study Groups – For couples: *Defending the Military Marriage; Defending the Military Family; Making Your Marriage Deployment-Ready*.

Teams that Facilitate “Adopt-A” Ministries

18. Adopt-a-Grandparent – Volunteer senior citizens could be paired with military families to be “grandpa” or “grandma” to children who rarely see or talk with their grandparents, not to mention have a secure, loving relationship with them. Bake some cookies, take the kiddies to the park to feed the ducks, come over and read the little ones stories, etc. Appoint a coordinator.

19. Adopt-a-Platoon – A team could join this internet-based program to support a particular military man or woman (who they don’t know, and who doesn’t have many or any others supporting him or her) or an entire platoon by sending cards, letters, goodies, small gifts, etc. A great ministry for empty-nest moms or grandmothers – they want “Platoon Moms.” Currently there are only 100 volunteer mothers signed up. www.adoptaplatoon.org.



20. Adopt-a-Troop – Have someone be sure to connect every deployed service member with one of the kids and/or adult Sunday School classes who would stay connected with him/her throughout their deployment and make sure they know what was going on at church, sending cards, care packages, photos, etc.

Teams that Serve the Families Left At Home

21. Foster Families – When Daddy (or Mommy) is deployed, and other extended family isn't nearby, birthdays and holidays can be very lonely, stressful times. Put together a team of people who will connect needy military families or spouses with church families who will include them in family activities on special occasions – or even on ordinary days.

22. Emergency Moms (Dads) – Compile a list of people who would be willing to be emergency stand-ins for a military mom or dad when needed (severe illness, hospitalization, etc). Designate a coordinator for this.

23. Babysitter Lists/ Pools – (See Champions of Childcare above). It's difficult for someone new to the community to find a reliable babysitter. Coordinate with the middle school and high school groups at your church to offer CPR and advanced babysitting courses and then make their names available to military families.

24. Compassion Corps – Assemble a pool of willing men and women who have skills in various blue- and white-collar industries willing to come to the aid of military families. Mechanics, home repair, sewing, plumbing, electrical, finance and budgeting, computer trouble-shooting, gardening, lawn maintenance, bicycle repair, supplying groceries, etc. Appoint a coordinator for this, and make the military families aware of the available services.

25. Ruth and Naomi Ministry – Most military wives are hundreds of miles from their mothers. Pair them up with older women in the congregation to form Ruth/Naomi relationships of love, commitment, prayer, practical support and advice.

26. Family Doc on Call – Enlist a few doctors and nurses from the congregation who would be willing to be on call for a frenzied military mom (or dad) who's child has gotten sick over the weekend when military medical clinics and pharmacies are closed. Coordinator needed.

27. Mom's (Dad's) Escape Corps – Compile a list of people who would be willing to take over for a military spouse so he/she can get away from the house for a little R & R for a day or an evening. Coordinator needed.

28. Big Brother/Big Sister Team – When dad is deployed, it's important for a child to have another male figure in his or her life – even if only temporarily. Men from the youth, single and married adult departments could volunteer to spend regular time with the kids of absentee dads. If it's mom who's deployed, the children could use a big sister/mother figure during the period of her absence. Activities could be one-to-one, or monthly organized activities where paired kids and adults (or triads) go on a picnic, to an amusement park, swimming, rafting, ball game, etc. Coordinator needed.

Ministries that Serve the Deployed Troop

29. Care Package Squad – A team of people who would put together and send a "Care Package" to each deployed service member on a regular (monthly) basis, which would include goodies, toiletries, funny items, cards, books, videos, magazines (on subjects they know he/she likes), etc.

Also see **Adopt-a-Troop** and **Adopt-a-Platoon**.



Ministries that Serve the Troop After He/She Comes Home

30. Companion Corps – These are people who may not have many special talents, but they can buy a vet a cup of coffee and listen to their story. This could be done over the phone or in person. Appoint a coordinator.

31. Counselor Corps – Let military families know (especially those returning from downrange with Combat Trauma) if you have counselors available who could work with them. These could be lay-counselors with some training in Combat Trauma counseling, or professionals. They could also be available to counsel spouses and kids during deployment and after the troop comes home. See our new DVD-based 30-hour training course: *Care and Counsel for Combat Trauma*.

32. Buddy System – Link up a returning veteran who needs a committed friend with another veteran who is fairly stable and knows how to help. No one can minister to a PTSD sufferer like a fellow PTSD sufferer who’s a little farther down the road to healing.

33. Veteran Employment Team – Identify company owners in the congregation who would be willing to employ a veteran who has become separated from the service and needs a job. Go a little farther and field a team who could act as a community employment service for the vet, help him/her construct a resume, conduct a job search, use employment sites on the internet, etc.



**MILITARY
MINISTRY**

Military Ministry

PO Box 120124

Newport News, VA 23612-0124

(800) 444-6006

www.militaryministry.org ~ www.ptsdhealing.org

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Faith in the Foxhole ~ Hope on the Homefront ~ To the Ends of the Earth!



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