

THE AMERICAN MILITARY PARTNER ASSOCIATION



Top 5 Needs of LGBT Military Families

1. Military Identification Cards as Family Members

Currently, same-sex spouses and domestic partners are denied military identification cards, which would grant them access to the base and its facilities. Whenever the service member is deployed or not present, this causes an undo burden for these families in numerous areas, including:

- Access to Commissary/Base Exchange Facilities
- Access to Family Support Services that will be welcoming to our families
- Access to Moral, Welfare, and Recreation services and activities
- Access to Base Family Housing

2. Command-Sponsorship as a “Family Member” for Overseas Duty Stations

Unlike our heterosexual counterparts, our spouses and domestic partners are being denied “command-sponsorship” by the Defense Department for duty stations overseas. This puts heavy burdens on our families in dealing with visa restrictions and employment, as well as financial burdens of running two separate households when they are forced to live separately. This is in stark contrast to other departments of the federal government that do sponsor the same-sex spouses and domestic partners of its employees for overseas duty stations.

3. Healthcare/Insurance

Many of our families simply have to go without much needed care because they are denied access to Tri-care as a same-sex spouse. This not only has major financial implications, but serious health implications as well.

4. Pay/Housing Allowances/Travel

Our families receive a significant amount less in pay and benefits than our heterosexual counterparts. This often subjects our families to financial hardships, especially in terms of housing, travel, and relocation expenses.

- Separation pay at the “with dependents” rate
- Housing Allowance at the “with dependents” rate
- Relocation assistance during PCS moves
- Increase in weight limit of household goods to rate appropriate for number of dependents

5. Joint Duty Assignments

Many of our couples are both active duty military. While our heterosexual counterparts are given preference to be stationed at the same duty station or nearby, our families are given no consideration in this regard. This often splits up the family and increases financial burdens of running two-households.

Many of these needs can be fulfilled by extending benefits to same-sex partners without violating the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), but by simply updating Defense Department regulations

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