

# Iowa First to Complete DOD Top 10 for Military Families

Supporting military families has been a continued priority of the Iowa Legislature. As a result, Iowa will be the first state in the nation to complete the Department of Defense's top quality of life issues for military families regarding education, health care, employment, custody issues, and voting.

Over the past few years, the Iowa Legislature has worked hard at supporting Iowa's veterans, service members and their families. With the upcoming deployment of over 3,000 members, the largest deployment in the 170-year history of the Iowa National Guard, Iowa is better prepared to support the military families here at home.

Below is a list of the top ten issues identified by the Department of Defense (DOD):

- Common key benefits that support Guard and Reserve members and their families.
- Ensure deployment separation does not determine child custody or visitation decisions.
- Increase access to quality, affordable childcare for military families.
- Minimize school disruption for military children during transition and deployment.
- Enhance opportunities for portable careers for military spouses.
- Expand unemployment compensation for trailing military spouses.
- Promote enforcement of the DOD predatory lending regulation.
- Improve absentee voting for military members and their families.
- Comform state laws with DOD rules on disposition.
- Satisfy foreign language requirements.

For more information on the Department of Defense's official web site for families, USA4Military Families, visit <http://www.usa4militaryfamilies.dod.mil/>.