



# Making a Difference for Military Families



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Throughout the state of Virginia, there exists an often-overlooked people group that churches have the opportunity to serve in the name of Jesus: the military. The Hampton Roads and Washington, DC areas are home to bases for every U.S. military branch, and numerous National Guard units are spread throughout the Commonwealth. Ministering to servicemen and women and their families is an opportunity for churches to make a difference in the name of Jesus.

Rev. Gary Sanders, founder and president of the Military Missions Network and a staff member at First Baptist Church of Norfolk, shares, “Military missions has to do with intentionally and strategically reaching the military with the Gospel as an effective means of fulfilling the Great Commission throughout the world. Military ministry is simply carrying out the commands and teachings of Christ as applied to military members and families. It means reaching, loving, serving, caring for, blessing, teaching, training, etc., those connected to the military. The foundations are the Great Commandment and the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Chaplain (MAJ) J. D. Moore, NAMB-endorsed full-time support chaplain with the Virginia National Guard, suggests ways your church can minister to military families:

1. **Organize a Soldiers and Wives’ Day Out** after soldiers return from overseas or just prior to deployment.
2. **Organize events**—Bible studies, worship services, Sunday School, etc.—at military Community Readiness Centers (Armories) during drill weekends, which take place one Sunday each month.
3. **Connect** with chaplains and commanders at local military posts—offer resources like childcare, home repair and maintenance, counseling, marriage enrichment and family enrichment seminars, or divorce recovery programs.
4. **Adopt military families** into your congregation and homes. There is nothing better than a home away from home for military personnel and their families to receive mentoring, friendship, and a smile.
5. **Advertise** in the local paper and on the Internet that your congregation is military-friendly.

Just like all human beings, U.S. military personnel need the love of Jesus. How will your church minister to and reach the military for Christ?

## RESOURCE

■ **Website:** [www.sbcv.org](http://www.sbcv.org)

■ **Contact:**  
To find out how to connect with your local military base, contact Chaplain (MAJ) J.D. Moore at [jd.moore1@us.army.mil](mailto:jd.moore1@us.army.mil) or 434-298-6106.

For more information, contact your regional SBCV missionary at 888-234-7716.

■ **Prayer:**  
Pray that your church will make a difference for servicemen and women and their families.

