



DIRECTORATE OF PREVENTION, RESILIENCE AND READINESS

ARMY FAMILY ACTION PLAN

FACTSHEET

History of the Army Family Action Plan

Army Family Action Plan was formally established in 1983 when Gen. John A. Wickham, the Army Chief of Staff, signed a landmark white paper titled *The Army Family*. This document acknowledged that a healthy Family environment is essential for Soldier focus and mission readiness, marking a historic shift toward official institutional support for the Total Army community.

Purpose

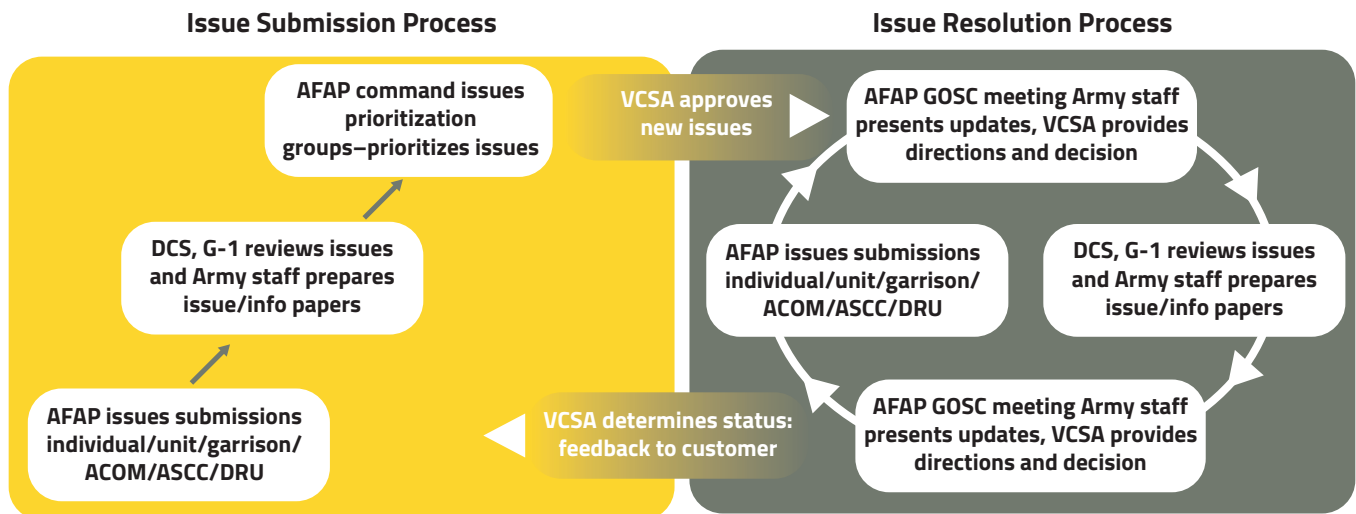
AFAP is the Army’s primary grassroots platform, empowering Soldiers, Family members, Survivors, Retirees and Army Civilians to influence Army policy. It provides a structured process for the community to identify and elevate critical quality-of-life issues that exceed local command authority and require Headquarters, Department of the Army resolution.

AFAP impact and achievements

Since 1983, AFAP has driven institutional change by resolving issues identified by the community. These efforts have secured a wide range of legislative enactments, policy revisions and program enhancements, modernizing the Army’s support infrastructure and ensuring well-being programs evolve with the needs of the Total Army.

AFAP resolution process

AFAP uses a three-tier grassroots process to identify, prioritize and resolve well-being concerns across seven core categories: Soldier, Family, Army Civilian, Retiree, Survivor, Caregiver and Military health care support. To address the most critical needs, Command Prioritization Groups—representing a cross-section of the Army—review and rank submissions based on impact. Once prioritized, active issues enter a formal resolution phase in which HQDA agencies develop action plans, track progress and implement necessary policy or programmatic changes to improve the Total Army.



THIS IS OUR ARMY.

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Army Family Action Plan issue submission guidelines

AFAP empowers Soldiers, Family members, Survivors, Retirees and Army Civilians from all components to influence their quality of life. An AFAP issue is a significant well-being issue that cannot be resolved at the local command level and requires HQDA intervention.

Submissions are accepted year-round through:

- Issue Management System: An online portal administered by AMC <https://ims.armyfamilywebportal.com/>, for both registered and guest users to submit and track issues.
- Local forums: Installation AFAP Conference, town halls, focus groups, Army Community Service centers or through designated AFAP program managers.
- Leadership channels: Direct engagement with command teams or senior leaders.

HQDA collects and finalizes new issues for the annual cycle by March 15 each year.

Commander and senior leader roles in the AFAP process

Commanders and senior leaders validate and prioritize AFAP issues, resolve local concerns within their authority and elevate complex challenges for HQDA. This ensures issues requiring policy or legislative changes are addressed at the enterprise level to enhance the Army community's quality of life.

Sustained relevance of the Army Family Action Plan

AFAP provides senior leaders with direct insights into the needs of the Total Army. This feedback loop drives institutional change—ranging from legislative reforms to low-cost quality-of-life improvements—ensuring Army standards remain competitive, resilient and support the Army's commitment to its people.

The value of the Army Family Action Plan to the Army

As the primary grassroots voice of the Total Army, AFAP identifies and resolves quality-of-life issues to strengthen recruitment, retention and readiness. By empowering the community to advocate for institutional change, the program demonstrates leadership's commitment to personnel well-being while building combat-ready formations.