

# New Family Readiness Support assistant hopes to help Waiting Families

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The new Army Family Readiness Support Assistant at the Army War College hopes that she can help Family members during the time their Soldiers are deployed.

Ramona Clifton's role in command-directed support to waiting Families is to communicate with the command, support Families while their Soldiers are deployed, and make sure that information is widely disseminated. "I am the liaison between the command and the waiting Families," said Clifton. "If I can help to solve an issue, I will then report the status to the command."

The job is helpful to her as a waiting spouse, as well. "It gives me a purpose to be able to help someone," she said.

Clifton knows all about Family Readiness support and being separated from loved ones. Clifton's husband, Col. Ty Clifton, graduated from the USAWC in June 2012 and was deployed to Kuwait a week later for a one-year tour.

The Cliftons have three children. Jeff just joined the Navy and will be shipping out to the Great Lakes facility for his initial training this month. "He aspires to be a Navy SEAL," said Clifton. Alexis is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at Lambertson Middle School and Joshua, 3, attends the Carlisle Barracks Child Development Center.

Clifton is a member of Seminar 21, the Army War College Family Readiness group. As its community liaison officer, she advocates a relationship between the on-post and off-post communities. "I try to do that through volunteerism," she said. Members of Seminar 21 have volunteered at Project SHARE. They'll use funds from a cake auction at the post's Chili Cook-off in January to benefit scholarships for military children.

***Experience in the Family Readiness support program***

Clifton also has a great deal of experience in Family Readiness support. An Army veteran, Clifton was assigned as the Family Readiness Liaison at the 336<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion in Pittsburgh from 2008 to 2010, and Family Programs Assistant for the 200th Military Police Command in Pittsburgh from 2010 to 2011.

***Importance of the Army Family Readiness Program***

"As a military spouse, I know first-hand the importance of this program," she said. "When we are disconnected from our family, your military community becomes your family and you have to rely on so many people for so many things.

"The program here is unique because all of the waiting Families are senior leaders, so we have been through multiple deployments and separations," she said. "We don't necessarily need as much support as enlisted Families and junior officer Families."



***Members of Seminar 21 got together to have fun and watch the Army/Navy Game, Dec. 8.***