

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
Spouse / Partner and Service Member Assent Form

Title of Project: Reintegration Study
Investigator(s): Lydia I. Marek, Ph.D.

I. Purpose of this Research/Project

The purpose of this study is to better understand the process of reunion and reintegration after deployment. Very little is known about these processes from the service member, spouse/partner, and adolescent children of deployed service members. These findings will be used to inform future programming by identifying the needs of these individuals throughout the process of reunion/reintegration. You are being asked to provide assent to complete the service member or spouse/partner survey. Results from this study will be used to inform leadership regarding needs and resources of reintegrating families.

II. Procedures

You are being asked to complete a survey about what things are like in your family during and after deployment. We will ask you about your experiences, as well as things that have been helpful, things that have been stressful, and how you and your family could be most helped during the process of reunion and reintegration. Your participation is voluntary and the information you provide will be kept strictly confidential. This survey should take no more than 30 minutes. You are free to withdraw from completing this survey at any time without penalty. You are free not to answer any questions you choose without penalty. All surveys will be provided by the camp/activity/event facilitators and returned to the evaluators at Virginia Tech.

III. Risks

No known risks.

IV. Benefits

Benefits from this study will be that a better understanding of the needs of returning service members, spouses/partners, and their children can be known and then services, activities, events, can be provided that meet the needs of these families.

V. Extent of Anonymity and Confidentiality

No identifying information will be used for surveys. In addition, at no time will the researchers release the results of the study to anyone other than individuals working on the project or CYSS leadership; however, it is possible that the Institutional Review Board (IRB) may view this study's collected data for auditing purposes. The IRB is responsible for the oversight of the protection of human subjects involved in research.

VI. Compensation:

No compensation will be provided to participants.

VII. Freedom to Withdraw

Participation in this study is voluntary. You are free to withdraw from this study at any time without penalty. You can stop taking the survey at any time without penalty. You can also skip any questions you choose without penalty.

VIII. Subject's Responsibilities

I voluntarily agree to participate in this study.

IX. Subject's Permission

I have read the Assent Form and conditions of this project. I have had all my questions answered. I hereby acknowledge the above and give my voluntary assent for my participation.

_____ Date _____
Participant signature

Should you have any questions about this research or its conduct, and research subjects' rights, please contact: Carrera Romanini, 865-974-9724 or Carrera@utk.edu; or Brenda Lawson at the UT Office of Research, (865) 974-7697 or blawson@utk.edu.