USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service
Mountain Plains Region
1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 903
Denver, Colorado 80204-3585

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Reply to
Attn of: CACFP-688
SFSP-467
SP 03-06

Subject: Military Families and Eligibility in the Child Nutrition Programs

STATE AGENCY DIRECTORS - (Special Nutrition Programs)
Colorado ED, Colorado DPHE, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri DH, Missouri ED, Montana OPI, Montana DPHHS, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming

We have been asked to clarify child nutrition policy for households affected by deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and possible future military contingencies. In recent years, we have addressed the deployment of family members for military service to accommodate free and reduced price meal eligibility determinations, tier I day care home determinations, and meal benefits for children temporarily residing with their providers. This memorandum reiterates our guidance on these issues.

For the purpose of determining household size, deployed service members should be considered as family members living apart on a temporary basis. A school or an institution would instruct families to include the names and income of deployed service members on their meal benefit forms. The determining official would count the service member as part of the household in establishing a child's eligibility for free and reduced price meals, or a day care home provider's eligibility for tier I reimbursement rates.

Deployment of a parent or guardian may also affect the eligibility of a child, who temporarily resides with a day care home provider, to receive meals in the Child and Adult Care Food Program. Although the child may live with the provider while the service member is deployed, the child would not be considered a "provider's own" child. In this special situation, the child would continue to participate in the meal service as a nonresidential participant. To claim reimbursement for program meals, the day care home provider must have power of attorney, custody, or an agreement established by the military to provide residential care to the child.

If you have questions regarding this memorandum, please contact our office at (303) 844-0355.

Original Signed by
MARY C. NIELSEN

DARLENE SANCHEZ
Regional Director
Special Nutrition Programs