USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

Food and Nutrition Service

Mountain Plains Region

1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 903
Denver, Colorado 80204-3585

FEB 28 2003

Reply to Attn of: CACFP-691
SFSP-473
SP-03-10

Subject: Policy Exception – Family Size and Income Determinations in the Child Nutrition Programs for Certain Military Families

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

We are providing further clarification on the child nutrition policy for military households affected by deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. This memorandum expands upon an earlier memorandum (CACFP-688,SFSP-467 and SP-03-06) dated February 5, 2003, *Military Families and Eligibility in the Child Nutrition Programs*.

Under current policy, (please reference pages 32-33 of the Eligibility Guidance for School Meals Manual issued August 2001) household members who are *temporarily absent* from the household are considered household members, and their income is included with other household income when making an eligibility determination. Household members not living with the household for an *extended period of time* or living overseas are not included as members of the household for eligibility purposes, and only that portion of their income made available by them or on their behalf to the household is counted as income to the household.

However, for the duration of Operation Enduring Freedom, we are allowing an exception to current policy on determining household income and size for deployed service members. Therefore, only that portion of the deployed service member's income made available by them or on their behalf to the household will be counted as income to the household. In addition, the deployed service member will continue to be considered a household member.

Please share this information with your school food authorities. If you have any questions, please contact our office at (303 844-0355).

Darlene Sanchez

DARLENE SANCHEZ
Regional Director
Special Nutrition Programs