



**Barbara A. Thompson, Director
Office of Family Readiness Policy
Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Military Community and Family Policy)**



As Director of the Office of Family Readiness Policy, Ms. Thompson is responsible for programs and policies that promote military families' well-being, readiness and quality of life. In this capacity, she has oversight for Department of Defense child development and youth programs, which serve 700,000 children (birth-18) daily at over 300 locations worldwide. Ms. Thompson has purview over family readiness programs, including spouse well-being, personal financial readiness, deployment support, and support for geographically dispersed military members and their families. She also has oversight of the Military Family Readiness Council, Family Advocacy Program, and Office of Community Support for Military Families with Special Needs. Prior to assuming her current duties, Ms. Thompson coordinated support programs for severely injured Service members and their families and supported the rebuilding of the Ministry of Education in Iraq.



Before joining the Office of Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy, Ms. Thompson spent 18 years with Air Force family programs, most recently as the Child Development Program and Youth Training and Curriculum Specialist at Air Force Headquarters. During her tenure with the Air Force, Ms. Thompson was an integral member of the team that helped over 98% of Air Force child development programs achieve accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

A leader in the field of early childhood education, Ms. Thompson was chosen as one of only 11 Harris fellows to participate in ZERO TO THREE's prestigious Leaders for the 21st Century program. This leadership development initiative provided experienced professionals with an established record of leadership and achievement with an opportunity to collaborate with top leaders from many disciplines and receive assistance for an innovative project aimed at improving the lives of young children.

Ms. Thompson was recently selected by the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities Board on Human Sciences, Inc. as the 2014 recipient of the Ellen Richards Public Service Award which honors a nationally recognized leader who has a significant history of promoting and advancing the Human Sciences.

Ms. Thompson graduated cum laude from St. Louis University with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Early Education and Spanish. She received her Masters degree in Management from Troy State University.