



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF G-1
300 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0300

Dr. James W. Prescott
1140-23 Savannah Road
Lewes, Delaware 19958

26 JAN 2010

Dear Dr. Prescott:

Thank you for your recent letter to Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates regarding your constituent, Specialist Alexis Hutchinson, concerning the Army's policy on deployment for single parent Soldiers. Your letter was forwarded to this office, which is the proponent for Army Regulation (AR) 600-20, *Army Command Policy*. This regulation governs the policy for Soldiers establishing a Family Care Plan.

In accordance with AR 600-20, Soldiers must ensure their Family members are adequately cared for when they deploy, depart on temporary duty, or are not available due to military requirements. The Family Care Plan is used to assist leaders in ensuring Soldiers' Family members are cared for in their absence. It is part of the Soldier's Readiness Packet and must be validated and approved by the unit commander.

The commander ensures all required documents are complete and the Family Care Plan meets the requirements of AR 600-20. A Soldier is considered non-deployable until his or her Family Care Plan is validated and approved by the unit commander.

In cases where deficiencies are identified, the Soldier is given a reasonable period of time to correct deficiencies and rework the Family Care Plan. If the Family Care Plan remains deficient, by regulation, the unit commander can initiate a bar to reenlistment or initiate involuntary separation proceedings against the Soldier for failing to provide and maintain an adequate Family Care Plan.

The Army makes every attempt to retain Soldiers and ensure Family members are adequately cared for in the Soldiers' absence. Thank you for your inquiry in this matter and for your continued support of our Soldiers and their Families.

Sincerely,

A stylized signature of Thomas E. Languirand, consisting of two overlapping loops.

THOMAS E. LANGUIRAND
Colonel, GS
Chief, Command Policy and
Programs Division