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The estimated cost of report or study for the Department of Defense is approximately \$24,000 in Fiscal Years 2015 - 2016. This includes \$7,000 in expenses and \$17,000 in DoD labor.

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Heidi C. Boyd-Rice *Director, Office for Reintegration Programs*

Message from the Director

It is my privilege, as the Director of the Department of Defense Office for Reintegration Programs, to present the Fiscal Year 2015 Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program Annual Report.

National Guard and Reserve Service members continue to be a vital part of the Total Force and deploy in support of military operations worldwide. These men and women—these citizen Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen, and Coast Guardsmen—have served in every conflict since the Revolutionary War. They deploy to assist in humanitarian and contingency operations worldwide and have responded to numerous crises here in the United States.

The Reserve Components play a crucial role in our national security, as we rely on the readiness of the Reserve Components to support a demanding operational tempo. Without the strong support of Congress and the efforts of programs like the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, National Guard and Reserve Service members would have a far more difficult time balancing their military service with their civilian lives. Service members would face challenges in supporting their families'—as well as their own—health and well-being. They would subsequently be unprepared for deployment and would struggle to reintegrate with their families and their communities when they returned. Most importantly, they would not be ready to support our Nation when most needed.

Our greatest asset is our people, and they are not an expense; they are an investment. The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program ensures Service members and their families are prepared for deployment and are able to meet the challenges facing the Reserve Component community. We are confident that, through the ongoing use of research, assessments, evaluations, and evidence-based practices, the Department will positively affect the readiness, resiliency, and reintegration of National Guard and Reserve members and their families.

Thank you for your continued support; your commitment is crucial to the program's enduring success and to the essential investment in the future health and readiness of National Guard and Reserve Service members and their families.

We are proud of what we've accomplished, and with your help, we will continue to assist those who serve and those who support.

OVERVIEW

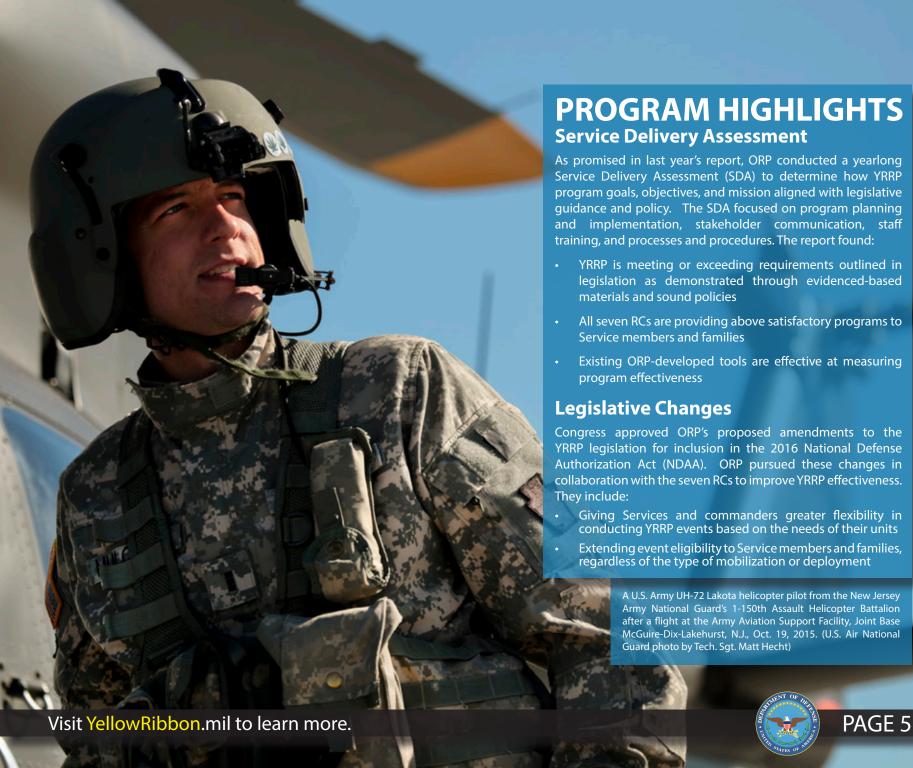
About the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program

The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP) is a joint-Service effort led by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs and administered by the Office for Reintegration Programs (ORP). Congress directed the Secretary of Defense to establish YRRP in 2008 in Section 582 of Public Law (PL) 110-181 in direct response to the Nation's recognition of the unique challenges facing the Reserve Component (RC) community. These challenges include:

- Understanding and accessing benefits earned as a result of activation
- Geographic isolation
- Disparate or sparse access to military family support groups in local communities
- Continued and repeated deployments (as of October 6, 2015, more than 21,500 RC members are currently activated, and nearly 915,000 have been activated in the past 13 years)
- Unemployment and underemployment of returning RC members Section 582 of PL 110-181 also directs YRRP to:
- Provide education and ensure the readiness of members of the unit, their families, and affected communities for the rigors of deployment
- Implement reintegration curriculum throughout the deployment cycle that builds resilience for current and future deployments
- Educate Service members and their families about the resources available and connect members to service providers who can assist them in overcoming the challenges of reintegration

This year, YRRP surpassed 1.5 million Service members and families supported since the program's inception, and the RCs conducted more than 1,000 YRRP events, directly affecting nearly 100,000 Service members and their families. YRRP remains dedicated to sharing and evaluating resources, tools, and best practices in coordination with each of the seven RCs. This collaboration resulted in an event satisfaction of 87 percent in Fiscal Year (FY) 2015, the highest event satisfaction achieved to date. All YRRP initiatives continue to be developed and implemented through coordination with each of the RCs as they support Service members and their loved ones throughout and beyond the deployment cycle.









Service Member and Family Readiness

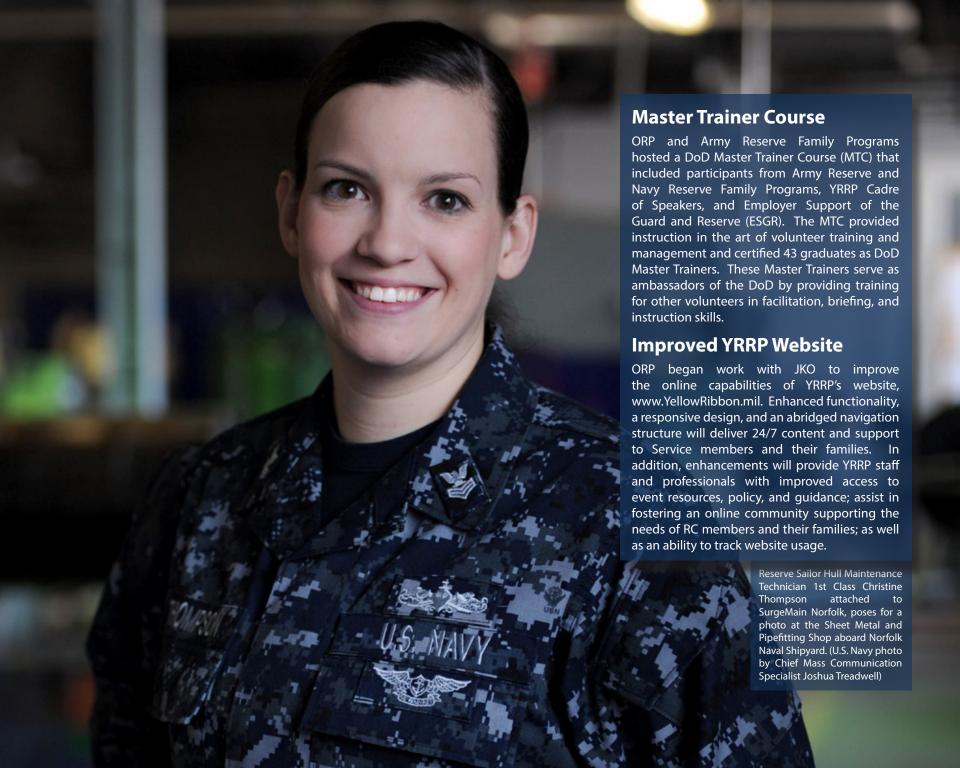
ORP's Service Member & Family Readiness (SMFR) team, in partnership with Army Community Service, hosted a monthly professional development webinar series throughout the year, supporting Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 1342.22 "Military Family Readiness" requirements.

- ORP hosted nine webinars to date, serving more than 500 professionals across the Nation. Topics covered a variety of programs, including Penn State University's Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness, USO, Red Cross, Homefront Strong, and Vets4Warriors
- SMFR is collaborating with the Department of Defense (DoD) Office of Military Community & Family Policy's Military Family Learning Network to continue professional development, ensuring access to training for RC staff supporting the needs and well-being of Service members and families

SMFR also assisted the RCs in meeting policy requirements for the implementation of quality assurance and monitoring measures through national accreditation and internal certification.

- Accreditation is a strategy intended to strengthen, measure, and validate the effectiveness of military family readiness services, as well as ensure staff and customer health, safety, rights, and other foundational standards are met
- The National Guard has several national accredited sites, and the Army Reserve hosted two pilot sites that received accreditation
- Multiple National Guard sites and Army Reserve regions are currently pursuing accreditation





DATA ANALYSIS & DECISION MAKING

ORP continues a collaborative relationship with the Defense Manpower Data Center to collect and analyze data of YRRP event participation and nonparticipation through the Status of Forces Survey-Reserve. ORP is simultaneously collaborating with the RCs to improve and expand surveys and address the needs and feedback of Service members and their loved ones.

Post-Event Survey Results & Update

Survey results have established a consistent upward trend in event satisfaction from FY 2013 (78 percent), FY 2014 (86 percent), and FY 2015 (87 percent). The FY 2015 event satisfaction survey result is the highest achieved to date (see Figure 1).

2015 Event Satisfaction Survey

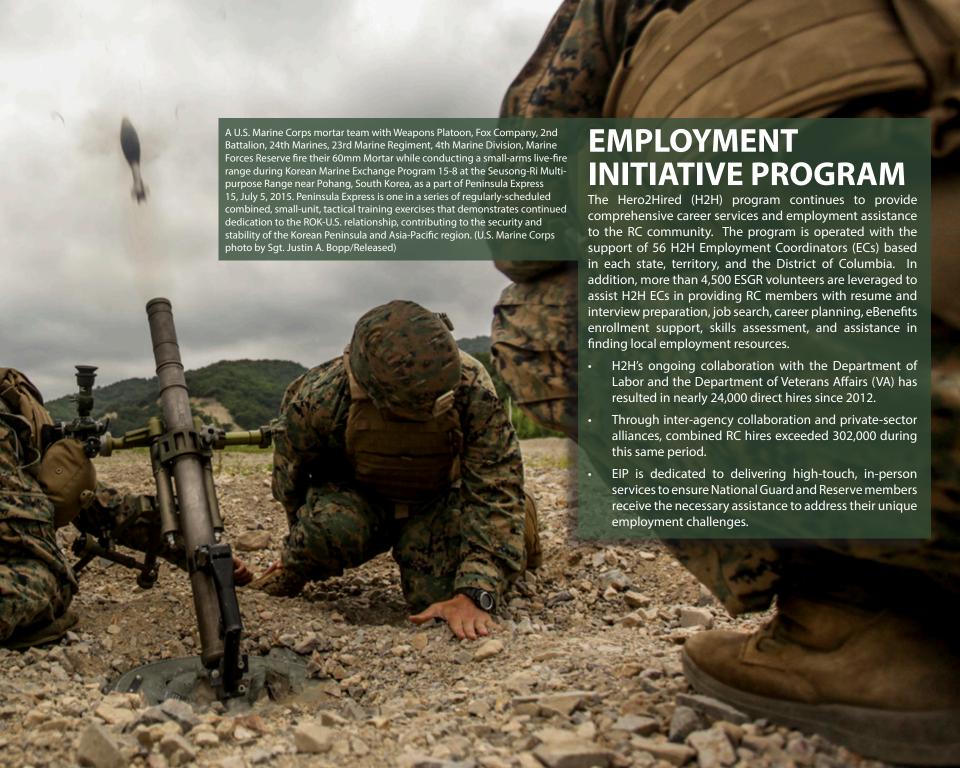


YRRP event participants also reported beneficial changes in their life and personal skills (e.g., communication, stress management, financial health).

Electronics Technician 2nd Class Jarrod Long, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 15, works to complete maintenance on communications equipment. NMCB 15 is currently mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and is an expeditionary element of U.S. naval forces that support various units worldwide through national force readiness, civil engineering, humanitarian assistance and building and maintaining infrastructure. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Daniel Garas)

Visit YellowRibbon.mil to learn more.





U.S. Army National Guard 1st Sqt. Kevin Mulcahey, and Sgt. Nicholas Tarr, a troop medic, both with Bravo Troop, 1st Squadron, 172nd Cavalry Regiment (RSTA) (Mountain), prepare to move during an air assault exercise at Fort Drum, N.Y. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sqt. Sarah Mattison)

SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

National Guard

The National Guard developed a Chief, National Guard Bureau Instruction (CNGBI 1801.01), outlining the Joint and Component-specific requirements for YRRP. The National Guard is also developing a CNGB Manual that updates and provides concise instructions on implementing YRRP at the state-level.

National Guard YRRP continued to partner with the other RCs and service support programs within its organization to provide a continuum of care to Service members and their loved ones, including state and local communities, full-time National Guard personnel, employer support, transition assistance, and psychological health.

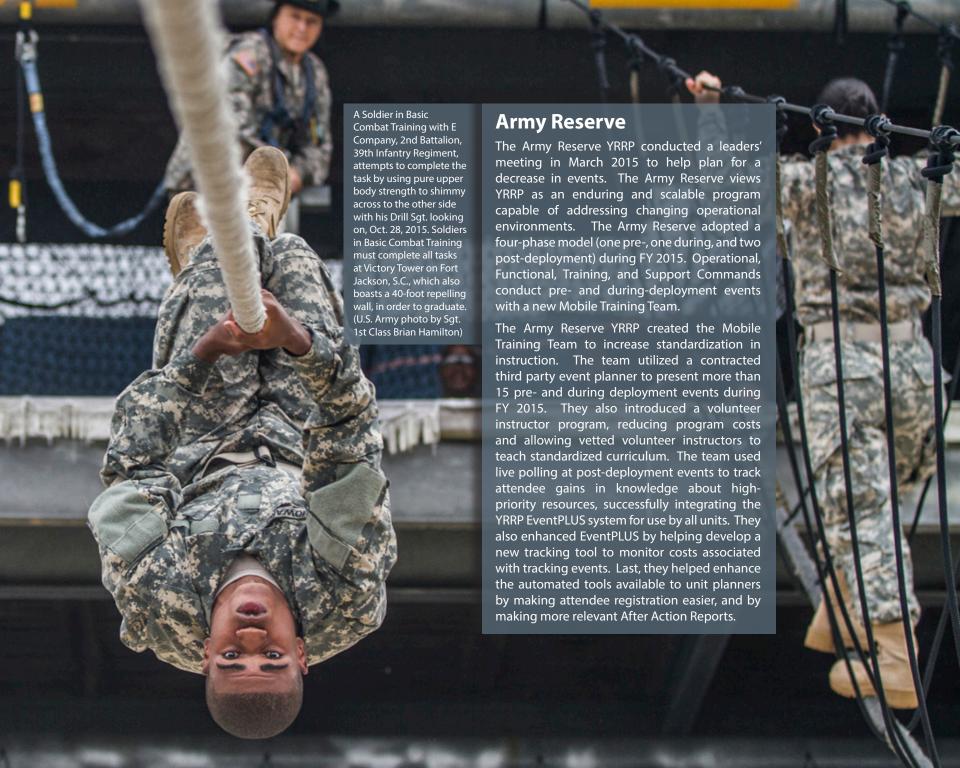
The Army National Guard (ARNG) and Air National Guard (ANG) have integrated additional support programs into YRRP events, such as event planning for the Transition Assistance Program and Strong Bonds program. This support resulted in the timely, cost-effective delivery of pertinent information to Service members and their families.

ARNG and ANG leadership were involved with training RC personnel to host YRRP events. The professional development conducted in April 2015 focused on strengthening relationships and capturing best practices to improve YRRP.

The ARNG formed partnerships with state-level organizations, veteran service organizations, state and government agencies, community service organizations, and civilian organizations, which enhanced services to our Service members and their loved ones.

The ANG hosted its first ever multi-phase regional event with focus on new unique missions, sleep, and stress management. The ANG also expanded services for individuals in small deployment groups, expanding attendance to include more than 10 states and three RCs.

The ANG developed an automated personnel-tracking system to monitor compliance throughout deployment phases, ensuring Service members receive maximum program value. The ANG also encouraged event planners to provide additional focus on VA benefits and entitlements, transition support, deploying women, single Service members, and personal-relationship building. Event planners incorporated Strong Bonds curriculum and expanded a variety of resources for Service members, families, and designated individuals.



Marine Corps Forces Reserve

Marine Forces Reserve capitalized on initiatives to provide Personal Deployment Briefings to Marines, Sailors, family members, and authorized designees with multiple deployments. They adopted the flexible model from the tiered training approach socialized by ORP. Results have been extraordinarily positive for our Individual Augment (IA) population, as this method allows specific issues to be addressed on a one-on-one basis. Collateral benefits further develop relationships between the Family Readiness Officer and the Marine, Sailor, family member, or designee.

Marine Forces Reserve worked internally with their Deployment Processing Centers and Reserve Support Units to identify all IAs from the Individual Ready Reserve. This action provides better tracking of Service members eligible for YRRP services. They identify family members and designees utilizing the Unit, Personal, and Family Readiness Program standard form NAVMC 11654. This effort initiated contact for a population that had been previously underserved.

Marine Forces Reserve has enhanced their internal YRRP SharePoint site, which houses a calendar of all event dates, trainings, policies, procedures, and templates pertaining to YRRP. Also included are best practices, an event-planning guide, evaluation forms, and a "frequently asked questions" section. The site allows for the ease of event development for our collateral duty Family Readiness Officers.

Efforts to ensure maximum program effectiveness led Marine Forces Reserve to attend several sister-Service events hosted by the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, and Coast Guard Reserve. Outcomes provided a greater understanding of programmatic accomplishments, allowing Marine Forces Reserve to implement successes and mitigate challenges. Collaboration between our YRRP coordinator and sister-Service coordinators has been especially successful. Marine Forces Reserve utilized its YRRP Liaison Officer position to further explore and expand the program's resource base.



Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Sunny Carter is greeted by his wife, Elainor, and their daughter after returning home from a deployment with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3. NMCB 3 was deployed to the U.S. Pacific Command area of operations, performing construction based operations and humanitarian aid missions. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class John P. Curtis/Released)

Navy Reserve

The Navy Reserve continued to provide outstanding support for its deploying Service members and their families during FY 2015. Building upon previous years' successes, Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command (CNRFC) continued with a centralized pre-deployment training model at the regional level, which provided the deploying Sailors and their families a more standardized and enhanced training experience with Echelon IV oversight. This cost-effective model of Deployment Readiness Training (DRT) ensures all Service members who have received mobilization notification receive quality training.

- Increased DRT/Returning Warrior Workshop (RWW) Attendance Due to strategic marketing efforts, the Navy Reserve YRRP saw a net 18 percent attendance increase in FY 2015, a 26 percent attendance increase at Reserve Component Command-hosted DRT events (pre-deployment) and an 11 percent attendance increase at RWW events (post-deployment)
- EventPLUS Website Use of the EventPLUS site was incorporated during FY 2015, resulting in enhanced registration, attendance data, and program visibility
- Live Polling Live Polling (via smart phone technology and the YRRP EventPLUS system) was utilized for the first time at three RWW events (Region Southeast Jacksonville-RWW Puerto Rico, Region Southwest-RWW San Diego, and Region Northwest-RWW Everett). The pre- and post-event data showed "overall knowledge of high-priority resources increased significantly from event start to finish, with 61 percent of respondents demonstrating learning gains"
- Bar Code Readers Warriors and their guests attended a myriad of RWW and DRT breakout sessions where their attendance was tracked by bar code readers. The data provided insight into the popularity and viability of breakout sessions, enhanced tracking of attendance numbers for reporting purposes, and provided insight into successful marketing strategies (e.g., what sessions are desired by attendees, the best day and time to schedule sessions, what to market to target audiences, etc.)
- Warrior Canine Connection (WCC) For the first time, representatives from the WCC participated in a RWW (Navy Region Northwest-RWW Denver).
 They provided a brief and video presentation, which was well received by attendees. Additionally, it afforded an opportunity for attendees to relate their service-connected challenges with facilitators and resource providers who could then further direct support where necessary.

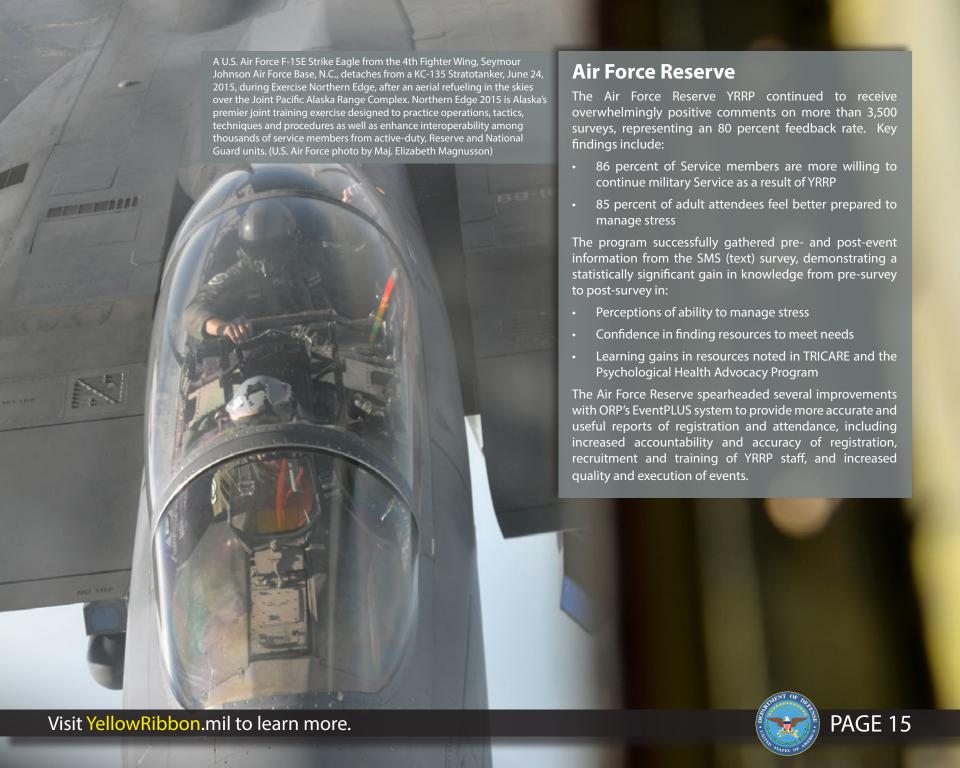






Figure 8: YRRP Events by State/Territory

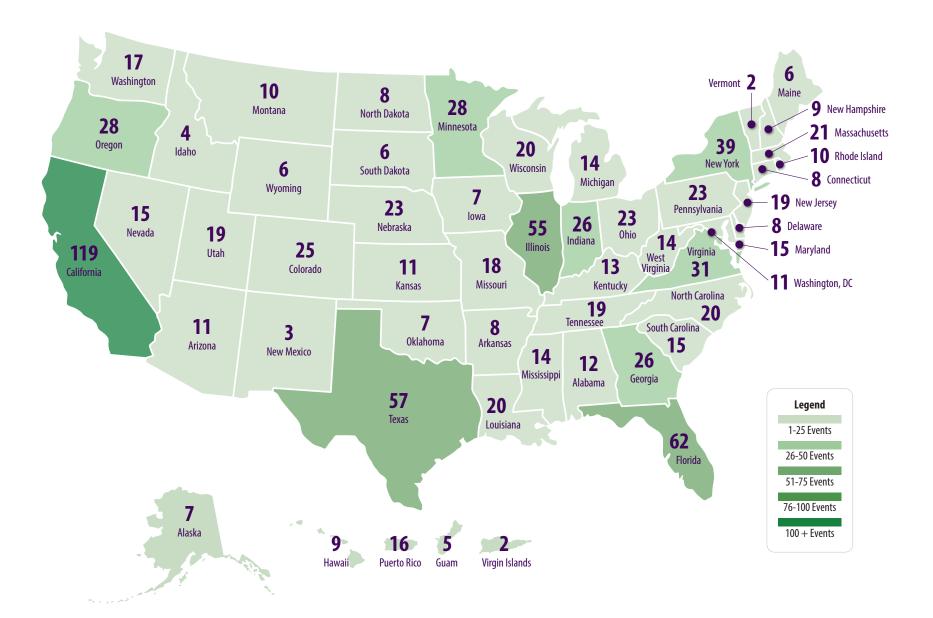
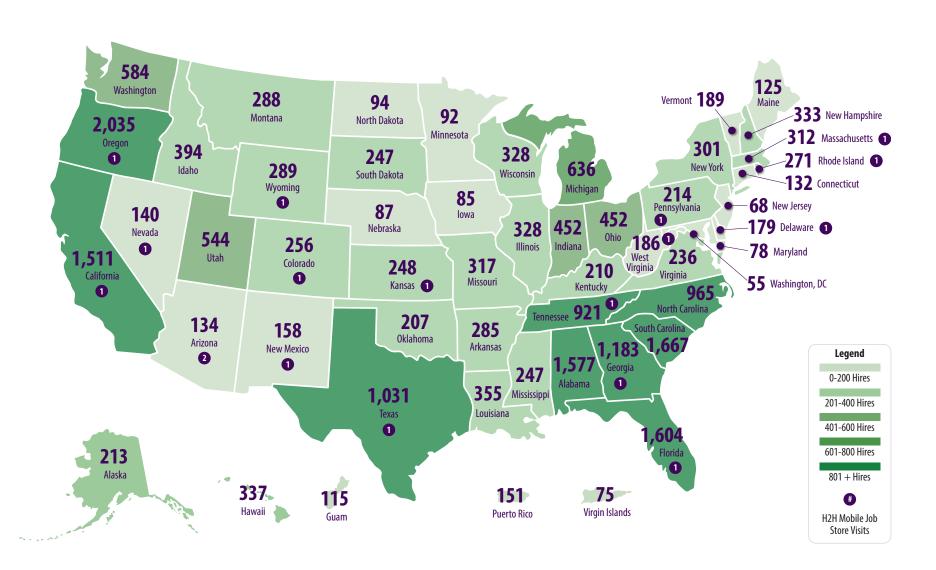


Figure 9: Location/number of Direct Hires & H2H Mobile Job Store (MJS) Visits



Funding

Assessment of Resource Requirements

The table below details the FY 2015 expenditures and FY 2016 planned resources for the RC YRRPs with Overseas Contingency Operations funds in the RC Military Personnel and Operations and Maintenance accounts. The Office for Reintegration Programs at the headquarters level is resourced with baseline Operations and Maintenance, Defense-Wide funding.

Department of Defense Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (\$ Millions)						
	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Requested				
MILPERS, Army National Guard	\$16.6	\$19.3				
MILPERS, Army Reserve	\$8.7	\$7.5				
MILPERS, Air National Guard	\$5.5	\$2.8				
MILPERS, Air Force Reserve	\$11.2	\$10.8				
MILPERS, Navy Reserve	\$2.3	\$1.6				
MILPERS, Marine Corps Reserve	\$0.2	\$0.4				
Total MILPERS Support—funding for pay costs, travel for military	\$44.5	\$42.4				
0&M, Army National Guard	\$7.4	\$9.8				
O&M, Army Reserve	\$23.6	\$17.0				
O&M, Air National Guard	\$18.5	\$19.9				
0&M, Air Force Reserve	\$5.6	\$7.0				
O&M, Navy Reserve	\$2.0	\$1.8				
O&M, Marine Corps Reserve	\$0.1	\$0.5				
Total O&M, Guard and Reserve Support—funding for YRRP event space, facility rentals, military and designated representative travel	\$57.2	\$56.0				
Total O&M, Defense-wide support—funding to support state specialist coordination, outreach services through the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs regarding deployment cycle and reintegration events at 30-60-90 days, Center for Excellence assessment of best practices. (1)	\$17.0	\$7.3				
TOTAL SUPPORT	\$118.7	\$105.7				

MILPERS = Military Personnel Appropriation—used to fund military personnel expenses

O&M = Operation and Maintenance Appropriation—used to fund YRRP administration and events

(1) Does not include Joint Family Assistance Support Program funding. Does not include the Coast Guard Reserve, which is part of the Department of Homeland Security.

Assessment of Resource Requirement

	Army National Guard	Army Reserve	Marine Corps Reserve	Navy Reserve	Air National Guard	Air Force Reserve	Coast Guard Reserve	Total
Total Number of Attendees	47,491	20,672	867	3,450	17,877	8,339	719	99,415
Service Members	25,060	8,923	697	1,970	10,548	4,128	454	51,780
Family Members	18,707	8,994	140	1,257	6,497	3,513	241	39,349
Designated Representatives	3,724	2,755	30	223	832	698	24	8,286
Total Number of YRRP events	400	147	98	40	268	61	10	1,024
Total Number Activated (as of October 15, 2015)	7,590	5,675	769	2,742	2,877	1,638	276	21,567
Projected Events for FY 2016	400	100	60	38	250	65	10	923
Projected Total Attendees for FY 2016	45,000	17,600	1,000	3,500	11,600	8,000	835	87,535

