Hello, my name is William Freeman and I am the Community Support Coordinator for Army OneSource Program in Pennsylvania.

Army OneSource is proud to announce a community outreach effort to raise awareness of the unique legal challenges faced by our Service Members and their Families as a result of deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan. This effort is in response to the rising national concern regarding the growing number of Service Members who are struggling with legal issues such as divorce, domestic violence, driving under the influence, etc. In addition to legal problems, Service Members and their Families often need assistance for more routine legal matters, such as drawing up wills and addressing custody issues.

Over 1.6 million men and women have served in Iraq and Afghanistan to date. The majority of them are under 26 years old, and approximately half of them have dependents at home. Service Members are sent out on as many as four deployments, and those deployments are generally longer in duration than in past Military conflicts. Half of our active duty Military personnel are civilians (i.e., Reservists and National Guard), whose Families do not have access to all of the direct assistance provided on Military Installations.

Legal difficulties of Service Members also affect the ability of our Military Force to carry out its missions. These issues consume considerable amounts of time of Military leadership and negatively affect the morale and overall operational readiness of individual Units. Legal issues also involve Family Members left behind at home, who have to take on additional responsibilities such as handling legal matters.

Through Mobilizing Legal Communities, Army OneSource is enlisting the assistance of law firms and professional associations across the country to get the word out and connect Service Members and their Families with legal services and assistance they desperately need. Opportunities to participate include working within the framework of existing programs that have partnered with the Armed Forces.

If you would like to learn more about this effort and how you or your organization can become involved, or: William E. Freeman, Community Support Coordinator, william.e.freeman@serco-na.com, 717-304-9969.

Join us in helping Service Members and their Families . . .

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AOS Building Awareness Campaign

Legal Assistance Focus Area

Lawyers providing Legal Assistance to Service Members and Their Families

Inquire within your organization as to how you can participate in the effort to help Service Members and their Families . . .

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