WHAT IS THE BASE PROGRAM?

The American Legion created the Base Assessment and Servicemember Experience (BASE) program in 2022 to address quality of life matters that affect servicemembers and their families.

The American Legion is committed to ensuring our troops and their family members are properly taken care of as their wellbeing is paramount to maintaining national security.

WHAT IS THE MISSION OF BASE?

Modeled after the longstanding American Legion System Worth Saving program, the mission of BASE is to work with the Department of Defense to identify strategies that will ensure a strong quality of life for servicemembers and their families.

We will accomplish this by working with DoD, local base leadership and others while conducting installation visits around the world. During these visits, we will engage servicemembers, families and base personnel to gather their perspectives. Afterward, we will work toward solutions to any issues presented during the visit.

The findings of our base visits will be reported annually to the American Legion National Executive Committee, Congress and the president of the United States.

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BASE Program

Base Assessment and Servicemember Experience

The American Legion BASE Program

WHAT ARE THE AREAS OF FOCUS?

- Military family housing and barracks/dormitories
- Health care
- Child care
- Access to benefits (commissary and exchange)
- Education
- Spousal employment
- Food and financial insecurities
- Mental health
- Military construction and infrastructure
- Transition Assistance Programs
- Life at overseas and remote locations

WHAT DOES A VISIT ENTAIL?

Who is involved?

Local American Legion leaders and volunteers, along with staff members from The American Legion National Headquarters, will conduct the visit.

What happens during a visit?

Day 1: Servicemembers and their families will be invited to an evening town hall, either at a nearby American Legion post or on base. Base leadership and American Legion representatives will be on hand to discuss the feedback on base conditions.

Day 2: American Legion representatives meet with base commander, senior enlisted adviser and other leaders. An installation tour will cover areas including housing and barracks, dining facilities, medical buildings and the child development center.

Day 3: American Legion representatives, base commander and other leaders conduct briefing.

After action: The American Legion will produce a detailed written report on lessons learned, findings and recommendations. It will be presented to military service chiefs, congressional staffers and the White House.

WHAT IS THE GOAL?

Through our installation tours and the collective best practices, the goal is to have collected enough information to assess the experiences of servicemembers, identify challenges that need to be addressed, and drive solutions to ensure all servicemembers and their family members are receiving the highest quality of life possible at base installations.