



MANPOWER AND  
RESERVE AFFAIRS

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**  
1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

June 16, 2021

Dr. Shelley MacDermid Wadsworth  
Purdue University  
Hanley Hall, Room 210  
1202 West State Street  
West Lafayette, IN 47907

On behalf of the Office of Military Community and Family Policy (MC&FP) within the Office of the Secretary of Defense, I am writing to share my support for the Operation Military Experience (OpME) study led by the Military Family Research Institute (MFRI) at Purdue University.

The OpME study will provide first-time data about the long-term consequences of OIF/OEF deployments on military-connected youth and their families. Unlike many other studies, OpME will include families who have completed their military service and families who are still serving; it will also include a substantial number of service women and their families.

We are eager to continue strengthening our programs for families and children through the lessons learned from your participation in this study. MC&FP is directly responsible for programs and policies that establish and support community quality of life programs and services on military installations, and virtually, for Service members and their families worldwide. We strive to ensure family members have access to the programs and support they need to thrive throughout the military lifecycle.

If your family is invited to participate, please accept. MC&FP and MFRI have had a strong working relationship for many years and you can be confident that any data you provide will be confidential, and only summaries of group information will be shared.

We appreciate the service you have already given our country, and we look forward to learning from you about your experiences.

Sincerely,

*Stacey K. Young*

Stacey K. Young  
Director,  
Office of Military Family Readiness Policy