

Folks,

In the nation's effort to take better care of our Wounded Warriors, the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act expands application of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), so that Federal employees may take up to 26 weeks of FMLA in a single 12-month period to care for certain servicemember relatives who are seriously injured or ill.

Called military family leave, this FMLA entitlement is for a Federal employee (1) who is the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin (defined as the nearest blood relative) of a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness and (2) who provides care for such servicemember. The servicemember's serious injury or illness must have occurred in the line of duty. In addition, use of military family leave in a single 12-month period does not limit the employee's ability to use regular FMLA leave. You can find out more information about this recent change at <http://www.opm.gov/oaca/compmemo/2008/2008-04.asp>.

This change to the FMLA is one of the recommendations contained in *Serve, Support, Simplify: Report of the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors*. Senator Bob Dole and Donna Shalala, University of Miami President and former Secretary of Health and Human Services during the Clinton Administration, co-chaired the commission. A copy of the report, which is the source of many of the improvements in care for Wounded Warriors, can be found at http://www.pccww.gov/docs/Kit/Main_Book_CC%5BJULY26%5D.pdf.

If you are entitled to legal assistance services and have questions about Federal employee leave entitlements, then please contact the Fort Belvoir Legal Assistance Office at (703) 805-2856 to set up an appointment