

Total Army Sponsorship Program

A key component to effective Soldier retention is a meaningful, consistent sponsorship program. An effective sponsorship program should foster a welcoming environment for new Soldiers and adequately address Soldier concerns and issues. Sponsors will actively engage with newly assigned Soldiers. Not only does this inspire positive unit culture and good character behavior, it begins the socialization process and shows the Soldier that they are a welcome addition to the team. First impressions have the most lasting effect on a person so it is important to pick the right sponsor that will make the right impression for future unit effectiveness and discipline.

A robust sponsorship program will assist with retention, resiliency and help reduce stress among our force. Commanders must execute a Sponsorship Program to the fullest extent possible. It is now mandatory for all Soldiers (AGR, TPU and IMA) through the rank of Colonel to be assigned a sponsor. A special emphasis is to be placed on assigning sponsors for IET and AIT Soldiers going to their first assignment and 100% of newly-assigned 2LTs will be sponsored. Every Soldier, Civilian employee and their families will be assigned sponsors to help reduce the stress associated with the transition process.

When carried out correctly, sponsorship and integration minimizes the time Soldiers spend away from the unit and ensures both the Soldier and the Family are established into the new unit. Sponsors are the key to the administrative and unit requirements to achieve this objective.

Commander Responsibilities. Commanders will establish policies or a standard operating procedure for managing the sponsorship program and will duty-appoint a Sponsorship Program Coordinator, in writing, to coordinate and monitor the unit's sponsorship program. However, commanders are still ultimately responsible for the execution of the sponsorship program as outlined in AR 600-8-8, The Total Army Sponsorship Program (TASP).

Available Tools. There are tools available to assist the commander, the sponsorship program coordinator and the individual Soldier. Management of the sponsorship program through the Army Career Tracker (ACT) and contact within the system is mandatory. There must be ACT interaction between the unit, sponsor and the newly assigned Soldier. The Commander's Strength Management Module (CSMM) allows units to track newly assigned Soldiers to the unit. The ACT TASP Module will assist sponsors of incoming Soldiers with completing the sponsorship checklist requirements. The ACT also helps Soldiers and their Families connect to their new unit.

Newly Assigned Soldier Responsibilities. When transitioning to a new unit, request a sponsor if one has not been assigned. This will help to facilitate the transition. It is essential that all newly assigned Soldiers meet administrative requirements, complete mandatory training requirements, and receive an orientation. A sponsor can help ensure a successful start with a new unit.

Your Assignment. Your Sponsor. Act Now!