

“I think it ... draws a larger [portion] of the population to the issues that military families [face]... It shows, I think, people’s interest.”

—Barbara Thompson, director of the Defense Department’s Office of Family Policy/Children and Youth, speaking on a new PBS special featuring Elmo entitled “Coming Home: Military Families Cope with Change.” The special, also featuring John Mayer and Queen Latifah, is aimed at helping military families cope with changes. It premiered on PBS stations April 1.



Elmo from Sesame Street., courtesy PBS and Sesame Workshop

“Military families bear a very heavy burden. But as a nation, we need to find ways to lighten their load.”

—First Lady Michelle Obama, speaking to troops and their families at Fort Bragg, N.C., in March

“We need to pay attention to the entirety of our people and their families and the programs which support them in order to make sure that they are well-positioned for the future.”

—Navy Adm. Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, during a February lecture at Grove City College in Pennsylvania

“We are dealing with a different demographic of military families. The first place these kids go to get information about the base is online. They won’t come into our facilities. If we don’t have information online, we can’t reach them.”

—“Toad,” the code name for a military husband on SpouseBuzz, an online support group that connects military spouses, explaining the need for an increased awareness of online resources in military communities. www.spousebuzz.com

“I want you to know this: Military families are a top priority for Michelle and me, and they will be a top priority for my administration.”

—President Barack Obama, during a February visit to Camp LeJeune, N.C.

“It seems to me that just about everything, in terms of the human dimension, gets better if we can increase the time between deployments. That allows time for soldiers to spend with their families, to recover, to do other things.”

—Gen. Carter F. Ham, commander of U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army, during a February news briefing at the Pentagon