



SSAFA Forces Help Fact Sheet 2009

WHO ARE WE?

SSAFA Forces Help is the national charity committed to helping and supporting those who serve in our Armed Forces, those who used to serve, and the families of both. Each year, we provide a reliable, caring and trusted service to more than 50,000 people through a network of professionally trained staff and volunteers.

WHO DO WE HELP?

One day's paid service in any of our Armed Forces is all that is needed to qualify for assistance from SSAFA Forces Help. This includes those who serve in our Reserve Forces and anyone who did National Service as well as close relatives, widows and widowers.

We estimate that approximately 10 million people may be eligible for our assistance, with more than 200,000 personnel currently serving in the Forces and nearly 7 million ex-Service men and women plus their families.

OUR PEOPLE

700 Professionally trained staff, including health and social work staff - working anywhere in the World that the British Forces are based, including Germany, Cyprus, Nepal, Brunei and BATUS (Canada)

6,200 Branch Volunteers – fully trained and working out of a Branch network in the UK and in some countries abroad, including Ireland, France, Germany and Spain

800 Service Volunteers – working on British Forces bases in the UK and around the World (usually servicemen and women and their dependants, co-ordinated through a network of in-Service committees)

SUPPORTING THOSE WHO SERVE

- **A professional health service.** 350 health professionals providing the community health service for the serving community in Germany, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Brunei, Nepal and Canada. They are funded through the MoD.

- **A professional social work service** under contract from the MoD to the military community overseas and in part of the UK. This service employs more than 100 social work staff, including more than 70 fully qualified social workers.
- **A registered adoption agency** available to all those in the serving community who are thinking about adopting a child, placing a child for adoption or who are themselves adopted and are looking for advice or support.
- **Additional Needs & Disability Support**, including four holidays each year for children with additional needs and their siblings.
- **Practical support and confidential befriending** to Service personnel and their families experiencing a wide range of problems. We have more than 50 in-Service committees worldwide and 25 community volunteer groups in the UK alone.
- **Short stay supported accommodation** for families visiting injured relatives at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Headley Court, and the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine, Selly Oak.
- **Short stay supported accommodation** for separated women, with or without children, who are serving, ex-Service or dependants.
- **A Family Escort Service** to assist Service families and their dependants who need assistance travelling to, from and within the UK.
- **A Confidential Support Line** offering support and advice for serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families, who wish to talk, in confidence and outside the military chain of command. The line is available every day of the year.

SUPPORTING THE EX-SERVICE COMMUNITY

- **Experienced, non-judgemental, friendly and confidential advice.**
- **Financial assistance** for a wide range of needs:
 - Helping those entitled to apply for state and local benefits and war pensions or to review existing state pensions.
 - Seeking monetary support from civilian and Service charities and benevolent funds and making grants from our own resources.
- **Help** in organising and funding home adaptations or special equipment for the disabled which cannot be obtained from statutory sources.
- **Practical and emotional support** for those who are lonely, bereaved or ill.
- **Housing.** A residential care home on the Isle of Wight, purpose-built bungalows for those with disabilities but still capable of independent living and a home in London for officers' widows and unmarried daughters. A Housing Advisory Service for ex-Service personnel.