

New Spouse Checklist

Congratulations and welcome to the military family!

The military lifestyle can seem challenging, especially if you have no previous military experience. This is a list of the most urgent items to obtain after you are married so you can take advantage of your benefits and entitlements.

- Obtain an original copy of your marriage certificate from the city, town, or county clerk's office where the wedding took place.
- Have your military spouse enroll you and children in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).
- Obtain a military ID card. You will need your marriage license, birth certificate, photo identification, and Department of Defense Form 1172 (application form) to apply for an ID card.
- Establish power of attorney. This will allow you to conduct business on your spouse's behalf. The base legal office will help you establish power of attorney.
- Select your medical insurance plan and complete necessary enrollment paperwork.
- Enroll in the dental insurance plan.
- Have your military spouse list you as a beneficiary on his or her Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and enroll the family members in Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (FSGLI).
- Determine whether you should change your state and federal income tax status to reflect your marital status. Check with the CG or DoD legal office to ensure you are doing what is right for your situation.
- Memorize your spouse's Social Security and Coast Guard Employee ID number. You will need it for all sorts of paperwork and forms.