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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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**FISCAL YEAR 2005
CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM
OPERATIONAL MEMO #31**

TO: Child and Adult Care Food Program Institutions

FROM: Mary Ann Chartrand, Director
Grants Coordination and School Support

DATE: August 22, 2005

SUBJECT: **Military Families and Eligibility in Child Nutrition Programs**

This memo is to clarify the child nutrition policy for households affected by deployments.

For the purpose of determining household size, deployed service members should be considered as family members living apart on a temporary basis. An institution should instruct families to include the names and income of deployed service members on their meal benefit forms. The determining official should count the service member as part of the household in establishing a child's eligibility for free and reduced price meals, or a day care home provider's eligibility for tier 1 reimbursement rates.

Deployment of a parent or guardian may also affect the eligibility of a child, who temporarily resides with a day care home provider, to receive meals in the Child and Adult Care Food Program. Although the child may live with the provider while the service member is deployed, the child would not be considered a "provider's own" child. In this special situation, the child would continue to participate in the meal service as a nonresidential participant. To claim reimbursement for program meals, the day care home provider must have power of attorney, custody, or an agreement established by the military to provide residential care to the child.

If you have questions, contact the CACFP at (517) 373-7391.

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