

United Concordia Attends National Military Families Association Summit, First Lady Michelle Obama Addressed Audience as Keynote Speaker

As part of United Concordia's ongoing support of military families, United Concordia was one of four corporate sponsors of the National Military Family Association's (NMFA's) 2010 *Summit on Families*. Staff members from United Concordia's DoD Programs department attended the summit and luncheon in Washington, D.C., at which First Lady Michelle Obama was the keynote speaker.

The event was designed to help military families by creating a Blueprint for Action which has concrete "next steps" to address issues associated with deployment stress, education and employment opportunities, and access to care and support services that can often be a challenge for them.



"As America asks more of these families, they have a right to expect more of us," Mrs. Obama said. "This is our moral obligation. It's also a matter of national security. The readiness of our Armed Forces depends on the readiness of our military families."

The NMFA organized the two-day summit, "When Parents Deploy: Understanding the Experiences of Military Children and Spouses," in response to recent research which reports the emotional and behavioral difficulties many military children experience. Among the research findings, conducted by RAND Corporation, is the link between longer periods of deployment and greater levels of emotional and social challenges faced by children. The studies also show children in military families experience emotional and behavioral difficulties at rates above national averages as well as the concept that deployment-related challenges vary by age and gender.

"This research demonstrates the impact that parental deployment is having on military children," said Lynne Hamilton, United Concordia Vice-President of DoD Programs Operations. "The NMFA is committed to finding solutions to help the families of our military members and we are proud to support them."

"Hearing Mrs. Obama speak to the special needs of military children was an inspiration and a privilege," added Hamilton. "We attended the summit to support the creation of an action plan that will encourage NMFA programs that are currently in place to help military children and families, as well as those of their partners. Mrs. Obama's support of these efforts is truly encouraging."

"It was an extraordinary opportunity for us to hear Mrs. Obama address the needs of military families and deliver a call to action for American individuals and corporations," said Sharon Duke, United Concordia Director of DoD Programs Marketing and Outreach. "United Concordia is proud to have been a part of this event and will continue to support and engage military families in communities across the country and the world."

About the National Military Family Association

The NMFA is the leading nonprofit organization committed to strengthen and protect the families of the men and women currently serving, retired, wounded or fallen. The NMFA provides families of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Commissioned Corps of the USPHS and NOAA with information, works to get them the benefits they deserve, and offer programs that improve their lives. The NMFA's 40 years of service and accomplishments have made it a trusted resource for military families and the nation's leaders. To learn more, visit www.MilitaryFamily.org.