



Barbara Thompson, Director
Office of Family Policy/Children & Youth
Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
(Military Community and Family Policy)

As Director of the Office of Family Policy/Children and Youth, Ms. Thompson is responsible for programs and policies that promote military families' well-being and quality of life. In this capacity, she has oversight for DoD child development and youth programs, which serve 400,000 children daily at over 300 locations worldwide. Ms. Thompson also has purview over the Department's spouse career advancement, personal financial readiness, and non-medical counseling programs, and is responsible for coordinating efforts to serve geographically dispersed military members and their families. Ms. Thompson is also responsible for Military OneSource, the Department's assistance program available to Service members and families 24/7/365. Prior to assuming her current duties, Ms. Thompson coordinated support programs for severely injured Service members and their families and supported the rebuilding of the Ministry of Education in Iraq.



Before joining the Office of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy, Ms. Thompson spent 18 years with Air Force family programs, most recently as the Child Development Program and Youth Training and Curriculum Specialist at Air Force Headquarters. During her tenure with the Air Force, Ms. Thompson was an integral member of the team that helped over 98% of Air Force child development programs achieve accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

A leader in the field of early childhood education, Ms. Thompson was chosen as one of only 11 Harris fellows to participate in ZERO TO THREE's prestigious *Leaders for the 21st Century* program. This leadership development initiative provided experienced professionals with an established record of leadership and achievement with an opportunity to collaborate with top leaders from many disciplines and receive assistance for an innovative project aimed at improving the lives of young children.

Ms. Thompson graduated cum laude from St. Louis University with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Early Education and Spanish. She received her Masters degree in Management from Troy State University.