



Report on the social protection of military personnel

PRESS RELEASE

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Histoire & stratégie

Geneviève Gosselin-Fleury, MP for Manche, presented this morning with Mr. Charles de la Verpillière, their report on the social protection of military personnel, before the National Defence and Armed Forces Commission.

The rapporteurs started from the observation that since 2013, the operational commitment of the armed forces has increased considerably. It is also characterised by increasing unpredictability of missions. These operational constraints have consequences for the equilibrium of the military, but also for the equilibrium of their families. Absence, mobility and above all their unpredictability put many couples to the test, with spouses often finding themselves alone to manage the daily life of the family.

This operational intensification is also not without consequences for the personnel remaining on bases, ports or regiments, who are themselves faced with overactivity due to the reduction in the number of personnel present.

Secondly, the rapporteurs stressed the importance of the "rear base" in the life of the military. Military families expressed a strong need for recognition of the sacrifices made. It should also be noted that changing family models are having an impact on the military: the feminization of the armed forces, an increase in separations and reconstituted families, and the widespread employment of the military spouse.

Military personnel benefit from a wide variety of social support schemes, and the report gives a complete picture of these benefits, which are linked to the compensation scheme, health insurance, mobility aids, etc. The report also provides a detailed description of the social support provided to military personnel. Nevertheless, the rapporteurs have noted that unfortunately many of these schemes are still not well known to military personnel

and their families. Moreover, some needs are still poorly covered, such as childcare at atypical hours and affordable housing, particularly in areas under stress such as the Ile-de-France region.

The MEPs therefore sought to consider the social support of tomorrow for the military and their families and to this end made several recommendations:

- Arrange the transfer calendar by publishing the annual transfer plan in January at the latest, for transfers during the summer;
- Study the possibility of using part-time work, outside operations, depending on the family situation;
- Facilitate access to housing for divorced parents who do not have custody of their children, by authorising shared accommodation or by encouraging the creation of single-parent homes;
- Authorise shared accommodation in vacant defence apartments in the Cégep and the Cégep; - Authorise shared accommodation in vacant defence apartments in the Cégep and the Cégep.
- Strengthen and diversify the childcare offer
- Strengthen access to information by increasing consultation with families, creating a computer portal for families and involving them in the development of the childcare system. families, by providing information in a more targeted manner through meetings in small groups and by developing a secure application on smartphones and information systems to improve knowledge of the needs of the militia.

The rapporteurs also stressed the importance of the Ministry of Defence's housing policy and the need to rebuild it on the basis of a major survey that will highlight the changing housing needs of the military.

They also pleaded for the preservation of the resources of the defence conversion agency, Défense mobilité, stressing the need for to look into the case of soldiers with less than four years of service who leave the army without qualifications and who cannot benefit from this conversion assistance service.

Finally, they invited the Ministry of Defence to pursue the steps taken to supplement the social protection of reservists.

The report will soon be available on the website of the National Assembly.

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