



COPING WITH TRANSITIONS

Presented by Military & Family Life Counselors

OBJECTIVES

Participants will learn:

- Common struggles people have in dealing with transitions
- Helpful tips for managing change
- Personal guidelines for smoother transitions



AGENDA

- Ways to Deal with Transition and Change
- Discussion: How We Respond and Cope with Transition
- R.A.F.T: Reconciliation, Affirmation, Farewell & Think
- Reengagement
- Personal Guidelines for a Smoother Transition
- The Adapt Model



WAYS TO DEAL WITH TRANSITIONS

You have three choices to deal with transitions:

- You can refuse to accept it
- You can accept it but just put up with it to survive
- You can accept it and try to benefit from it and grow



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- How do you typically respond during times of transition?
- What is most helpful during transitions?
- What is most challenging?
 - Family issues
 - PCSing
 - Working with new individuals
- What item or object brings you the most comfort during transitions?



R.A.F.T.

- Reconciliation
- Affirmation
- Farewell
 - People
 - Places
 - Possessions – period of grief, pack the house up, unpack at the new house
- Think next (plan ahead)
 - Expectations
 - Don't worry: look at what you have control over



STRUGGLE WITH RE-ENGAGEMENT

- Choose not to re-engage
- Don't like or know the new culture/environment
 - This could even be just a new region of the same country
- Fear of losing old friends and support systems
- Personality styles
 - Will I get along with new service members?
 - Will my kids like the new school?
 - How will my spouse adapt?



PERSONAL GUIDELINES FOR A SMOOTHER TRANSITION

- Be Flexible
- Be Flexible
- Be Flexible



SMOOTH TRANSITION

- Ask yourself: What is the worst thing that could happen?
- When possible, plan ahead and manage one transition at a time.
- Look at ways you have successfully dealt with transitions in the past.
- Avoid overcomplicating things and overreacting
- Remember, transitions include changes in relationships, work, financial issues. These are things we face on a regular basis and do so successfully.



THE ADAPT MODEL

Adjust Expectations

- Become realistic

Develop Support

- Find resources that can help you

Activate a Commitment

- Take this as an opportunity to grow and learn

Prioritize Goals

- Make them attainable

Transition into Your New Identity

- You are a real person in a new situation



MISTAKES IN HANDLING CHANGE

- Expecting others to manage the change for you
- Deciding not to change
- Trying to control the uncontrollable
- Avoiding new assignments
- Losing sight of the personal mission



CONCLUSION

- Grief is a normal part to any major life change
- Developing coping skills is important for a smooth transition
- Adjusting expectations and developing a support system can assist with any type of transition
- Remember you have been successful in the past with change and transitions





QUESTIONS?



RESOURCES

- Military Community Services
- Chaplain and Local Clergy
- Military OneSource (800) 342-9647
- TRICARE www.Tricare.mil
- Behavioral Health Services





THANK YOU

