

## **Focus On FamilyCenter**

*VRC FamilyCenter Update      July 2005*

The newest addition to VRC organization is the FamilyCenter, which focuses on the needs of deployed military members, recently returned veterans and the families.

As a recent veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and commander of an Army Reserve unit I became personally aware of the need to provide additional support to military families. I searched for some time but could not find an organization to help with this effort until I encountered the caring staff at VRC. Now, thanks to the support provided by VRC and HACC, the FamilyCenter will address many of the needs of our veterans and their families that can't be met by existing military programs.

The next twelve months will see significant expansion of the FamilyCenter and the portfolio of services we provide. We have so many opportunities to do worthy work that the hardest part is deciding where to start first. While future newsletters will provide more details about our initiatives, right now we have to focus on organization and staffing. To assist in this effort, I am seeking volunteers who are willing to give a few hours a week to help us make a difference in lives of our veterans and their families. The FamilyCenter provides a way for us to show our appreciation to these local heroes as they bear the great burden required to support our nation's security. I look forward to an exciting year ahead as we work to make the vision of the FamilyCenter a reality.

If you would like to help, please contact me at <mailto:francis.piacine@navy.mil> or other VRC staff.