

MARCH OF DIMES AND PHILIPS
WILL SURPRISE MILITARY MOMS-TO-BE WITH BABY SHOWER
Mission: Healthy Baby® Provides Information and Support Services

On Friday, August 26th, the March of Dimes will surprise 25 expectant military moms and dads with an educational baby shower. The moms-to-be also will receive gift boxes filled with baby supplies and much more courtesy of the March of Dimes, Philips and other local sponsors. The baby shower will take place from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Navarre Conference Center. Families represent all area bases including NAS Pensacola, Whiting Field, Eglin AFB & Hurlburt Field.

During the evening, the moms-to-be will receive the latest pregnancy and newborn health information from the March of Dimes *Mission: Healthy Baby*® program. In recognition of the many sacrifices of military families, the March of Dimes brings educational baby showers to military moms-to-be who may not otherwise have a baby shower. Since 2009, the March of Dimes has showered nearly 500 military moms at various bases across the country.

In keeping with the March of Dimes long history of support for the military, *Mission: Healthy Baby* was designed specifically to address the unique needs of military members who may be stationed far away from the support of family and friends, or who may be actively deployed while their partner is expecting a child at home.

“Having a baby is a joyful experience. However, it’s also one that comes with anxiety and stress, especially when your spouse is deployed overseas by the U.S. military,” said Colonel Harris Brooks, retired Air Force Colonel and March of Dimes Trustee. “The March of Dimes believes in supporting moms and moms-to-be and we’re grateful for this opportunity to help these military families. These showers and our *Mission: Healthy Baby* program give families the comfort and support they deserve.”

Very high levels of stress, such as that caused by deployment, may contribute to premature birth or low birthweight in full-term babies. Military moms and dads can request *Mission: Healthy Baby* materials by sending their name and address to missionhealthybaby@marchofdimes.org

"This has been a tremendous, heartfelt experience for everyone involved," said Mark A. Stephenson, Head of Brand, Communications & Digital, Philips North America. "Being able to support the *Mission: Healthy Baby* program and the men and women of our armed services is an honor — defending our country is a noble calling — and we at Philips proudly stand with the March of Dimes in providing for families at this important moment."

Local sponsors for *Mission: Healthy Baby* include KMart, Mattress Firm, Gulf Power, ZT Motors, Destin Commons, Hill-Kelly Dodge, Navy Federal Credit Union, Wind Creek Atmore, Gulf Coast Community Bank, Eglin Federal Credit Union, Escambia County Medical Society and others.

The mission of the March of Dimes is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. Premature birth is the #1 killer of babies in the United States. The March of Dimes is working to change that and help more moms have full-term pregnancies and healthy babies. For the latest resources and information, visit marchofdimes.org or nacersano.org. Find us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/marchofdimes) at [facebook.com/marchofdimes](https://www.facebook.com/marchofdimes) and follow us on [Twitter at twitter.com/marchofdimes](https://twitter.com/marchofdimes).

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