



# Who's Who and What's What?

The following tables give brief explanations of important positions/titles and terms in the National Guard that can help give context to a community marriage and relationship education practitioner in your pursuit to work with National Guard members and their families.

## Who's Who?

<b>Position/Title</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>How they can help</b>
Governor	Elected leader who is the commander-in-chief of the Army and Air National Guard forces in his or her state, territory, or district. (Note: the president is the commander-in-chief of the Washington, D.C., National Guard.)	Promotes and enforces policy and legislation that supports the well-being of Guard members and families.
The Adjutant General (TAG)	The military leader of the National Guard Forces in a state, territory, or district. The TAG is typically appointed by the governor.	Promotes policy that supports the well-being of guard members and families.
State Family Program Director (SFPD)	Charged with National Guard Service member and family programs in the entire state, territory, or district.	Knows the needs and challenges of National Guard families. May already be aligned with local community resources and can help make appropriate referrals to your MRE program.
Airman and Family Readiness Program Manager (AFRPM)	Oversees family readiness programming in the Air National Guard. There may be more than one of these in a state, territory, or district.	Knows the needs and challenges of Air National Guard families. May already be aligned with local community resources and can help make appropriate referrals to your MRE program.
Commanding Officer	Leadership of the units both in the Army and Air National Guard. Commanders have overall responsibility for the well-being of the Service members in their units.	Is an influential figure who can encourage attendance at your MRE program.

<b>Position/Title</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>How they can help</b>
Chaplain	Provides ministerial and behavioral health supports, including counseling and referrals. Some chaplains also teach MRE.	Can make referrals or encourage attendance at a local MRE services, and provide valuable insight into challenges that need to be addressed. May also be a good provider of MRE.
Family Readiness Group (FRG)	Each unit forms a FRG made up of volunteers. These are typically unit spouses and other family members. The FRG serves as a conduit of communication, information, and linkages to military and community resources.	Can encourage attendance and provide mentorship and support for individuals and families.
Army National Guard Family Readiness Support Assistants (FRSAs)	Works under the direction of army commanders to ensure the readiness of soldiers and families. Work very closely with FRGs.	Can recommend to commanders the use of specific programming, and can encourage attendance.
Family Assistance Specialists (FASs)	Located in a Family Assistance Center (FAC), and provides assistance to families on day-to-day needs (information and referral, financial and emergency assistance, etc.). Located in armories or other military facilities throughout the communities.	Very well integrated into community programs and aware of needs of local families.
Airman	A service member in the Air Force or Air National Guard. (Note: A common civilian error is to refer to airmen as "soldiers".)	Can attend your MRE programs, provide feedback, and encourage colleagues to attend.
Soldier	A service member in the Army or Army National Guard.	Can attend your MRE programs, provide feedback, and encourage colleagues to attend.
Family Member	A spouse or significant other, parent, sibling or child of a National Guard member. (Note: A common civilian error is to only use the term "wife" when speaking of a military spouse. Many military spouses are husbands of female service members. Also keep in mind that other family members besides spouses might be a good target for relationship education. )	Can attend your MRE programs, provide feedback, and encourage other family members to attend.

## What's What?

Term	Definition	Relevance to MRE Programs
Strong Bonds	The Army and Air Guard's marriage and relationship education program, usually conducted in the form of weekend retreats. Strong Bonds retreats are usually led by Chaplains. Strong Bonds is an excellent resource, but it is voluntary for guard members and families and reaches only a small percentage of the total members.	Introduces couples and families to relationship education. Your programming can be a next step. This could be a referral source for your community-based program!
Yellow Ribbon and Reintegration Program (YRRP)	Programs to guard members and families prior to, during, and after deployment. Yellow Ribbon events teach attendees skills and resources that will sustain their overall well-being even when affected by deployment. Guard members are required to attend certain Yellow Ribbon events, and their families are strongly encouraged to participate. Because of high level of emphasis, Yellow Ribbon events are heavily attended.	Can be a place where couples learn more about community resources and programs available to them. Some MRE practitioners have been contracted to teach certain portions of a Yellow Ribbon event or provide a resource table.
Military OneSource (and Army OneSource)	The Department of Defense's "Employee Assistance Program" (EAP). Service members and families can access resources and receive referrals for services and programs in their community for a variety of needs. Army OneSource is similar to Military OneSource, but is a program specific for soldiers and their families.	Can be a referral source.
Family Assistance Centers (FACs)	"One-stop" locations (often in Armories) for families seeking information, services, or resources.	A possible location to market your MRE program.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Relevance to MRE Programs</b>
Drill	Typically a weekend event held once a month where guard members train with their unit on their particular job or mission. These are usually conducted at a local armory or base.	A time where information about your program can be shared or marketed. An important date to find out and keep in mind when scheduling weekend programs for this audience.
Annual Training (AT)	Typically a two-week period of time where guard members train with their unit their particular job or mission. These can be conducted at a local armory or base, but also might involve training missions in other parts of country or even outside the United States.	A time where information about your program can be shared, marketed or possibly integrated.
Deployment/ Mobilization	Typically referred to as a time of call-up for response to a homeland or overseas military need. Deployments can last from a few months to two years or more.	Important time to empower couples and families with information and skills that can sustain the separation from the guard member. Different programming or delivery systems can be implemented before, during, and after deployment.
Armory	An Army National Guard building where a unit is headquartered, and where the members typically meet for their monthly drill or other training. There are thousands of armories in various communities throughout the country.	Place where MRE programs can be marketed and conducted with coordination with unit leaders.
Base	An Air National Guard site where multiple air units can be headquartered and where the members typically meet for their monthly drill or other training. Air National Guard bases are typically near a civilian airport.	Place where MRE programs can be marketed, and even conducted with coordination with unit leaders.
Camp	An Army National Guard site where multiple units can be headquartered and where other training is conducted. Most states have an Army National Guard camp. A camp might have several armories.	Place where MRE programs can be marketed, and even conducted with coordination with unit leaders.