



National Healthy Marriage Resource Center Webinar

July Webinar: Developing Partnerships with the Military to Serve National Guard Members and their Families

July 29, 2010 ❖ 1:00 pm-2:30pm (EST)

Presenters:

Col. Robert Hicks, Alabama National Guard Joint Force State Support Chaplain

Patricia Randich-Dumas, Military Family Life Consultant, Alabama National Guard Joint Family Assistance Program

Rico Figueroa, Colorado Healthy Marriage Project



How to ask a question:

1. Click on the word "Q&A"

2. Type your question in the top box

3. Click on the word "Ask" to submit your question

*Alabama National Guard:
Chaplains and MFLC program*





What does the Chaplain Program provide?

- Crisis response and pastoral counseling Statewide
- Suicide prevention and intervention
- Reintegration briefings at Yellow Ribbon events
- Marriage Enrichment seminars
- Interfaith worship services at conferences and workshops





Benefits of partnering with Auburn University

- “War Eagles” have natural kinship with Service Members going to war!
- Sharing of resources, professionals in different fields, shared commitment to marriage and family
- Possible availability to have academic research studies done on military family issues





Are civilian instructors well versed with combat related issues of NG students?

- Not sure, We need to find out!
- Many have not had combat experience or understand Military lifestyle (Battlemind vs Homemind)
- Some models and approaches may be different for issues related to Suicide, PTSD, Sexual Assault and Marriage separation and reintegration.
- What is the Spiritual component in all the above?





Challenges of Partnership

- Integration of psychological and Spiritual realities of personhood, marriage and sexuality.
- Tension between a more conservative military culture and more liberal cultural consensus of the University.
- Tension is seen in terms of individual and family morality, values and ethics.
- Tensions between supporting the warrior and family and disagreeing with national foreign policy issues.





Joint Family Support Assistance Program

Background

FY-07 Defense Authorization Act, Sec. 675, required the DoD to implement a Joint Family Support Assistance Program for the purpose of providing assistance to family members of the Armed Forces.

JFSAP augments existing family programs to provide a continuum of support and services based on member and family strengths and needs and available resources. The primary focus of support is families who are geographically dispersed from a military installation. Services are provided by Military OneSource, Military Family Life Consultants, Red Cross and other State and local agencies.





Key Features

JFSAP partners with military, state, and local resources to:

- Assess needs
- Identify resources & address gaps
- **Enhance/build community capacity**
 - **Facilitate an integrated service delivery system and a community of support and outreach for military families**
- Provide outreach to families to inform them about available resources
- All services are free and confidential





JFSAP Staff

Military Family Life Consultants (MFLC)

- **MFLC:**

In addition to role of building/enhancing community capacity, provide non-medical, short-term, solution-focused counseling services to individuals, couples, families, and groups. Facilitate educational groups addressing life skills and military lifestyle topics.

- **Child and Youth Behavioral (CYB)-MFLC:**

Provide outreach to families with children to offer parenting and child development education, non-medical counseling and referral, and raise family and community awareness about the effects of deployment and reunification on children and youth.

- **Child Care**

- Expand partnerships to bridge the gap between need and current program delivery
 - Explore new partnerships
 - Expand weekend and short-term programs and services





- 2007 Introduction letters sent to the Family Resource Centers in Alabama, all recipients of the Auburn University Health Marriage Grant, meetings arranged and collaborative information shared.
- Meeting rooms made available to MFLC to meet with Military Families in a confidential capacity.
- Reciprocal Referrals to MFLCs made throughout the state to expand Military Family resources and MFLC referrals for Military Families to participate in multiple community based Health Marriage Initiatives.
- Presentations made at 2009 and 2010 Health Marriage Conferences to raise awareness of Military Culture
- 2010 Joint presentation at Tuskegee VA encompassing “Marriage After Combat” and community resources





Case example

- Referral received from coordinator of an Alabama Family Resource Center of a Special Forces soldier seeking a parenting class with an emphasis on integrating his training in positive parenting.





Contact Info

Col Robert M Hicks, Chaplain

Robert.Michael.Hicks@US.Army.mil

334-558-4274

Patricia Randich-Dumas

Military Family Life Consultant

Patricia.Randich-Dumas@MHN.com

334-782-5810





**The Colorado Healthy Marriage Project:
*Outreach to the
Colorado National Guard***

Community Partner



Community
Partner



ISFAC
Inter-Service Family
Assistance Committee

ISFAC

Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee

The Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee (ISFAC) is **a voluntary military cooperative partnership organized to provide multi-service networking for training and assistance to ensure total force Family readiness at the state or regional level.**

The ISFAC facilitates cooperation, communication, coordination, and collaboration needed to establish strong Family and community support networks that provide easy access to information, services, and support through unfailing delivery systems. Representatives include all Military services, Department of Veteran Affairs, major Veteran service organizations, relevant government departments and agencies, civilian support organizations, community service organizations, and organizations with a role in disaster response, i.e. police, fire, hospitals, etc.

<http://www.myarmyonesource.com/CommunitiesandMarketplace/CommunitySupport/ISFAC.aspx>

Community
Partner



ISFAC
Inter-Service Family
Assistance Committee



JFSAP
Joint Family Support
Assistance Program
&
Military Family Life
Consultant

JFSAP

Joint Family Support Assistance Program

JFSAP partners with military, state and local resources to:

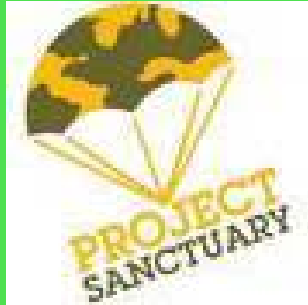
- **Assess needs**
- **Identify resources & address gaps**
- **Enhance/build community capacity**
 - *Facilitate an integrated service delivery system and a community of support and outreach for military families*
- **Provide outreach to families to inform them about available resources**

Military Family Life Consultant

Help individuals enhance skills and abilities to cope with:

1. **Stress of deployment, redeployment, and reintegration**
2. **Parenting issues**
3. **Marriage and relationship issues**
4. **Death / Grief / Loss**

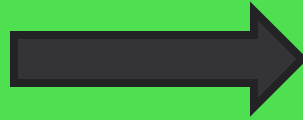
Community
Partner



ISFAC
Inter-Service Family
Assistance Committee



JFSAP
Joint Family Support
Assistance Program
&
Military Family Life
Consultant



**Colorado National Guard
Family Program**



Colorado National Guard Family Program

2 Retreats = 50 Spouses

Workshop Promotion



Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program

?

Challenges

Challenges

1. Its never been done before

Challenges

1. Its never been done before
2. Effective communication with the Chaplains

Challenges

1. Its never been done before
2. Effective communication with the Chaplains
3. Addressing issues unique to military families

Challenges

1. Its never been done before
2. Effective communication with the Chaplains
3. Addressing issues unique to military families
 - *Use instructors with military backgrounds*

Challenges

1. Its never been done before
2. Effective communication with the Chaplains
3. Addressing issues unique to military families
 - *Use instructors with military backgrounds*
 - *Have instructors trained in dealing with TBI and PTSD*

Suggestions

Suggestions

1. Your approach to the National Guard

Suggestions

1. Your approach to the National Guard

2. Seek out the following:

- ISFAC
- JFSAP

Suggestions

1. Your approach to the National Guard

2. Seek out the following:

- ISFAC
- JFSAP
- Military One Source
- Army One Source



Rico Figueroa

720-488-8888 x211

rico@waittraining.org



Thank you for participating in our poll.

The National Healthy Marriage Resource Center is dedicated to helping your marriage education program succeed.

Please email us at info@healthymarriageinfo.org if there are other areas of research you would like the resource center to address in the future.

www.healthymarriageinfo.org

www.twoofus.org



**national
healthy marriage
resource center**

Thank you and have a great afternoon!

Please visit the website at:

www.twoofus.org

www.healthymarriageinfo.org