



# BUILDING MILITARY/COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS TO SERVE MILITARY AND VETERAN FAMILIES AND THEIR CHILDREN

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- Purpose
  - To help states and territories succeed in their efforts to support military families

# Today's Agenda

- Welcome/Introductions
- Homework
- *Judith Dekle*, Senior Program Analyst, Military Community and Family Policy, Office of Family Policy/Children and Youth
  - Recognizing the strengths and needs of military families
  - Understanding the role and function of family support programs in assisting service members and their families
  - Identifying key military programs that support military families
- *Gregory Leskin, Ph.D. and Cicely Burrows-McElwain, LCSW*
  - *Highlight and recap*

## Bright Ideas

- Wrap-up

# Housekeeping

– Please identify yourself each time you speak -  
*“This is...”*

– Please mute your phones when not speaking



– Highly Interactive



– Respectful environment

– “Snap poll”



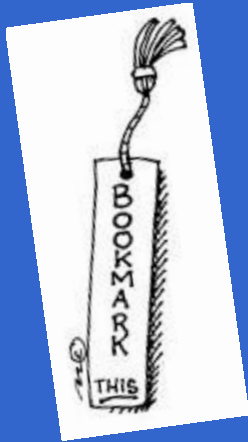
# Participant Introductions

States	
Kentucky (Marlane)	
Michigan (Ingrid, Kaitlyn, Juliana, Kathy)	
Hawaii (Michael)	
Nevada (Misty)	
North Carolina (Li, Heather)	
Pennsylvania (Matthew)	
Wisconsin (Phillip, Diane)	
Virginia (Suzanna, Sophia, Leanna, Martha)	
Illinois (Jordan, Tom, Margo, Carlendia)	
Oklahoma (Carla, Jim)	
Minnesota (Kevin)	



- Name
- Agency

## “Bookmarks”



# Oklahoma

I would like to suggest the following additional resources for the list.....

<http://www.ptsd.va.gov/>



# North Carolina

I would like to suggest the following additional resources for the list...

- Military Child Education Coalition:  
<http://www.militarychild.org/>
- Reintegration, National Center for PTSD:  
Returning from war:  
<http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/reintegration/guides-rwz.asp>
- National Military Family Association:  
<http://www.militaryfamily.org/>
- VA Veterans and Military Families:  
<http://www.va.gov/opa/militaryfamilies.asp>
- Military Family Research Institute:  
<https://www.mfri.purdue.edu/>





After reviewing each of these resources, I plan to share the following resources with my colleagues and/or organization...

**NCTSN Military Families Learning Community**  
– Good site for podcasts that consumer can easily access.

**Military Kids Connect-** Wonderful opportunity for kids to share their experiences and use one another as a resource. (I could have used this growing up as a military dependent in relative isolation. There is a wealth of untapped resource among kids as peers.)

**Military OneSource -** Good one stop shop for a range of resources. I also appreciate the inclusion of relationships, stress and grief.



The logo is circular with a blue border. Inside, there are three white stars at the top, a red silhouette of a family (two adults and a child) in the center, and three white wavy lines at the bottom. The text "Military Community & Family Policy" is written in yellow around the inner edge of the circle.

# **Providing Support to Military Families**

## **National Child Traumatic Stress Network Webinar**

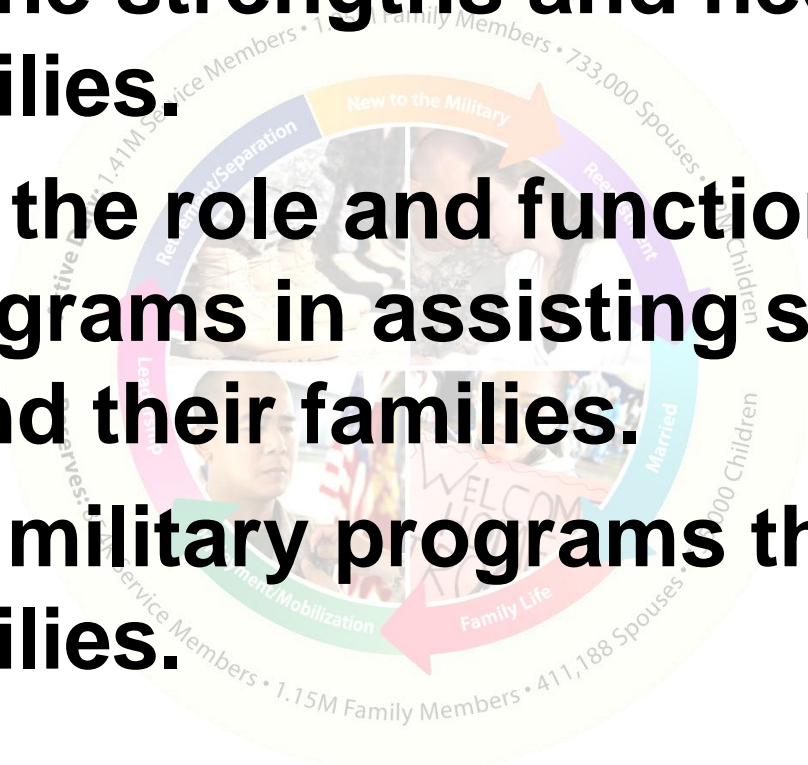
**August 1, 2013**

**Judith Ward Dekle, LCSW, ACSW  
Senior Program Analyst  
Military Community and Family Policy  
Office of Family Policy/Children & Youth**



# Learning Objectives

- Recognize the strengths and needs of military families.
- Understand the role and function of family support programs in assisting service members and their families.
- Identify key military programs that support military families.





# Military Families



# Military Demographics

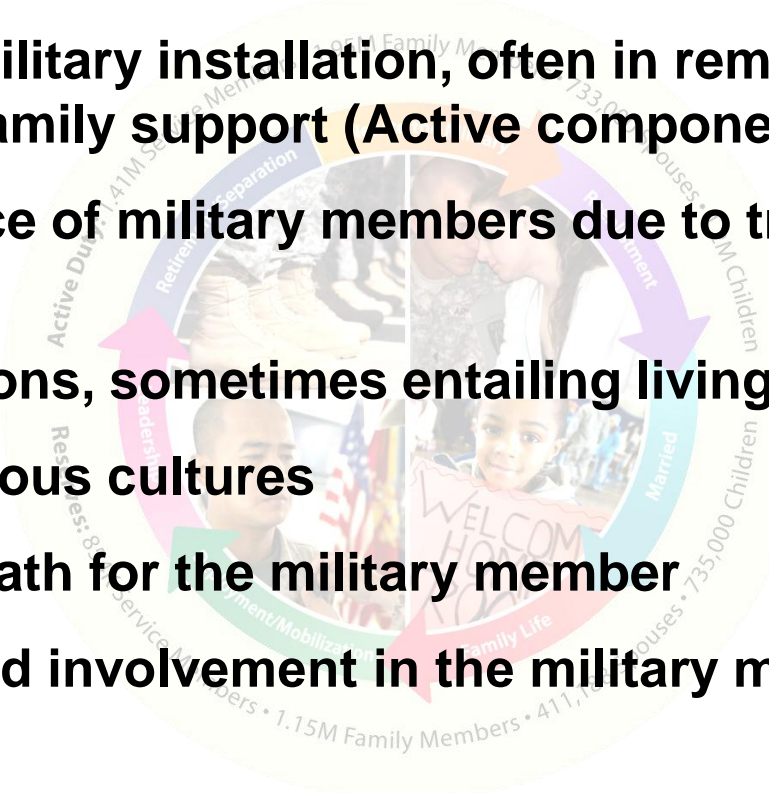
Source: 2011 Demographics Report: Profile of the Military Community

- **Active duty: 1.41M service members/1.98M family members (1.25M children)**
- **Reserves: 855,867 service members/1.16M family members (743,736 children)**
- **66% of the active duty force and 52% of the Reserves are 30 years of age or younger**
- **56.6% of the active duty force are married; 48% of Reserve personnel are married**
- **Active duty: 1.25M dependent children; 42.6% are 5 years old or younger**
- **Reserves: 743,736 dependent children; 29% are 5 years old or younger**



# What makes military families different from non-military families?

- Demographics such as ages of parents and children, a large single population (many of whom have children), cultural diversity
- Live on/near a military installation, often in remote locations, away from extended family support (Active component)
- Frequent absence of military members due to training and deployments
- Multiple relocations, sometimes entailing living separately
- Exposure to various cultures
- Risk of injury/death for the military member
- Military command involvement in the military member's personal and family life
- Irregular hours/unpredictable schedules





# Providing Support



# Military Family Readiness

## Definition

- **The state of being prepared to effectively navigate the challenges of daily living experienced in the unique context of military service.**

## Ready individuals and families are:

- **Knowledgeable about the potential challenges they may face**
  - **Equipped with the skills to competently function in the face of such challenges**
  - **Aware of the supportive resources available to them**
  - **Make use of the skills and supports in managing such challenges**
- **Includes:**
    - **Mobility and financial readiness**
    - **Mobilization and deployment readiness**
    - **Personal and family life readiness**

**From DoDI 1342.22, July 3, 2012**





# Family Readiness System

- **The network of agencies, programs, services, and individuals, and the collaboration among them, that promotes the readiness and quality of life of Service members and their families**
- **Service members and their families have primary responsibility for their well-being. Family readiness services enhance members' and families' abilities to fulfill that responsibility**



# Family Programs as Part of the Family Readiness System

- **Multiple access points:**

- **Military and Family Support Centers**
- **Reserve Component Family Programs**
- **Joint Family Support Assistance Program\***
- **Military OneSource \***
- **Military and Family Life Counselors**
- **Medical Command**

- **Fully integrated network**

- **Services include:**

- **Relocation assistance**
- **Non-medical individual and family counseling**
- **Personal and family life education**
- **Personal financial management services**
- **Information and referral services**
- **Deployment assistance**
- **Spouse Education and Career Opportunities (SECO)**
- **Exceptional family member services**
- **Child abuse prevention and response services**
- **Domestic violence prevention and response services**
- **Emergency family assistance**
- **Transition assistance**



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# Round Robin

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# Military OneSource

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil>

- Available 24/7/365 at no cost to active duty, Guard, and Reserve service members and their families via telephone and online
- Confidential resources and support on a wide range of topics including deployment, relocation, spouse employment and education assistance, parenting and child care, education, finances, health and wellness, and everyday issues



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- (800)342-9647

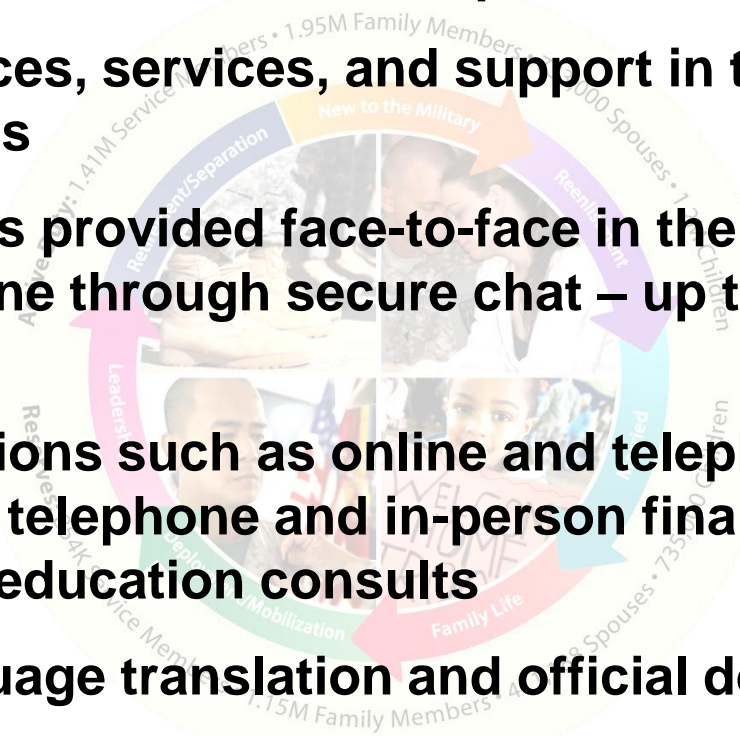


# Military OneSource

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil>

## Military OneSource offers at no cost:

- Masters level consultants available to provide support
- Referrals to resources, services, and support in the military and civilian communities
- Counseling services provided face-to-face in the local community, by telephone, and online through secure chat – up to 12 sessions per person, per issue
- Specialty consultations such as online and telephonic health and wellness coaching, telephone and in-person financial counseling, and spouse career and education consults
- Simultaneous language translation and official document translation
- Orderable and downloadable articles, videos, podcasts; online tools such as self-assessments, and calculators; interactive webinars, blogs, chats, discussion boards







# Joint Family Support Assistance Program

- Provides support to geographically dispersed members (active duty, Guard, and Reserve) through JFSAP teams in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and four territories
- JFSAP Teams provide:
  - Information and referral services
  - Non-medical counseling and education services to adults, children and youth
  - Financial counseling and education
  - Support at Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program and deployment events, and community capacity building



# **Military Community & Family Policy**

## **Office of Family Policy**



# Performance Management Strategy

- **Assessment of Needs**
- **Quality Assurance**
- **Monitoring**
- **Evaluation**
- **Reporting**



# Family Policy and Programs Initiatives

- **Community Capacity Building**
- **Military Families Learning Network**
- **Family Readiness Program  
Evaluation Plan Development Project**
- **Quick Reference Guides**



# Family Policy and Programs Initiatives

- **Community Capacity Building**
- **Military Families Learning Network**  
<http://www.extension.org/pages/62581/military-families-learning-network-webinars>
- **Family Readiness Program Evaluation Plan Development Project**
- **Quick Reference Guides**

# Thank You!



## Questions?

**Judith Ward Dekle, LCSW**  
**(571) 372-0866**  
[judith.dekle@osd.mil](mailto:judith.dekle@osd.mil)

# Poll Question



# Bright Ideas



Best Practices in the spotlight...



Thank you very much!  
Please contact me for more information

Gregory Leskin, Ph.D.  
Gleskin@mednet.ucla.edu

# Hawaii



# Virginia



# Illinois



# Kentucky

