

Military Family Provider Network of Kansas

Kansas Professionals Dedicated to Supporting Kansas Soldiers and Their Families

The men and women of our armed forces face special challenges on and off the battle field. The Military Family Provider Network (MFPN) of Kansas will provide mental health professionals, substance abuse professionals, primary care physicians, and other professionals the opportunity to belong to a network of professionals dedicated to providing complete, competent, and sensitive care to our military families. The purpose of the MFPN of Kansas is to make quality healthcare—mental, emotional, relational, physical—easily identifiable and accessible by all Kansas military personnel and their families, regardless of geographic location, and to promote healthy families before, during, and after deployment.



For more information on the **Military Family Provider Network**, please contact:

Institute for the Health & Security of Military Families

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Manhattan, KS 66506
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Collectively, we can support and strengthen our military families.

“Currently, nearly a thousand members of the Kansas National Guard and the Kansas Army Reserves have been called to active duty and separated from their families for long periods of time. The families of these dedicated soldiers make many adjustments and need our support to help them through this very stressful time.”

-- Gary Sebelius, Chair
Kansas Military Family Support Program

5,436
Total number of assigned Army National Guard (ARNG) in Kansas

2,786
Number of married ARNG

1,675
Number of married ARNG with children

487
Number of single ARNG with children

Why is a Military Family Provider Network beneficial?

- MFPN will provide soldiers and their families an avenue to seek help—physical, mental, emotional and relational—with the same degree of privacy received by civilian families.
- MFPN will make quality mental health and primary care easily accessible and identifiable to National Guard and other military families, regardless of geographic location.
- Providers will receive the newsletter entitled *“The Military Family: Fostering Resilience”* which addresses special issues, up-to-date research, and guidelines for clinical work related to military families.
- Providers will be listed in a comprehensive provider directory, as well as on Military OneSource, a leading provider of outreach and education services for military families.
- Providers will receive convenient, specialized training in the unique issues faced by military families.



For military families, life has changed—quite dramatically. Major operations in Afghanistan and Iraq have necessitated more and longer deployments, more family separations, and more relocations than in recent memory. Mothers are serving as well as fathers. Military losses and casualties are greater than the nation has experienced in decades. Many of our deployed troops serve in the National Guard rather than in active duty military branches, and therefore may live far from military bases and the support services they offer to families.

In a progressive change from Vietnam era attitudes, Americans today seem to agree universally on the importance of honoring the troops, regardless of how one feels about the political decisions behind the wars they fight. However, respect for the service and sacrifices being made by America's soldiers can sometimes make it harder to talk about the dark side of military life, especially in a time of war. Indeed, the military culture prizes duty, loyalty, and a stiff upper lip. Being in harm's way is part of the job description. A quiet agreement in many military families (and beyond) holds that even the hardships of military life are honorable, and that serving requires that everyone “buck up” and do the job. Unfortunately, that philosophy often doesn't conform well to the needs or abilities of developing children or families.

[Excerpt from Howard, B. (2008). Tune In to Special Needs of Military Families, *Pediatric News*.]

A Note to Providers...

Participation in the Military Family Provider Network of Kansas will give you and your practice greater visibility among military families. Participation in MFPN is voluntary, however providers are not expected to see clients free of charge. This network is intended to be a resource for military families. As such, military families can opt to receive services from whomever they wish.

How to Join MFPN

Please watch for the 1st edition of *The Military Family: Fostering Resilience* newsletter due out in mid-September! More information on the upcoming training will be available in this newsletter.

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