

Joint Family Support Assistance Program

Family Policy/Children and Youth

Background

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2007 authorized the Joint Family Support Assistance Team (JFSAP) to deliver mobile family support and services to families facing the same deployment-related challenges as installation-based families, but whose access to support is more challenging. JFSAP has been available in all states and territories since September 2008.

Program Highlights

- Most JFSAP teams are comprised of one Military and Family Life Counselor (MFLC), one Child and Youth Behavioral (CYB) MFLC, one Military OneSource (MOS) Consultant, and one additional position (state choice of MFLC, CYB-MFLC, or Personal Financial Counselor (PFC)).
- JFSAP teams serve members and families from all Components and collaborate with existing family support resources to augment their activities and fill gaps where they exist. JFSAP teams provide the following services and resources:
 - information and referrals to community services and support
 - non-medical counseling and education to individuals, families, and groups
 - child and youth services, including assistance locating child care
 - financial education and counseling
 - on-demand support for Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP) and other deployment events
- Services are delivered in local communities through collaborative partnerships with federal and non-federal entities, enhancing community capacity to serve military families.
- An online request form enables commanders to request on-demand, surge resources for deployment-related events, including YRRP events. On-demand resources include non-medical counseling, financial services, and MOS resources.

FY10/11 Initiatives

- **Community Capacity Building.** Researchers from the University of Georgia and the University of North Carolina will conduct a review of military and civilian community capacity building (CCB) models; identify promising practices; and develop an evidence-based CCB model to integrate family assistance programs and activities provided by the Department of Defense and other federal agencies, state and local agencies, and non-profit entities to better serve members and families. The CCB initiative will include training and technical assistance for state-based Inter-Service Family Assistance Committees (ISFAC).
- **JFSAP Evaluation.** The Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) has partnered with the University of Georgia to formally evaluate the JFSAP in FY11.

Eligibility

All National Guard and Reserve members and their families are eligible, as are active duty members and their families who are geographically dispersed from an installation.

For More Information

Commands may request resources in support of deployment events by visiting jfsap.mhf.dod.mil.