

# Joint Family Support Assistance Program

*Quick Reference Guide for Partners*



Providing policy, tools, and resources for service members and their families.



Updated October 25, 2011



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## Mission

To provide mobile, high quality, effective, and efficient family assistance and services to augment the ability of existing family programs to meet the needs of family members of active duty, Guard, and Reserve members, specifically targeting families who are geographically dispersed from a military installation.

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## Purpose

To enhance the ability of members and families to cope effectively with the challenges of the military lifestyle, including deployment. Joint Family Support Assistance Program (JFSAP) teams partner with military, state, and local resources to assess needs, identify resources and address gaps, and enhance and build community capacity.



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## Law/Policy

- Public Law 109-364, section 675
- Department of Defense Directive (DoDD) 5124.02, “Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)),” 23 June 2008
- DoDD 1342.17, “Family Policy,” 30 December 1988, certified as current 21 November 2003
- DoD Instruction (DoDI) 6490.06, “Counseling Services for Department of Defense (DoD) Military, Guard and Reserve, Certain Affiliated Personnel, and Their Family Members,” 21 April 2009

# Welcome

## from the JFSAP Manager

We are excited to partner with you to provide services to military members and families within your state, specifically targeting those who are geographically dispersed from a military installation. I want to extend a warm welcome to you and offer my support to you as we work together. This Quick Reference Guide provides basic information and resources to assist you and your team in day-to-day operations. Please email me if you have questions or suggestions about JFSAP, and visit the JFSAP section on MilitaryHOMEFRONT at [www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/sp/jfsap](http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/sp/jfsap).

~ JFSAP Manager  
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## JFSAP Information

### Background

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2007 authorized the 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

- JFSAP teams augment National Guard Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) family programs in all fifty states and four territories.
- 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 an MOS Consultant, MFLC, CYB-MFLC, or Personal Financial Counselor (PFC)) based upon the need of the state.
- 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 (<http://jfsap.mhf.dod.mil>) enables commanders to request on-demand resources for deployment-related events, including YRRP events. On-demand resources include non-medical counseling, financial services, and MOS resources.

## Results

JFSAP provides support to more than 800,000 geographically dispersed members (active duty, Guard, and Reserve).

## 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 (DoD) and other federal agencies, state and local agencies, and nonprofit 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.