

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR THOSE WHO SERVE

The Military Family Research Institute (MFRI) at Purdue University conducts research on issues that affect military and veteran families and works to shape policies, programs and practices that improve their well-being. Founded in 2000, MFRI envisions a diverse support community that understands the most pressing needs of military and veteran families. To achieve this, MFRI collaborates to create meaningful solutions for them. This internationally-recognized organization is located at Purdue University's College of Health and Human Sciences, in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies.

MFRI provides invaluable insights to organizations, and helps them deliver effective programming to military and veteran families. We are engaged in research projects, initiatives and outreach activities nationwide, including:

- » **Focus Forward Fellowship** Designed for military-connected women attending four-year colleges and universities, the Fellowship begins with a summer residential portion and continues in an online learning community throughout the academic year. MFRI created the program after Gallup-Purdue index data suggested that women student veterans experience unique challenges on campus. The Fellows build communities of support and connections. They achieve greater academic and career success, as they explore and integrate into their identities as women and veterans. For more information, visit www.mfri.purdue.edu/FWDFellows
- » **Star Behavioral Health Providers (SBHP)** MFRI developed SBHP in partnership with experts from the Center for Deployment Psychology, the National Guard and others. Used as a model for federal legislation, SBHP trains behavioral health professionals to better understand challenges associated with military service. The SBHP website contains a registry of trained providers for those who need it. For more information, visit www.starproviders.org
- » **Joining Community Forces Indiana (JCFI)** This unique partnership brings together MFRI, the Indiana National Guard, Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Veterans Affairs to help Indiana communities better serve military and veteran families. Learn more on Facebook www.facebook.com/JoiningCommunityForcesIndiana
- » **Measuring Communities** MFRI and Purdue University's Center for Regional Development created a tool that provides users key data specific to military and veteran individuals, family members and issues at local, state and national levels. The tool enables users to visualize and compare military- and veteran-specific data, including employment, demographics and health. Access the tool and the 2019 report at www.measuringcommunities.org
- » **Family Journeys: From Deployment to Reintegration** This landmark study sought to answer questions about the impact of deployment on families. To do so, researchers conducted interviews and collected data from Indiana National Guard members and their families. Results have been published in scholarly journals like the *Journal of Marriage and Family* and the *Journal of Family Psychology*.



Research with impact

MFRI explores the most important issues facing military families with a non-partisan, unbiased, unlimited focus on their well-being. Throughout its history, MFRI has:

- Served as a congressional resource, testifying before Congress and providing dozens of presentations to legislators and policymakers research about deployment, education and employment, veteran issues, impact of military service on children and more.
- Provided more than 100,000 hours of training to behavioral health providers, who in turn have served more than 11,000 service members, veterans and family members.
- Educated more than 375 student leaders from 210 institutions in 44 states through Student Veterans of America's national leadership conference and leadership summits. Our Focus Forward Fellowship offers an evidence-informed curriculum aimed at supporting the academic and career success of women student veterans.
- Trained more than 250 undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in colleges across Purdue's campus in concepts, theory and practices related to military family research.
- Led more than 200 professional and scholarly presentations and authored more than 40 academic publications and books.

Support MFRI

MFRI depends on support to continue its work improving the lives of military members, veterans and their families through meaningful research and outreach.

- **Partner with us.** MFRI partners with a variety of organizations in an effort to accomplish goals collaboratively. Together we can create and improve research-informed programs and expand our collective reach. For more information, contact mfri@purdue.edu.
- **Make a financial contribution.** MFRI relies on individual, foundation and corporation generosity to support our mission and further our efforts. To learn more about making a gift, contact mfri@purdue.edu.
- **Connect on social media and urge others to do the same.** Engage with us on [Facebook.com/MFRIPurdue](https://www.facebook.com/MFRIPurdue) or [Twitter.com/@MFRIPurdue](https://twitter.com/MFRIPurdue) and share your passion for our goals with your networks.

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