

Alliance Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 5



Mission Statement: The Alliance seeks to optimize the preparedness of behavioral health providers working to enhance the resilience, recovery and reintegration of Service members, Veterans, and their Family members and communities throughout the military, post-military, and family life cycles.

Current Research

Gewirtz, A. H., DeGarmo, D. S., & Zamir, O. (2017). Testing a military family stress model. *Family Process*, doi: 10.1111/famp.12282.

This study examines a military family stress model, evaluating associations between deployment-related stressors (i.e., deployment length/number, posttraumatic stress disorder [PTSD] symptoms) and parent, child, parenting, and dyadic adjustment among families in which a parent had previously deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan in the recent conflicts. Married families ($N = 293$) with at least one child between the ages of 4 and 12 were recruited from a Midwestern state. Service members were from the Reserve Component (National Guard or Reserves); fathers ($N = 253$) and/or mothers had deployed ($N = 45$) to the recent conflicts in the Middle East. Multiple-method (observations of parenting and couple interactions; questionnaires) and multiple informant measures were gathered online and in the homes of participants, from parents, children, and teachers. The authors argue that their findings demonstrate associations between mothers' and fathers' PTSD symptoms and a latent variable of child adjustment comprising teacher, parent, and child report. Mothers' but not fathers' PTSD symptoms were also associated with dyadic adjustment and parenting practices; parenting practices were in turn associated with child adjustment. The authors conclude that parents' PTSD symptoms, rather than length or number of deployments, appear to be the key family stressor for families following deployment, exerting effects on child adjustment both indirectly and directly through parenting.

Resources for Supporting Military Children

Military Kids Connect offers a resource guide for parents and professionals working to support military children. Topics range from working with children in an educational setting to videos that educate and normalize the typical experiences of military children, as well as working with special populations, and supporting children experiencing trauma and grief. The resource guide can be found [here](#).



Pre-recorded Webinar: Transforming Anger: Proven Strategies

This pre-recorded webinar offers health care providers tools to recognize the cognitive processes that trigger anger behavior. Presenters discuss proven strategies to transform the negative emotional, cognitive and physiological aspects of anger, into more constructive behaviors. The webinar features tips focused on maintaining physical health to reduce and ward off vulnerability to anger. Presenters also discuss behavioral and cognitive strategies that teach service members healthy communication and collaborative problem solving skills and helpful methods to calm someone during an episode of anger. At the conclusion of this webinar, participants will be able to: 1) analyze the impact of anger triggers on health and relationships; 2) examine the physical health vulnerabilities to anger; 3) identify cognitive and behavioral strategies to modify anger behavior. To access the presentation, podcast, transcript, and resources, click [here](#).



Pre-recorded Webinar: Post--deployment Gender Differences in PTSD, Unhealthy Drinking

This pre-recorded presentation introduces recent research that has focused on female service members and post-deployment gender differences in posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and unhealthy drinking. The speakers discuss VA/DoD clinical practice guidelines and empirically supported treatments for PTSD and substance use disorders.

At the conclusion of the webinar, participants will be able to: 1) discuss gender similarities and differences in combat exposure and post-deployment health problems; 2) identify military and combat-related experiences associated with PTSD; and 3) demonstrate empirically supported treatments for PTSD and alcohol use for service members. To access the presentation, podcast, transcript, and resources, click [here](#).



Conferences

[APNA 15th Annual Clinical Psychopharmacology Institute](#)

June 8-11, 2017
Baltimore, MD

[American Assoc. for Marriage and Family Therapy Annual Conference](#)

October 5-8, 2017
Atlanta, GA

[Collaborative Family Healthcare Association](#)

October 19-21, 2017
Houston, TX

[National Council on Family Relations](#)

November 15-18, 2017
Orlando, FL

Federal Job Opportunities

All federal jobs are posted on the USAJOBS.Gov website. Go to www.usajobs.gov & go to “Advanced Search” & under “Series Search” type in “0101”, “0180” or “0185”
NOTE: You can refine your search on the page to limit to VA, Army, Navy, Air Force etc. Tips for using the USAJOBS website can be found [here](#).

0101 Series Jobs: Covers jobs in the Social Sciences, Psychology, and Welfare Services. These jobs may or may not require licensures.

0180 Series Jobs: Covers jobs in the Psychology and Counseling Psychology. Primarily jobs for those with PhD or PsyD, LMFT, or other counseling degrees and licensures.

0185 Series Jobs: Covers jobs for Social Workers ONLY. Must have licensure (i.e. LCSW)

0602 Series: Covers jobs for Psychiatrists.

Non-Appropriated Fund (NAF) Positions

NAF employment is considered federal employment. However, the monies used to pay the salaries of NAF employees come from a different source. Civil service positions are paid for by money appropriated by Congress. NAF money, on the other hand, is self-generated by activities and services that use NAF employees. Visit the following links to apply for NAF positions.

Department of Veterans Affairs Jobs

VA Hiring Initiative: The VA is hiring behavioral health providers for positions at VA facilities across the country.

VA Jobs: The VA has created links for providers that make it easy to search for VA jobs in your profession. Please click on the links below in order to see all of the current VA job openings, as listed on the USAJOBS website, for your profession:

[Psychiatrists](#)

[Psychologists](#)

[Social Workers](#)

[Licensed Professional Counselors](#)

[Marriage and Family Therapists](#)

[Psychiatric Nurses](#)

Non-Federal Job Opportunities

The federal government also uses contractors to provide behavioral health services to Service members and others. The government contracts with private contracting companies, who will then hire the individual providers to provide the necessary services. Several contractors known to hire behavioral health providers are listed below, along with links to websites that list job opportunities for providers.

Zeiders Enterprises [Link to current job openings.](#)

SERCO - [Link to All SERCO Job Announcements](#)

Choctaw Enterprises - [Main link to all jobs](#)

SAIC Career Opportunities - [SAIC Job Openings](#)

Health Net - [Link to all job openings at Health Net](#)

Health e-Careers Network - [Main link to all jobs](#)

Magellan Health- [Main link to all jobs](#)

Do you have information for the June 2017 Newsletter?

Please send it to Dr. Angela Lamson at lamsona@ecu.edu by June 8, 2017