

# Military Family Research Institute: An Introduction

Defense Center of Excellence for Psychological Health  
and Traumatic Brain Injury Webinar

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# ***What is the Military Family Research Institute?***

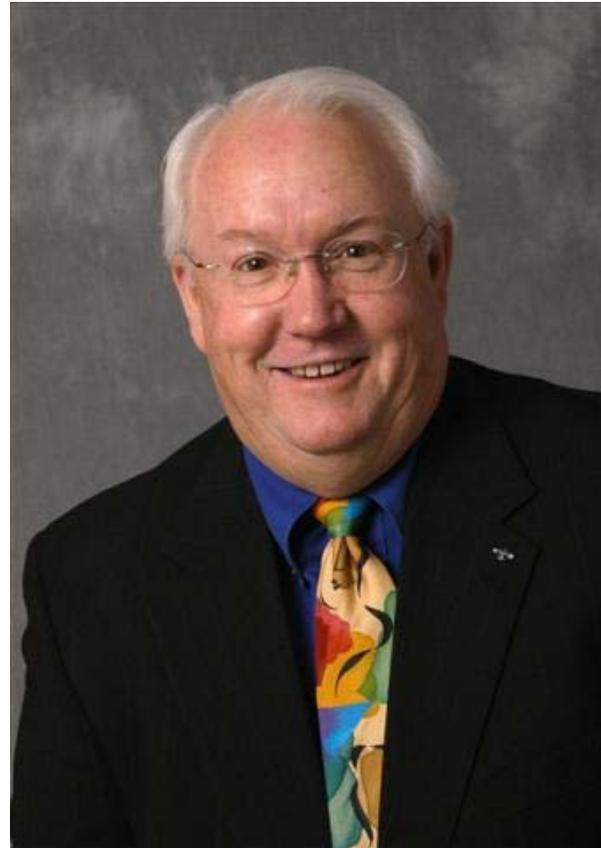
- **A research and outreach organization at Purdue University, the public land grant institution in Indiana**
- **Created in 2000 with funding from the Office of Military Community and Family Policy in OSD, now funded by the Lilly Endowment, the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, DoD, Sesame Workshop, Zero to Three, UCLA, and others.**

## ***Our Strategic Goals***

- **Support military communities**
- **Strengthen civilian communities**
- **Generate important new knowledge**
- **Influence programs, policies and practices**
- **Grow and sustain a vibrant learning organization**

# MFRI helps to support:

- Family Assistance Centers, Family Readiness Groups, Family Readiness Support Assistants
- Yellow Ribbon program



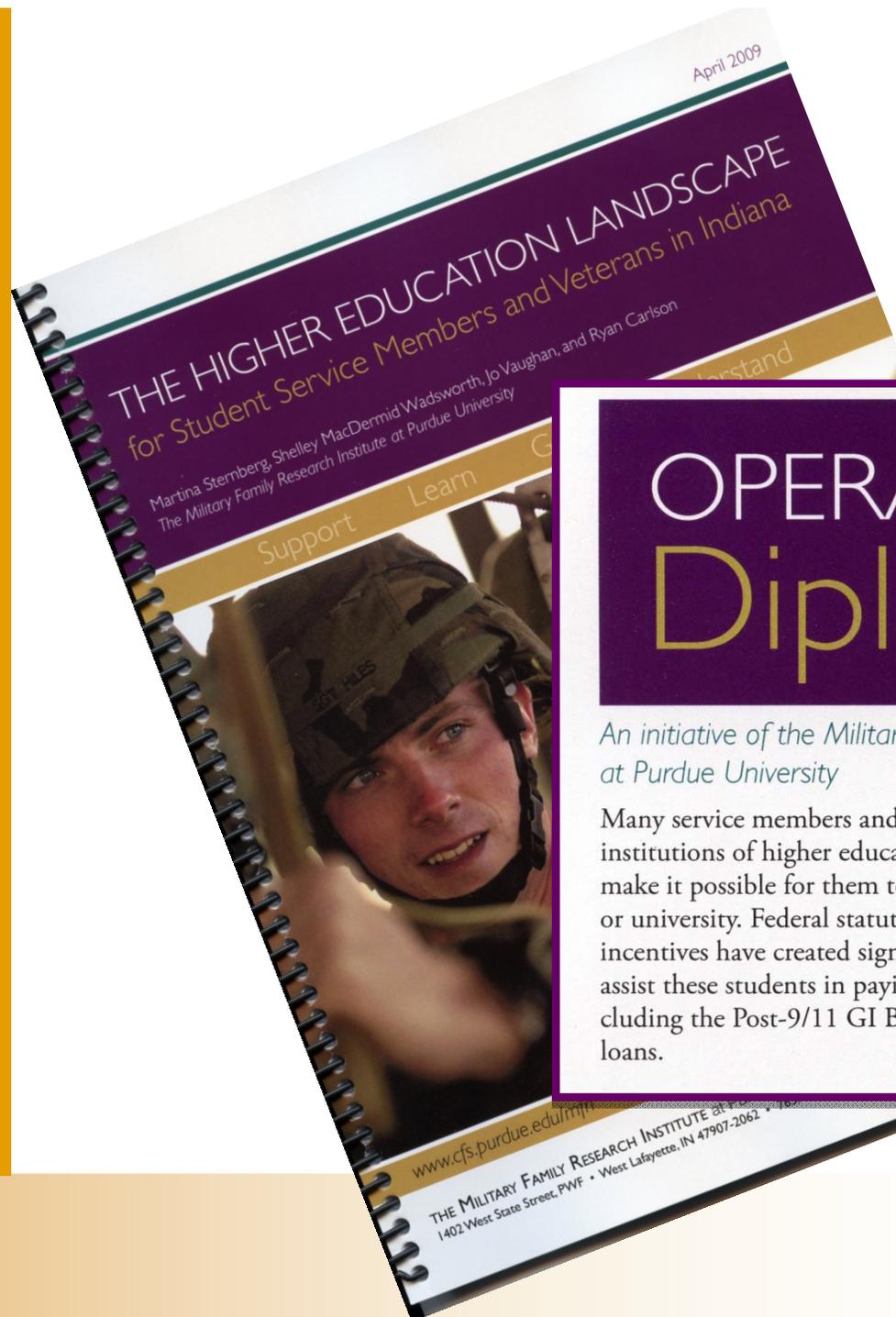
Leadership  
Training for  
FRG  
Leaders

PASSPORT  
toward success  
Helping Military Kids and Families Connect



# MFRI helps to support:

- Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve
- Indiana National Guard higher education efforts



## OPERATION Diploma

*An initiative of the Military Family Research Institute at Purdue University*

Many service members and veterans are students in institutions of higher education, and GI Bill benefits make it possible for them to enter or re-enter college or university. Federal statutes and military enlistment incentives have created significant funding structures to assist these students in paying for higher education, including the Post-9/11 GI Bill and forgiveness of student loans.

# Impacts



- \$25,000 awarded to statewide SVOs in semi-annual organizational plan competitions
- 43% increase in number of statewide SVOs since June 2009

MFRI helps  
to support:

- Operation  
Military Kids
- Summer  
camp

## Operation Purple Camp



# MFRI helps to support:

- Indiana National Guard chaplains
- Respite and retreat
- Mobilizing civilian pastors
- Engaging faith communities

# MFRI helps to support:

- Understanding military families
- Family processes of reintegration
- The experiences of military children
- Interaction with the health care system
- ‘Families on the Fringe’
- Family adjustment to wounds and injuries

# MFRI helps to support:

- Strengthening civilian communities

- Community awareness
- Community mobilization
- Training

**HOW to HELP**  
Military Families as a Day Care Provider

**Did you know?**

- With more than 4,000 National Guard and Reserve soldiers currently deployed from

**HOW to HELP**  
Military Families as an Employer

**Did you know?**

- Of the 1.5 million U.S. soldiers who have served in Middle East conflicts, 25% are National Guard or Reservist service members and will return to the civilian workforce following deployment.
- Service members often bring a unique skill set and values to the job market.
- Department of Defense estimates that 36% have

**HOW to HELP**  
Military Families as an Employer

**Practical Applications**  
What service members contribute to the organizations they work for:

- They bring high educational standards through both traditional and on-the-job learning.
- They have routinely held positions of leadership and understand the importance of mentoring other people.
- They have worked with people of diverse backgrounds and in

... routine drug screening. ... are qualities that

With many adults as veterans, the United States has a long tradition of patriotism. As citizens, we honor the service, commitment, and sometimes the ultimate sacrifice of the men and women who serve our country. We recognize the significance of the selfless service of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines.

The *Our Heroes' Tree*<sup>SM</sup> program provides a forum for libraries to erect heroes' trees to recognize citizens who have served our nation in and times of peace and conflict.



# OUR Heroes' Tree

A Community Outreach Program for Libraries

Sponsored by THE MILITARY FAMILY RESEARCH INSTITUTE at Purdue University

*Created by Marlene Lee and Stephanie Pickup*





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