



Dear Practitioner,

MHN Government Services is seeking independently licensed practitioners to work with Department of Defense Military & Family Life Consultant program.

The Military & Family Life Consultant (MFLC) program was designed to supplement existing counseling services on military installations. MFLCs deliver non-clinical, supportive, solution-oriented services to military personnel and families; this may include outreach and direct contact. Support may be provided in the form of individual coaching or in psychoeducational groups. Consultants generally work during business hours, but may be asked to respond after hours in urgent situations. Child/Youth Services (CYS) Consultants deliver services both on and off military installations.

We have a particular need for Child/Youth Services consultants during summer 2008 and throughout the year. CYS Consultants provide information, coaching, training and education for military families, Service Members, teachers and child care professionals, working with issues concerning children and teens, up to age 18. CYS Consultants may also provide direct, non-clinical services. Note that CYS Consultants must have specific practice experience in treatment of young children and adolescents, in addition to meeting the program requirement for independent licensure.

Consultant assignments are made on a "rotational" basis; a CYS "rotation" at a given Military installation is generally 60 days in length. CYS rotations may be stateside or overseas. Pay is based on \$50/hour, and though work week varies by assignment, a 40-hour work week is typical. Air travel, lodging, car rental, and a "per diem" for meals and incidentals are paid by MHN GS (for assignments in locations distant from the practitioner's home).

Beginning this year we also anticipate a need for school-based MFLCs in 60-day rotations, supporting school staff development and students at installation schools both stateside and overseas.

Attached is a "Program Requirements" document outlining MFLC requirements as well as CYS-specific requirements.

Below is a link to an internet-based application request form. You will be asked to supply your name and e-mail address; we will use this information to e-mail program application materials to you. The application request form also asks you to respond to several pre-screening questions.

Unfortunately, since our program relies heavily on e-mail and Internet communication and use, you must request application materials using this web site--we are not able to deliver or accept your request in any other format.

Here is the link to the application request survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=svtzovlo0cxEfRgX0oLR_2fw_3d_3d

We have attached Survey Monkey Frequently Asked Questions to assist you with any issues you may have with the Survey Monkey platform.

Attached you will also find a program flyer which describes additional opportunities available in our MFLC Network. Note that On Demand work tends to be specific to geographic location, and opportunities for these assignments may be limited.

Thank you for your interest in the Military & Family Life Consultant program. We look forward to hearing from you!



Practitioners needed to support Military personnel and families in DoD programs

MHN Government Services is seeking independently licensed practitioners for rewarding opportunities with Department of Defense Programs

What would make MFLC work a fit for you, and you for the work?

Are you thinking about a change? Ready to move away from the traditional clinical hour? Might you be interested in work that is, potentially, immediately rewarding?

Or would you simply like to take a break—and do some meaningful work? Spend part of the summer supporting kids who really need support?

Are you someone who “thinks on your feet”? Can you see yourself learning military structure and working within that structure? Do you have a desire to travel to military installations, stateside and overseas, to support active duty members, National Guard and their families?

The MFLC Program

The Military & Family Life Consultant (MFLC) Program was created in 2004 in response to increasing need for support for Service members and their families driven by wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. MFLC services are designed to supplement the existing counseling services on military installations. MFLCs deliver non-clinical, supportive, solution-oriented services to military personnel and families; this may include outreach and direct contact. Support may be provided in the form of individual coaching or in psychoeducational groups. Consultants generally work during business hours, but may be asked to respond after hours in urgent situations.

Details

Military & Family Life Consultants are typically Independent Contractors. (Full-time positions may be available in specific locations; see below) Weekly time worked varies somewhat, according to assignment, but for rotational assignments MFLCs most often will work full 40-hour weeks. When Consultants travel to a distant location for an assignment, and need to stay near the base, MHN GS will pay for travel, lodging, rental car, and pays a “per diem” for meals and incidentals during the assignment. For assignments close to the practitioner’s home, a mileage reimbursement is available.

We are recruiting for our MFLC network now! We have a variety of opportunities available:

Year Round Opportunities



Time commitment of 30+ Days

Outreach/Rotational

Rotational assignments occur throughout the year and involve delivery of services both on and off the military installations. These are face-to-face, solution-focused counseling, outreach and educational services, including specialized child and youth summer programs. *Outreach/Rotational* assignments may be 30, 45, 60, or 90 days in length; average assignment length is 45 days. Consultants most often support units and families who are stationed at and live on or near installations. Pay is based on \$50/hour, and though work week varies by assignment, a 40-hour work week is typical. Air travel, lodging, and car rental and a "per diem" for meals and incidentals are paid by MHN GS for assignments to locations distant from practitioner home.

Child/Youth Services

CYS Consultants are rotational assignments which require specific practice experience in treatment of *young* children and adolescents. Consultants provide information, coaching, training, and education to military families, service members, teachers and child care professionals on issues concerning children and teens, up to age 18. The CYS Consultant may also provide direct, non-clinical services.

Contact: Dod.inquiry@healthnet.com

Time commitment of 1 - 3 Days (WEEKENDS)

On Demand

On Demand assignments occur year-round and include non-medical counseling support and psychoeducational presentations which deal with issues such as deployment and reintegration, communication, and grief and loss. These services primarily support National Guard /Reserve Component Service members and their families, and are typically required on weekends, also throughout the year. Services are most often delivered in National Guard Drill Centers or Reserve Centers which are usually some distance from a military installation. Payment for On Demand services is based on \$55/hour.

Contact: Dod.inquiry@healthnet.com

Opportunities during Summer Months

Time commitment of 7 – 14 Days/ Time commitment of 60 Days

Summer Youth Programs

MFLCs in DoD Summer programs work with children, teachers and/or camp counselors and may address issues such as deployment and reintegration, grief and loss, and communication skills. Payment for MFLC work in Summer Programs is \$50 per hour, based on a full time schedule. Air travel, lodging, and car rental and a “per diem” for meals and incidentals are paid by MHN GS for assignments to locations distant from practitioner home.

Purple Camps: “Purple” is a military term which refers to inclusion of all military branches. Purple camps are available to children of deployed or soon-to-be deployed Service Members in every branch. Children at Purple camps make connections with other kids whose parents have been deployed; they also learn coping and communication skills. Purple Camps may be 7 to 14 days in length and will occur throughout the summer.

DoDEA Summer Enrichment Programs: The Department of Defense Education Activity uses a multi-age classroom format in its Summer Enrichment Programs, which occur both stateside and overseas. These educational programs take place in school settings, generally during morning hours. MFLCs are available to consult with teachers and/or children as needed during school sessions; consultants may provide services in the installation’s Youth Center during afternoons. DoDEA Summer Enrichment Program assignments are 60-day rotations.

Contact: dod.inquiry@healthnet.com

Opportunities for Full Time Employment

Time commitment: Full Time

Full Time MFLC

Note that this is not the Independent Contractor position and therefore hourly rate does not apply; this is a Full-Time, salaried position (DOE).

The Family Life Consultant provides information, coaching, training, and education to military families and service members; provides on-site non-clinical problem-solving when other resources are not available, and makes appropriate referrals and warm transfers to military and community resources as necessary. The FT MFLC provides direct services, coordinates and plans service delivery under general direction, conducts non-clinical needs assessments and counseling, problem solving in topics such as child development, behavior management, and family trauma.

to apply online, search by state location: www.careersathealthnet.com.

Voices from the Field: Vignettes from current MFLCs

We had a unit that deployed tonight. Last week was their ceremony and today, starting at 3pm, they were getting ready to load up.

Huge piles of gear, weapons being checked out, and several hours of waiting. Lots of tears, lots of anticipation, lots of high emotion in the air. I spent the day as a compassionate presence... walking through groups of eager soldiers, sharing a laugh, wishing them Godspeed and thanking them for their service; smiling through tears with wives and girlfriends, handing out tissue and wiping smears of mascara off swollen eyes; hunkering down to children and offering a tiny distraction while their fathers loaded their armor and weapons. I went to dinner at the DFAC, had a quiet meal with a single soldier who had no one to send him off. Then, back out into the cold, waiting for the buses to arrive.

It's an amazing thing, really, to be a part of something so ancient that it speaks to the primal part of the soul. Since time immemorial have men departed for battle. There's a pride I took in the nobility of the action, a deep-seated connection to women sending their warrior into harm's way.

About twenty hundred the huge coaches rolled in, and the pile of rucksacks and Kevlar was reduced to nothing, the buses' cargo holds bulging with camouflage packs and helmets. I continued to make my way gently through the crowd, just doing what I do... it didn't seem like anything too special...

And then I walked unwittingly into the presence of the JMRC Commanding General. I shook his hand, introduced myself, and told him what an honor it was to bear witness to this ceremony. We had a brief conversation about the primal levels of emotion this brings out, and briefly discussed our work, both as individuals and how we interface through the support of the soldier. I thanked him, and asked to be excused, as I had work to do, and again thanked him for the honor of being able to attend. He reached out his hand to shake mine, and as he opened it, he displayed his personal coin. The Commanding General of the Joint Multinational Training Command, asked me if I knew what this was, and I said 'yes, I am truly humbled and honored.' He shook my hand, awarding me with an honor generally reserved for Soldiers. I thanked him again, and went on with the quiet business of spreading peace, one small bit at a time.

Delta Company then came to formation, then to attention. This was it. Time to deploy. A few words were spoken by Command, then, the Command Sergeant Major gave the order to 'Fall Out!' and the tears started. Last good byes, quivering hugs, and desperate kisses... a little boy running toward the bus, screaming, hands up, being chased by his mom, "no, honey, you can't go with Daddy;" Hearts breaking in audible snaps as the diesel engines fired up, doors closed, and air brakes released. Waves as the buses rolled off into the night...

I stayed to offer what small comfort I could to those lingering in the cold night air. Then, climbed in my car and cried all the way back to the hotel.

Once back in my room, I reverently took the coin from my pocket, examining it for the first time... "Joint Multinational Training Command, 7th United States Army," it read on one side, and on the other: "Presented by the Commanding General, For Warrior Excellence."

And again, I am reminded of my calling, my mission. I'm proud to have my work recognized, humbled, as always, by the sacrifice and service I'm privileged to bear witness to.

Karen M. House
MFLC, MHNGS, writing from Hohenfels

It was the lack of heat that would so normally have greeted me in late June in the southern United States that I remember the *least* about my first assignment as a Military Family Life Consultant (MFLC). I knew I would be working with school aged children for a week long camp, knew I was excited about the opportunity and also knew I was nervous about my new role as 'consultant.' Greeted on site by the state's regional youth coordinator, I was told that my partner and I had her 'blessing' to support the children in any way we felt helpful; I remember feeling hopeful and thinking that this was going to be a positive experience.

Tasked to run several discussion groups with the children, I remember wondering to myself - 'how open *would* these children be in expressing their thoughts and feelings about what it was like to be a military child?' Once the groups began however, it didn't take long for me to find out. One boy, quiet amongst his peers prior to the group, suddenly spoke up and shared with everyone in the room about the aftermath of his parent's divorce, describing in detail the choices his father had made upon returning from 'being away.' The father brought home to the boy not just the news that he had remarried but the new wife and her son as well, moving them into the very house the young boy would stay in when he would visit his dad. Crying, he told of the pain he felt when he had to share his bedroom; missing his dad was hard enough - feeling lost in a new family was even harder; the tears continued to flow, and not just down *his* face. And then and there, in the middle of a small room, in a building on a small camp in the southeastern United States, my partner and I watched as the other children began to express their support for the boy, walking over to him, hugging him, telling him that he "had what it takes," and then slowly, opening up themselves about their own experiences as military children. We watched a community form that afternoon - I know it, around this brave boy, around his experience, around the others being inspired to open up and share their pain, even as they supported the boy in his. As it should have been and was, these remarkable children did all the work, and we were simply the 'honored guests.'

A week in the deep south working with some of our country's bravest children, that's what I remember the *most* when I think about my first assignment as an MFLC.

Grateful

(details of the above vignette have been significantly altered to preserve client confidentiality)

dod.inquiry@healthnet.com



To be considered for the DoD Network, consultants must meet the following minimum qualifications:

Have a valid state license as an independent behavioral health care practitioner. *Providers eligible for network participation are:* Psychologists, Social Workers, Professional Counselors, Marriage Family Therapists, Registered Nurses (with psychiatric specialty).
Professional liability insurance of at least \$1 million/\$1 million
U.S. Citizenship
Possession of an active U.S. Passport; (or be willing to acquire one before assignments outside the United States)
Must have or be able to acquire Social Security card
Valid drivers license and willingness to drive at assigned locations
Ability to drive a standard transmission vehicle if interested in working overseas
May not be currently employed by a behavioral health care plan
Must have a valid email address and frequent computer access
Must physically be able to carry one's own luggage through travel process, and be willing and able to walk and be physically active while on bases

Preferred Direct Practice Experience. You must have three of the following:

Training and experience in rapid assessment and problem resolution (e.g. EAP)
Ability to work in various environments helping people identify problems and develop action plans
Experience working with children and adolescents
Experience working with couples and families
Experience working with grief and loss
Experience with Veterans or Veteran Affairs;
Experience working with military personnel and families
Experience working in school systems

Participation in the program is contingent upon:

Recommendation of the Clinical Director following a personal interview
Meet MHN's credentialing requirements
Passing a criminal history and background check
Compliance with MFLC training program

CYS-Specific experience requirements:

Demonstration of adequate and relevant academic coursework or clinical training in the treatment of children; at least 1500 hours supervised experience treating children and families. In general, at least 20% of current practice involves the treatment of children and their families.

Survey Monkey FAQs

Q: When I click the link I get the Survey Monkey home page, but no survey. What should I do now?

A: You may be accessing the link from an AOL browser. We have heard that users accessing from AOL have trouble with the link. You might try opening up Internet Explorer, and accessing the link through Yahoo, or some other program. The problem may also be with incomplete copying of the link; see question below. *You do not need to open an account with Survey Monkey. If you have reached their home page instead of a survey you have used an incomplete link.*

Q: I have pasted the link into my browser, but it does not seem to be working.

A: Sometimes the Survey Monkey link does not copy properly; specifically, the underline which connotes a link obscures underscores in the Survey Monkey web address. If you see blank spaces in the URL (Web Address), those should be filled with underscores (for example, what looks like EA 3d 3d should be EA_3d_3d.)

Q: Did my survey submit?

A: The **only** way you will know for sure that your survey has gone through is if you see the "Thank You" window at the end of the survey. ***If you do not see this window your survey has not gone through.*** We will not be able to give you further information if you call us.

Q: I filled out my "Operation Update your Records" survey in the past, and I thought it went through, but I still got a letter saying I needed to complete this update. Why did this happen?

A: "Operation Update your Records" requires a complete, 6-digit MHN Provider Identification Number (PIN). If you entered this incorrectly, your update did not register in our system. You may verify your PIN by calling **800-541-3353**.

Q: May I just print the survey and fax or mail it to you?

A: No. This is an online tool and must be completed online.

Q: No matter how hard I try I cannot work with this survey. I am losing patience.

A: Check the survey for red error messages indicating you have not answered a required question—this is often the reason a survey simply will not submit. Since we use the Survey Monkey platform quite frequently in the MFLC program, this is a good opportunity for you to try out this application and make sure this aspect of the program is a fit for you. We have not yet had severe technical problems with Survey Monkey, but certainly will work with the vendor, and with you, if we do. Otherwise, it's a pretty straightforward application—and, again, may be an opportunity for you to see if the applications and technology our program uses are going to be a fit for you.