



Military Family
Advisory Network

2019

ANNUAL REPORT



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A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Partners:

The Military Family Advisory Network (MFAN) is pleased to share with you its 2019 Annual Report, which serves as a roadmap for where we have been, and where we are headed.

MFAN had a busy and productive year – bringing together military family community influencers, strengthening its programs, developing innovative new resources, and growing as an organization.

In 2019, we transitioned between advisory boards, bringing on our fourth cohort. We were thrilled that 117 individuals applied to serve on MFAN's advisory board – a true testament to MFAN's reputation and the impact we have in the military family community. MFAN's board of directors carefully reviewed each applicant and selected 13 individuals representing the diversity within our community to serve as the next cohort. **Consistent with our previous advisory boards, this cohort represents the active duty, guard, and reserve communities and all branches of service. The group is also diverse in race, ethnicity, LGBTQ+ representation, and geography.** The advisory board members are located across the country and each person brings a unique network and set of experiences. And this past year, organizations, government agencies, and leaders requested calls and meetings with the MFAN advisory board members to access their extensive professional and personal networks and hear directly from military families about their experiences.

Also, in 2019, after hearing from the advisory board of issues with military housing, MFAN disrupted the military housing landscape through a comprehensive survey on the experiences of military families living in privatized military housing. This survey was referenced by each Senator on the Senate Armed Services Committee at a hearing in February 2019. This research has been the cornerstone of privatized housing reform and led to the Military Housing Roundtable (MHR) – a convening of government and private-sector entities with a vested interest in safe, healthy, and affordable homes for military families on and off base.

In the fall, we fielded our third Military Family Support Programming Survey, which allowed military families to tell us what they value and need. Thanks to incredible outreach efforts by our advisory board, partners, and network, nearly 8,000 military families completed the survey. We look forward to releasing our data in 2020.

As we look ahead to 2020, I can't help but reflect on the incredible growth of MFAN and the impact that our organization has made. Thank you to our partners, sponsors, and advisors for their generous involvement, as well as the military and veteran community for giving us the opportunity to serve them.

Sincerely,



Shannon Razsadin
Executive Director

ABOUT MFAN

The **Military Family Advisory Network** is the authentic voice of the modern military family and the bridge that connects military families to the resources, people, and information they depend on to successfully navigate all phases of military life.



OUR ROLE & APPROACH

1

CONVENE

Bring together leaders in the military community: nonprofit, military, and government services.

3

RESPOND

Create data-informed solutions in the areas of greatest need.

2

RESEARCH

Qualitative research studies tell the stories of military families.

4

REPORT

Share research data to inform policy makers and service providers.

MFAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The board of directors is a diverse group of military spouses, former advisors, and civilian supporters that provides official advisement and direction to MFAN, as well as assumes official fiduciary responsibility.



Rosemary William
Chair



Erin Ward
Treasurer



Rory Brosius
Vice Chair



Tammy Moore



Kevin Miller



Joseph Kopser



Jack Benson

MFAN ADVISORY BOARD

All of our advisors bring different backgrounds to the table, giving MFAN a fuller understanding of what military families need and value. Through the diverse networks of each advisory board member, MFAN is able to implement a peer influencer model, which allows for real, authentic connection and information sharing across the military and veteran community.

Advisors meet on a monthly basis through video conferences. They talk about what they are seeing, hearing, and experiencing in their military communities, and when a challenge is raised, they work together to find the best solution. During these meetings, advisors also regularly review programs and resources presented by other organizations, providing candid feedback informed by their experiences as members of a military family. This work really is a group effort — and that approach underscores everything MFAN does. Advisors apply for and are selected to serve two-year terms. The current advisors were selected in July 2019 and will serve through June 2021.



Amanosi Adeniyi



Emily Gerson



Annette Maldonado



Brian Alvarado



Joanna Guldin



Hana Romer



Kellie Artis



Libby Jamison



E.J. Smith



Hannah Becker



Kris Johnson



Brianna George



Lacey Langford



FY 2019 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

✕ In 2019, after hearing from the Military Family Advisory Network (MFAN) Advisory Board about issues regarding military housing, MFAN disrupted the military housing landscape through a comprehensive survey on the experiences of military families living in privatized military housing.

» In just one week, over 17,000 military families responded sharing their experiences.

✕ From that, MFAN developed the Privatized Military Housing Report. It was referenced by each Senator on the Senate Armed Services Committee at a hearing in February 2019. This research led to the Military Housing Roundtable (MHR) – a convening of government and private-sector entities with a vested interest in safe, healthy, and affordable homes for military families on and off base.

» This work garnered over 500 million earned media impressions for MFAN in 2019.

» This work increased use of MFAN's research to inform policy development as a result of the Privatized Military Housing Report.

» MFAN's privatized military housing survey data informed military family housing reform in the NDAA, which was one of the largest sections of the bill in 2019.

» MFAN's privatized military housing survey data informed a feedback letter regarding the draft version of the Tenant Bill of Rights to the Assistant Secretary of Defense.

✕ MFAN's Executive Director, Shannon Razsadin, was also regularly called upon by local and national media, including CBS, CNN, and FOX, to weigh-in on military-related topics.

✕ MFAN's doctoral-level research team also fielded the Military Family Support Programming Survey in 2019.

» With nearly 8,000 military family respondents, this was MFAN's most comprehensive research effort to-date.

✕ In 2019, MFAN also continued to grow and cultivate its coalitions surrounding military family financial readiness and food insecurity.



FY 2019 IN REVIEW

QUARTER 1

JANUARY THROUGH MARCH 2019

MFAN's research focused on privatized military housing. A survey was fielded in January 2019 to evaluate families' experiences living in privatized military housing. The senior director of research and program evaluation fielded and coded the survey, which had nearly 17,000 participants, and began analyzing the data and developing the Privatized Military Housing Report Part I. The preliminary report was released February 13, 2019, in time for a U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services hearing on the state of privatized military housing. The report became a key talking point among senators in the hearing as proof of the negative circumstances in military housing communities nationally. In the months that followed, many congressional representatives requested information from MFAN about issues in their districts. Early media coverage was positive. The executive director appeared on NBC, and the senior director of research and program evaluation appeared on C-SPAN, to discuss the data. Media coverage continued through the second quarter.

QUARTER 2

APRIL THROUGH JUNE 2019

The research team finished writing the Privatized Military Housing Report Part II and the executive summary in May 2019. Thanks to the nearly 17,000 military families who shared their privatized housing experiences, MFAN was able to respond and to provide a megaphone for their experiences. The executive director and the senior director of research and program evaluation presented the findings at the Pentagon by invitation of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment.

MFAN channeled the data into a robust media plan and worked to connect military families with journalists to help them share their stories. Media coverage included segments on Primetime TV, CBS, Fox, and NBC. MFAN placed exclusives in Washington Post, Reuters, and NPR. There were nearly 500 million earned media impressions. Reuters worked with MFAN ahead of the May release of the Privatized Military Housing Report Part II to develop a special segment highlighting MFAN's research findings (<https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/usa-housing-map/>), including developing a graphical depiction of the data set.

Because of this coverage, people started listening. Homes across the country were inspected and reinspected by military and congressional leadership. There were three congressional hearings to determine the path ahead, and MFAN's research was referenced in all of them. Military family housing reform was one of the largest sections of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in 2019, and Congress enacted the largest

ever budget increase in military housing. The NDAA included a requirement that the Department of Defense develop a Tenant Bill of Rights, which provides protections to military families living in housing and grants them expectations that they will live in healthy, safe housing. Most of the Tenant Bill of Rights went into effect in May 2020. (There are four outstanding provisions yet to be enacted.)

The deputy director of research and program evaluation joined MFAN during this quarter, assisting in the release of the full privatized housing report. The research team developed a theory of change and logic models that became part of MFAN's strategic plan. The team also began developing processes for robust program evaluation.

QUARTER 3

JULY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2019

The research team began development of the 2019 Military Family Support Programming Survey. The team met with key stakeholders and funders to discuss the data collection instrument and to determine where gaps exist in military and veteran family support programming data. The research instrument, a mixed-method online survey, was the most complex MFAN has fielded, with more than 200 questions that were personalized to respondents by their demographic attributes. The team also continued to provide internal support for outreach and grant-related projects.

QUARTER 4

OCTOBER THROUGH DECEMBER 2019

The research team fielded the 2019 Military Family Support Programming Survey and began the initial stages of data analysis and coding. The survey was fielded from October 7 to November 11, 2019, and during this time 7,785 respondents shared their experiences as military-connected families. This was an increase of more than 35% in participation from the previous support programming survey in 2017. Additionally, the team utilized Qualtrics software to field and analyze the survey. This investment in MFAN's research capabilities allowed the research team to more efficiently code the data and to provide more granular analysis in the results during 2019 and beyond.

2019 AUDITED FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash	\$ 159,869
Accounts receivable	22,175
Prepaid expenses	22,175
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 218,044

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts payable & Accrued Expenses	\$24,211
TOTAL LIABILITIES (ALL CURRENT)	\$24,211

NET ASSETS

Without donor restrictions	123,833
With donor restrictions	70,000
TOTAL NET ASSETS	193,833
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	218,044

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

SUPPORT & REVENUE	\$1,131,131
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EXPENSES

Program Expenses	1,045,018
Management & General	89,688
Fundraising	41,534
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,176,240
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(45,109)
NET ASSETS, beginning of the year, restated	238,942
NET ASSETS, end of the year	\$193,833



A LOOK AHEAD

As MFAN moves into 2020-2021, the focus remains the same —to build and sustain a healthy, connected military family community that understands how to utilize available resources so families can thrive in any challenging environment; and a community of policymakers and philanthropic funders who are well-informed by data-driven evidence that guides where needs are most acute and where the return on investment can yield the highest return on positive impact.

CONTINUED DATA COLLECTION

In 2020-2021, the research team is embarking on several new research endeavors. Data collection will begin in early 2021 for a study to determine the causes of military and veteran family hunger. It will also launch a resident feedback loop for a national privatized military housing company. The team is working with the Institute for Veterans and Military Families through Syracuse University to join together in an MOU and conduct research on military spouse unemployment. The research team will continue to collect advisory board members' experiences in their communities as a way to monitor military families' experiences nationally and overseas.

RIGOROUS PROGRAM EVALUATION

The research team has also developed a more robust program evaluation process that will evaluate the impact of MFAN's three coalitions.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

The research team's overarching goal is to provide data that is accurate, relevant, and useful to MFAN and to stakeholders in the military and veteran family space. The team will continue the current trajectory of providing data internally and externally to ensure military and veteran families' experiences are at the forefront of informed decision-making.

The research team is also working on peer-reviewed research submissions based on the data collected in the 2019 Military Family Support Programming Survey. It is continuing to make connections with other organizations to amplify MFAN's research, such as the Military Families Learning Network and the DoD's Total Force Fitness program.

Through its' peer advisor network, research, programming, and thought leadership, MFAN will continue to be a well-heeded megaphone for military families and a data-powered magnifying glass for solutions.



THANK YOU

MFAN is proud to partner with organizations that are committed to supporting military and veteran families. Thanks to the generous support of the following organizations, we are able to continue to improve the lives of military and veteran families worldwide.

Bank of America

Deloitte

Craig Newmark Philanthropies

FINRA Investor Education Foundation

Humana Military

PenFed Foundation

Prudential

Reingold

The USAA Educational Foundation

Wells Fargo

Wounded Warrior Project

If your organization is interested in discussing partnership opportunities with MFAN, please contact info@militaryfamilyadvisorynetwork.org. We look forward to working with you!