

Military Spouse Education + Professional Support Funding



The National Military Family Association recognizes the unique challenges today's military spouses face pursuing education or professional advancement. Whether your program is online, traditional, full-time or part-time, we want to help. Check out our website today!

Open to Spouses of:

- + Air Force
- + Army
- + Coast Guard
- + Marine Corps
- + Navy
- + NOAA
- + Public Health Service
- + Active Duty
- + National Guard
- + Reserve
- + Retirees
- + Survivors
- + Wounded

Funds may be used for:

- + GED
- + English classes
- + Professional training
- + Certification
- + Licensure
- + Professional exams
- + Trade school
- + Undergraduate degrees
- + Graduate degrees
- + Supervision for mental health licenses



**NATIONAL
MILITARY FAMILY
ASSOCIATION**

Together we're stronger

Primary support of this program is generously provided by Fisher House Foundation and United Health Foundation.

www.militaryfamily.org/scholarship



MyMilitaryLife App

Life already has too many unanswered questions.

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MyMilitaryLife is a free Android and iPhone app that connects military families with resources customized to fit their lifestyle.

Why do military families need an app?

It's easy to get lost in the more than 10,000 military and community support websites. *MyMilitaryLife* puts everything in one convenient place—right in the palm of your hand.

How does it work?

- Once you register, just answer a few questions and you're guided to information and resources relevant to you.
- Navigate through 11 "Life Paths" including:
 - Moving
 - Deployment
 - Parenthood
 - Spouse Education & Employment
 - Transitioning Out of the Military
- You'll receive customized to-do lists, due date reminders, and tailored resources based on your Service branch, location, and specific needs

What are people saying?

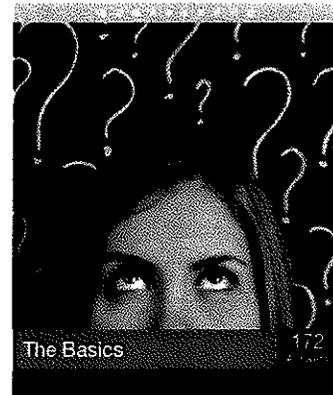
- "It is a wonderful step forward" – General Michael Hayden, former Director of the CIA discussing the app on *Fox & Friends*
- "I highly suggest you add this app to your list of must-haves for your smart phone. As a military spouse it's one you can't live without!" Katheryn Sneed, military spouse blogger *Singing Through the Rain*
- "It's a huge timesaver." – Northwest Military.com

Also featured in:

- NBCNews.com
- Stars & Stripes
- MilitaryTimes
- Ramblings of a Marine Wife
- *Daily Press*, Hampton Roads
- Military Spouse Magazine
- WJLA 's Let's Talk Live –



MyMilitaryLife has the answers to questions you never knew to ask. Take out the guesswork and get the resources you need.



MyMilitaryLife is created by the National Military Family Association. The app is made possible with support from BAE Systems, Goldman Sachs Gives, TriWest Healthcare Alliance, and ValueOptions.

Operation Purple® History

- As an association dedicated to serving military families, the National Military Family Association has its finger on the pulse of the military life and has recognized a need among military parents for more resources to help their children.
- The *Operation Purple* program was created, developed, implemented and managed by the Association in order to address this need.
- Through funding from many generous sponsors, the *Operation Purple* program was launched in 2004 and has expanded each subsequent year until 2011.
- This outdoor program served approximately 1,000 children in 2004.
- To date, the *Operation Purple* program has served over 40,000 military kids.

Mission

The mission of the National Military Family Association's *Operation Purple* program is to empower military children and their families to develop and maintain healthy and connected relationships, in spite of the current military environment, through a variety of means, including the healing and holistic aspect of the natural world.

Operation Purple Children's Camps and Family Retreats

In the past seven years, almost 40,000 military children have attended our summer camps held throughout the Nation for children of the deployed. The camps serve active duty and Reserve Component, officer and enlisted, and all seven Uniformed Services' children. The camps are unique in that they overlay a specialized curriculum infusing military-specific elements with those of traditional overnight summer camps.

Our *Operation Purple* program also hosts retreats focused on families trying to reconnect after living in different worlds for long periods during these wars. After repeated separations, many service members struggle to readjust smoothly at home and reestablish a parenting role with rapidly-growing children and spouses who worked hard to successfully adapt to life without them.

We also include retreats for families of the wounded. Many of the wounded are not able to enjoy some of the activities they previously shared with their families. Our retreats are designed to help them rebuild family bonds, establish new roles and responsibilities depending on the service members' injuries, and explore new activities to enjoy together moving forward.

Operation Purple alleviates the stress of deployment on military children and families by providing:

- A peer group to connect with and confide in about the unique challenges of the lifestyle

- Licensed behavioral health professionals who are readily available to meet varying emotional and psychological needs of campers, and help military children learn skills to cope with the unique situations they face
- Specialized programs incorporating the uplifting effects of physical activity, the calming effect of animals, and the healing power of the outdoors to help military kids learn new ways to reduce stress
- Activities enabling them to explore helicopters and Humvees, taste meals-ready-to-eat (MREs), speak with service members recently returned from war, scavenger hunt with global positioning systems, and play hide-and-seek wearing night-vision goggles. These reduce uncertainty about the safety and comfort of their parent(s).
- Community-service projects teaching military children to focus on the needs of others -- so they are distracted from only thinking of their own needs and fears during wartime. As one U.S. teen noted, "Helping others heals us."