

## Opportunities on the Horizon

JAN 14 [Family Systems Trends and Transitions: What they Mean for Military](#)

11:00 am - 12:30 pm ET

JAN 21 [Tax Updates: New Year, New forms, New Thresholds](#)

11:00 am - 12:30 pm ET

JAN 28 [Focusing on Co-parenting: Strengthening Diverse Military Family Systems](#)

11:00 am - 12:30 pm ET

FEB 11 [Understanding Long-Term Care: Basics and VA Aid & Assistance](#)

11:00 am - 12:30 pm ET

FEB 26 [Special Needs Trusts & ABLE Accounts](#)

11:00 am - 12:00 pm ET

MAR 10 [Understanding Long-Term Care: Extended Care and Housing](#)

11:00 am - 12:30 pm ET

MAR [Women in the Military-Watch for details here](#)

## Adapting Programs and Services For New Military Realities

by Karen Shirer, PhD

U.S. families, including military connected families, continue to change and become more diverse. Trends show that:

- Increasing numbers of women and men are single, and a growing number of these single adults are parents.
- People continue to divorce/separate and re-partner, leading to more complex family arrangements for children.
- More parents are cohabiting instead of getting married.
- More fathers are absent from their children's lives.
- More mothers with young children work outside the home, including more mothers serving in the military.

Needless to say, the traditional nuclear family is no longer the norm. As a result, Military Service Providers might want to adapt their programs and services to these new military family realities. The trends ... [follow the story](#)

### People are Talking About

#### Featured Webinars:

Part 1 January 14, 2020 - [Family Systems Trends and Transitions: What they Mean for Military Families](#)

Part 2 January 28, 2020 - [Focusing on Co-parenting: Strengthening Diverse Military Family Systems](#)

#### Featured Blogs:

[Effective Collaborative Leaders Utilize "Pull" and "Win-Win" Strategies](#)

[Does being a military family invite overindulgence?](#)

[Promoting Successful Transitions for Military Families with Young Children](#)

### Transition Tips

During a recent November webinar, [Promoting Successful Home-to-School Transitions for Military Families with Young Children](#), facilitators Mitzi Ziegner and Gayle Luze suggest preparing an education binder for each child with school work samples:

- Report cards & Standardized test scores
- IEP and 504 documentation
- Transcripts highlighting different curricula at different schools
- Teacher conference notes & Teacher-to-teacher communication
- Notes about deployments and homecomings, past and present, especially those that impact grades or attendance
- List of schools attended
- Student's picture so counselors and teachers can put a face with a name
- Notes from the student about what they want their new teacher and peers to know



# Sign up for the MFLN Family Transitions Newsletter!

## The New Kids on the Block: Military Families Shift in Family Structure and Change in Family Demands

by Jennifer Rea, PhD



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Far more couples today are choosing to cohabit and to have children in cohabiting relationships. Cohabiters are also choosing to either delay or forgo marriage (Pew Research Center, 2018). Similarly, societal attitudes and public policies have changed to enable same-sex couples to marry. Therefore, the number of families based on cohabitation and also single parent families has increased.

### But how do military families compare?

Today's military families are far more diverse, much like the broader civilian population, there are more family members (2,667,909), including spouses, children, and adult dependents than there are military personnel (2,103,415) (DoD, 2017). Of the total military personnel:

- A majority are single with no children (44.6%); while
- 33.6% are married with children;
- 15.8% are married without children; and
- 6% are single with children.

Just about half (49.4%) of all military personnel are married, which is higher than the ... [follow the story](#)

## We Remember

### FEBRUARY

- 3 Four Chaplains Day
- 17 President's Day
- 19 Coast Guard Reserve Birthday

### MARCH

#### Month of Military Caregiver

- 3 Navy Reserve Birthday
- 5 Navy Seabee Birthday
- 13 K9 Veterans Day
- 25 National Medal of Honor Day
- 29 Vietnam Veterans' Day



[Coparenting During Separation or Divorce: A Military Perspective, Dr. Emily Becher](#)

[FOCUSing on Strengthening Military Families from a Family Systems Perspective, Dr. Patricia Lester](#)

[Subscribe now!](#)

## A Message From Our Team



Bob Bertsch leads the [MFLN Network Literacy team](#), but he has also been a part of MFLN Family Transitions since its beginnings. Bob's informal

role with Family Transitions began at a serendipitous small group discussion in 2016. Since then he has facilitated webinars, hosted podcasts, & provided a networked perspective to Family Transitions work. Bob lights up when he sees people come together as equals to work towards positive social change. After more than 25 years in communications, education & web technology, he has found a passion for building human relationships & networks to improve resilience, collaboration & innovation. He seeks & shares insights on weaving collaborative networks & on developing a culture of innovation through his work with North Dakota State University Extension Service, the Military Families Learning Network & as the host of the "[Working Differently in Extension](#)" podcast." Bob lives in West Fargo, ND with his wife, 2 sons, and 2 dogs. His daughter lives in Colorado.



## Participants from the MFLN [2019 Virtual Conference](#) are saying...

*"Super event, very inspiring, terrific personal/professional reflections, very convenient, easy access."*

*"The information shared in this virtual conference was well organized and applicable to everything related to family readiness. As result of this learning I have a better understanding of the Family Readiness System."*

*"The experience this week ranks up there within the top 3-5 of virtual conferences I've experienced! Great core topic, very evenly skilled lineup of speakers, excellent hosting (Bob), and a lot of meaningful discussion. Really outstanding!"*