

Opportunities on the Horizon

The time of all sessions is
11:00 am - 12:30 pm ET

FEB 10 Financial Preparedness
is Disaster Preparedness

FEB 17 Going Beyond the
Checklist in Emergency
Preparedness - Taking
Action

FEB 24 Food and Nutrition
Before, During and
After Disasters

MAR 3 Preparing for a Disaster
during a Pandemic

MAR 10 Supporting Parents and
Children Through
Hazards and Disasters

MAR 17 Families in Disaster
Recovery: Coordinating
Support at the
Installation Level

MAR 24 Surviving the 2020
Pandemic: Lessons
Learned on How to best
Support our EI/ECSE
Communities

MAR 31 Connecting with
Communities in Asset-
based Disaster Recovery

Military Family Readiness Academy 2021

adapted from The Outpost, Brigitte Scott

DISASTER AND HAZARD **READINESS** IN ACTION

Today I want to spend a little time introducing a special addition to the [2021 MFRA series](#). We have a really exciting schedule of sessions that will dive deeper into disaster and hazard response and action, particularly in the face of the pandemic. You may notice that many of these sessions are somewhat geared toward a certain family service discipline; however, I encourage you to attend as many sessions as you can as the conversations are actually going to be quite universal. (The session topics are listed in the *Opportunities on the Horizon* section to the left.)

One way we hope to engage EVERYONE, regardless of the sessions you choose, is with the Asset-based Community Recovery Workshops. I am so delighted that my MFLN colleagues Jessica Beckendorf and Bob Bertsch have developed these hands-on learning experiences for the 2021 series. Jessica and Bob will be building on the asset based community recovery model—the focus of many of these Outposts—through guided conversations with participants. These workshops are not going to resemble our usual webinars. There are no content-area experts, no PowerPoint slides, no learning objectives. But there will be YOUR expertise as professionals living and working through a pandemic; YOUR stories to share; and YOUR priorities to talk about. The goal of the workshops is to create space and time to share what we've learned and then to build resources together that will inform how we can better support military family readiness and resilience in the face of disasters and hazards. Key workshop features include breakout conversations, the ability for all participants to have audio and video enabled, and there will also be a sketch artist drawing in real time to harvest the key points of our conversations.

The workshops will culminate in the 2021 series capstone session "Connecting with Communities in Asset-based Community Recovery" on March 31. The capstone will highlight the main takeaways, resources, and tools developed in the workshops. There are three workshops offered throughout the series, with attendance capped at each session to accommodate conversation. Registration for the [Asset-based Community Recovery Workshops](#) is separate from MFRA session registration.

Get Involved in the Asset-based Community Recovery Workshop!



The 2021 Academy series will also offer a workshop on community resilience and recovery. The workshop will facilitate small group discussions focused on what we've learned as providers working during the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal of the workshop is to create resources we can all use as we continue to provide services and support to military families.

Participants may choose from the following dates/times for a workshop to attend:

- February 3, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. ET
- February 23, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. ET
- March 2, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. ET

Coming Soon in 2021!

MFRA Disaster and Hazard
Readiness Foundations
Course



Sign up for the MFLN Family Transitions Newsletter!

Helping Military Families Prepare and Respond to Disasters and Hazards, Part 1

by Karen Shirer, Ph.D.



In most cases, little can be done to prevent natural and technological/responsible parties (man-made) hazards and disasters but a great deal can be done to prepare military families before disasters occur. A recent MFLN Family Transitions blog by Jenny Rea, [Preparing Military Families for Natural Disasters by Utilizing Resiliency Skills](#), highlighted that all military service members receive emergency preparedness training. But many of them and their families are at risk for negative impacts from hazards and disasters due to lack of planning. When military families are transitioning or caring for family members with disabilities, they face even greater risk from hazards and disasters.

Military Family Service Providers (MFSPs) along with other community organizations play important roles in helping families plan and respond to hazards and disasters especially if they are experiencing military and/or family transitions. This blog is part one of two parts that outline five areas that MFSPs can focus on to support military families through disaster and ensure that they are prepared for hazards and disasters. ... [follow the story](#)

Featured Blogs

[Helping Military Families Prepare and Respond to Disasters and Hazards, Part 1](#)

[Children's Books About Disasters Open Conversations & Understanding](#)

[Preparing Military Families for Natural Disasters by Utilizing Resiliency Skills](#)

Featured Recorded Webinars

[Military Family Readiness Academy - Disaster and Hazard Readiness Foundations](#)

1. Disaster and Hazard Readiness 101
2. Impacts and Responses in Disaster and Hazard Readiness
3. Planning for the Worst, Hoping for the Best

Featured Podcasts

[Empowering Individuals and Families Through Disaster Education](#)

[Lending a Hand to Women Veterans as They Transition from Military to Civilian Life](#)

A Message From Our Team



Ms. Anderson joined the Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD), Office of Military Family Readiness Policy in August 2020 as a program analyst on the Children, Youth and

Families team. Prior to joining OSD, she was assigned to Headquarters Air Force, Airman and Family Readiness Policy Branch where she served as the Air Force subject matter expert for the Transition Assistance and the Spouse Employment programs. While employed by the Air Force, she managed various military family readiness programs and services, providing direct support to military members and their families to help them build resilience, improve quality of life and face the unique challenges of the military lifestyle. Ms. Anderson is a member of the Military Families Learning Network Family Transitions team and also serves as the Military Families Learning Network Department of Defense Project Lead. As a proud spouse of an Air Force veteran, she is passionate about supporting military members and their families.

Participants from the MFRA Disaster and Hazard Readiness Foundations sessions are saying...

"Presenters were knowledgeable and prepared, and did a great job of answering questions. The moderator also did an excellent job of facilitating discussion and I particularly enjoyed the efforts made to engage the participants which is sometimes a short-coming of virtual platforms."

"This was a successful and fulfilling session and I hope many more view this presentation to learn, grow, and reflect on what is going on around us; enabling us to help wherever we can in whatever [way] we can."

"The sessions I attended were excellent and very professionally done. I liked the questions and discussions that took place during the presentations. This kept the sessions interesting."

"I learned about more of the resources so when I was contacted by a person who had a home issue due to a recent weather incident, I was able to look up governmental resources a bit easier."

"This session provided renewed awareness to support organizations that can coordinate with military support organizations."

