



# MILITARY CAREGIVING

Military Families Learning Network

## BACKGROUND

There are approximately 5.5 million persons caring for wounded, ill or injured service members and veterans in the United States (RAND, 2014). In addition to wounded warriors, many military families care for children with special needs and other dependents. Nearly 2 million children and youth are military-connected, the largest group under 5 years of age, and it's estimated that 20 percent or more have special needs (NIH & HSC Foundation, 2014). The numbers of caregivers and care recipients, including those with special needs, are only estimates. Military caregiving, much like caregiving for the population in general, touches many more families than the numbers reflect. Providing support and services for service members, veterans and caregivers is a socioeconomic challenge in the United States, especially amongst the wounded warrior and special needs populations.

## MILITARY CAREGIVING

The Military Families Learning Network (MFLN) engages military family service providers and Cooperative Extension educators in the exchange of experiences and research to enhance professional impact and encourage professional growth. We encourage the formation and expansion of a skilled and collaborative network of professionals who support significant positive outcomes for military service members and their families. The MFLN – Military Caregiving (MFLNMC) concentration area works to identify professional development opportunities for Department of Defense helping professionals working with family caregivers of wounded service members and those caring for individuals with special needs. *Get connected and check out what 2018 has to offer- starting with our webinars!*

## CE CREDIT & CERTIFICATES

MFLNMC offers both continuing education credit (CE) and certificates of completion for webinars and online courses. CE credit is approved by the nationally accredited University of Texas-School of Social Work for credentialed and licensed professionals. Certificates of completion are available for participants interested in receiving training hours.



## NETWORK CONCEPT

**Support** professional development and performance improvement through innovative technologies such as interactive web conferencing and online asynchronous learning modules.

**Engage** subject matter experts and military helping professionals to identify needs of the caregiving community through formal and informal evaluation.

**Educate** military helping professionals, service members, and families on issues related to caregiving through quality, reliable programming, listening and responding to their learning needs.



