



**Military Family  
Advisory Network**

**The Military Family Advisory Network (MFAN)** is a nonprofit with a simple mission: connect military and veteran families to resources designed to serve them. What makes us unique is how we do it.

We convene leaders and influencers in the military community to help us understand what military families need now, assist us in making families aware of the resources that are already out there, and support us in delivering solutions when there are gaps in support.

Our current advisory board consists of 12 military and veteran spouses representing all five branches of service including Guard and Reserve. Collectively they have lived at 46 duty stations worldwide.



## MFAN by the Numbers

**By bringing the right people together in supporting our mission we're making a big difference for the military community.**

- ★ **49,700** page views since 2017 to MilCents, an online financial education program we created
- ★ **5,650** active duty and veteran family respondents to MFAN's Military Family Support Programming Survey
- ★ **Thousands** of vetted resources in MilMap, our user-generated resource locator map
- ★ **Hundreds** of military kids working towards The Congressional Award, Congress' highest award for youths

***militaryfamilyadvisorynetwork.org***

# MFAN Programs

As conveners, we focus on collaboration, bringing military families together with organizations that are already doing great things for the military community. And whenever we identify gaps in resources, we enlist subject matter experts to help us fill them. Here are some of those solutions.

## MilCents

### THE CHALLENGE:

Finances are complicated, and with changes coming to military retirement, military families need to be empowered with useful, easy-to-understand information.

### THE SOLUTION:

MFAN created MilCents, a self-guided online financial education program for military families in partnership with the FINRA Investor Education Foundation, the National Foundation for Credit Counseling, and the Better Business Bureau. The program works for a couple key reasons: It's simple and it's social. Since we launched the program in 2015, participation has grown by 112 percent — and through partnerships with organizations like the American Red Cross and Military Aid Societies, we expect participation will continue to increase.

## The Congressional Award

### THE CHALLENGE:

Military youths have an incredibly transient life, so they need resources that offer some continuity.

### THE SOLUTION:

MFAN partners with the Congressional Award program, the highest award presented to youths by Congress. The program is customizable, with varying time commitments and requirements, making it perfect for military kids on the move. We work to spread awareness of the program among members of the military community, and every year we host a ceremony to celebrate those military youths who have earned the top award — the Congressional Award Gold Medal.

## MilMap

### THE CHALLENGE:

We have consistently heard that when military families move, they have a hard time making connections, including getting involved at new duty stations.

### THE SOLUTION:

MFAN created MilMap, a user-generated resource locator that helps military families find organizations in their area that can offer support and camaraderie. All they have to do is put in their ZIP code or duty station! Military families can also add their own trusted resources.

## Military Family Support Programming Survey

### THE CHALLENGE:

We need to know that our work is informed by the needs of military and veteran families.

### THE SOLUTION:

Every three years, MFAN conducts the Military Family Support Programming Survey, which gives military and veteran families an opportunity to speak their minds on topics like wellness, education, PCSing, finances, child care, and military retirement. From the survey results, we gather what modern military families need and how we can best serve them.

## MilYou (coming soon!)

### THE CHALLENGE:

Military family wellness is complex. Members of the military community are so used to serving others that they sometimes forget about taking care of themselves.

### THE SOLUTION:

MFAN created an online wellness program called MilYou, which introduces participants to information, programs, tools, and resources that they can use to strengthen their physical health, emotional health, and relationships. Similar to MilCents, MilYou makes it easy for participants to share what they know with others in the program and take what they're doing online out into the community.

