

Military Family Community Capacity Building Efforts via the Military Families Learning Network



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Presented by: Keith G. Tidball, PhD

NEAFCS Annual Session

Family & Consumer Sciences State Program Leaders Annual Meeting, 2016



MILITARY FAMILIES LEARNING NETWORK

Research and evidenced-based
professional development
through engaged online communities

www.extension.org/militaryfamilies



COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING

Military Families Learning Network

*Connect with
MFLN Community Capacity Building online!*



[MFLN Community Capacity Building](#)



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Proclamation

In Recognition of

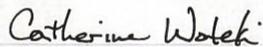
Department of Defense/Department of Agriculture **Extension–Military Partnership**

- Whereas** Hundreds of thousands of Military Service Members have taken the oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; and
- Whereas** These Military Service Members are husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, colleagues, and friends; and
- Whereas** These Service Members and their families live in America's communities, meeting an obligation of service to every American; and
- Whereas** The Department of Agriculture, the Land Grant Universities, and the Cooperative Extension System are dedicated to serving citizens in every community across the nation; and
- Whereas** The Land Grant Universities were created to provide a broad segment of the population with a practical education with direct relevance to their daily lives, and continue to have a public mission; and
- Whereas** The Department of Agriculture, through the Land Grant Universities and the Cooperative Extension System, reaches into every county of the United States, where members of the Active, National Guard, and Reserve Components reside;
- Therefore** The U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Department of Agriculture do hereby enter into the Extension–Military Partnership, in order to support Military Service Members and their families through programs, research, and evaluation in the communities in which they reside. This partnership encourages these two Federal Agencies to develop and deliver new and innovative means to better serve all Americans in the communities where they reside.

*Signed at the Forging the Partnership Conference in Chicago, Illinois,
on this twenty-seventh of April in the year two thousand and eleven*



Robert L. Gordon, III
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for
Military Community & Family Policy



Dr. Catherine Woteki
Under Secretary for United States Department of
Agriculture's Research, Education, and Economics
and Chief Scientist



The Community Capacity Building concentration area is working to leverage the community capacity that exists in the Cooperative Extension Service to enhance military family resilience.

Recent meetings with relevant stakeholders indicated a strong commitment to:

- Leverage extension's communication and dissemination systems
- Capitalize on the existing community capacity in the many extension programs in every county in the US
- Build awareness among land grant universities and their extension systems about military families and community support systems

Definitions – Community Capacity *Building*

- The goal of community capacity building is for formal systems and informal networks to work together to achieve positive results for community members.
- Often, people in the community initiate change. The ability to create change increases as these people, who are part of informal networks, collaborate with formal systems

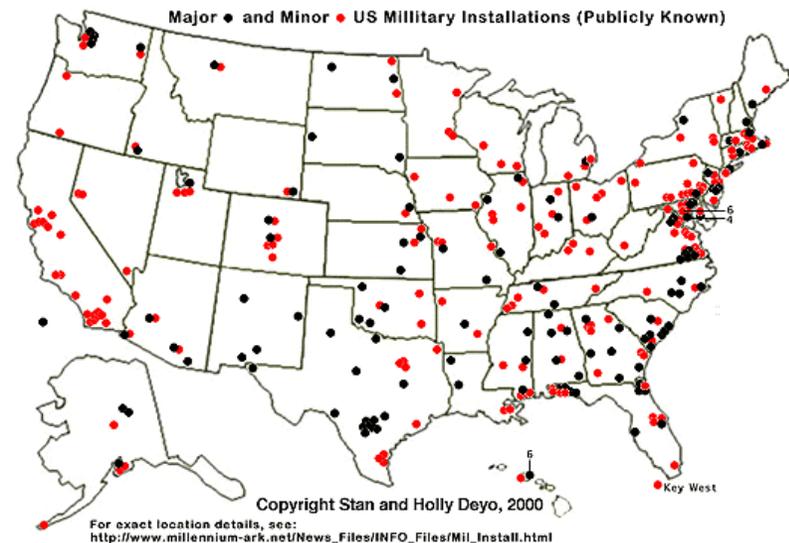


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Challenges of Geographically Dispersed



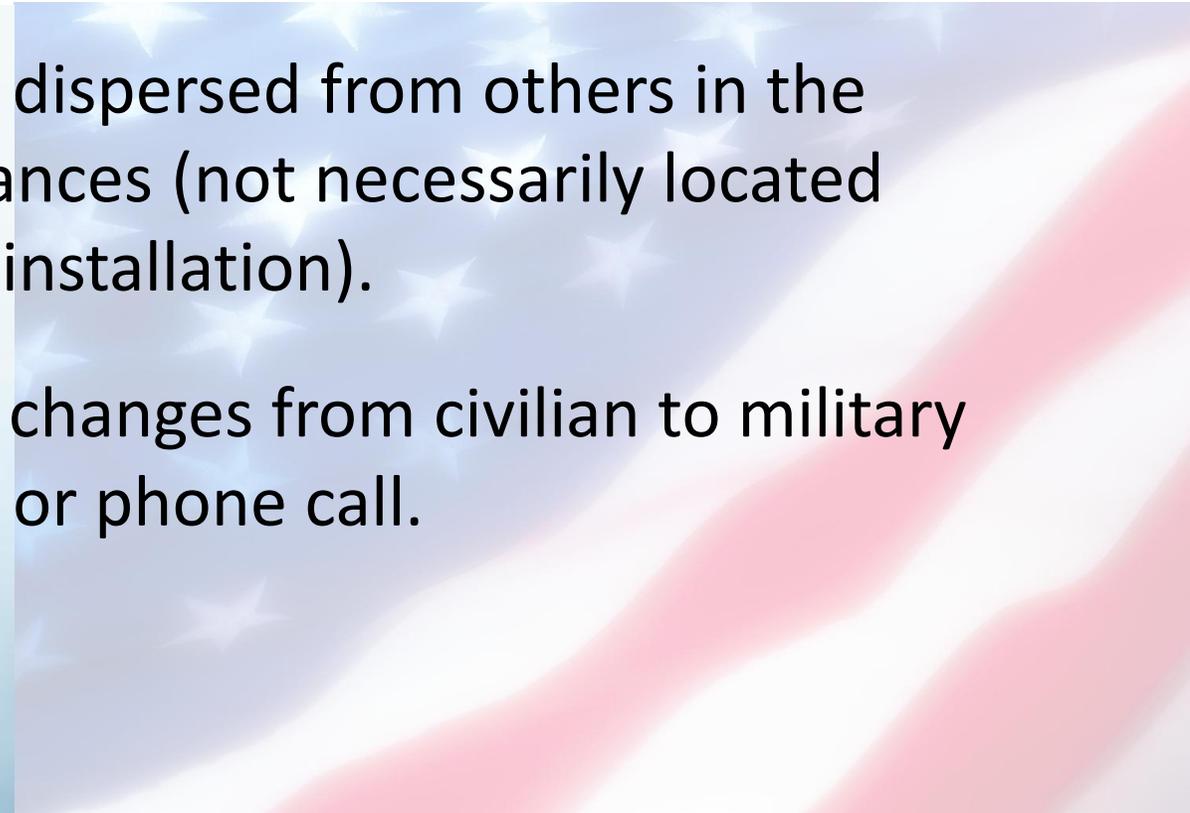
- In recent years the military has reshaped its deployment methods in order to adapt to the demands of disparate global conflicts.
- In the course of Operation Desert Storm, Reserve soldiers comprised just 25% of deployed servicemen (Department of Defense Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1992, 1991).
- Due to the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the subsequent troop surge of 2007, this number of deployed Reserve and National Guard soldiers accumulated to 40-50% of deployed servicemen (Defense Manpower Data Center, 2009).
- At no other time in history has such a large population of Reserve and National Guard units been deployed.
- This adaptation in deployment methods is significant because *families of these soldiers are located in geographically dispersed civilian communities, not traditional military installations where important services to support the stresses of deployment are readily available.*



Challenges of Geographically Dispersed

- For the National Guard and Reserves service member, their primary occupation is not military, and some families might not consider themselves military families.

- Geographically dispersed from others in the same circumstances (not necessarily located near a military installation).
- Family identity changes from civilian to military with one letter or phone call.



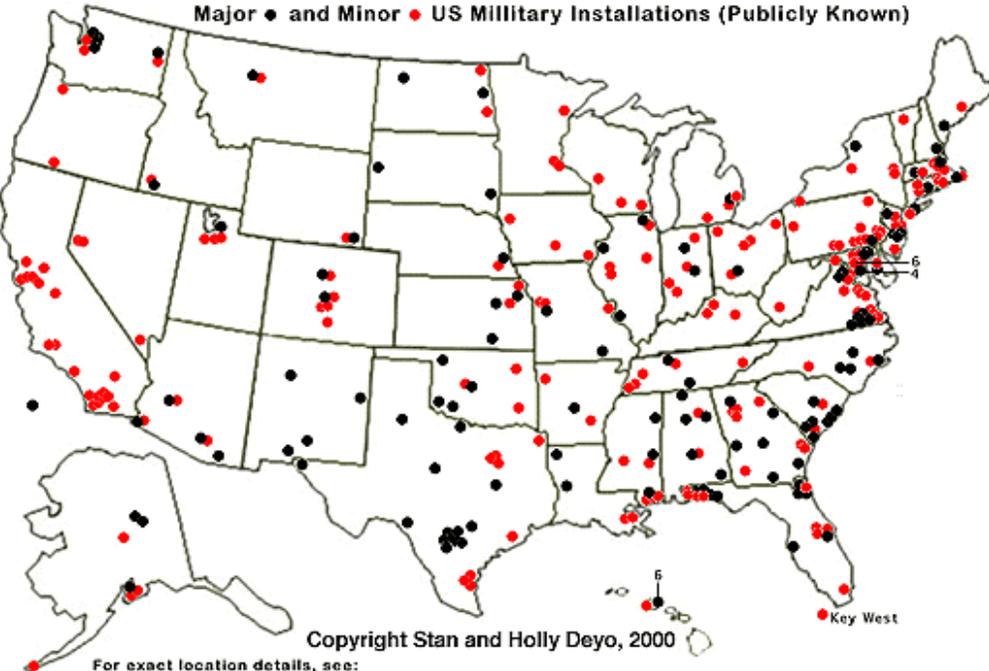
Opportunity - Cooperative Extension System



United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture

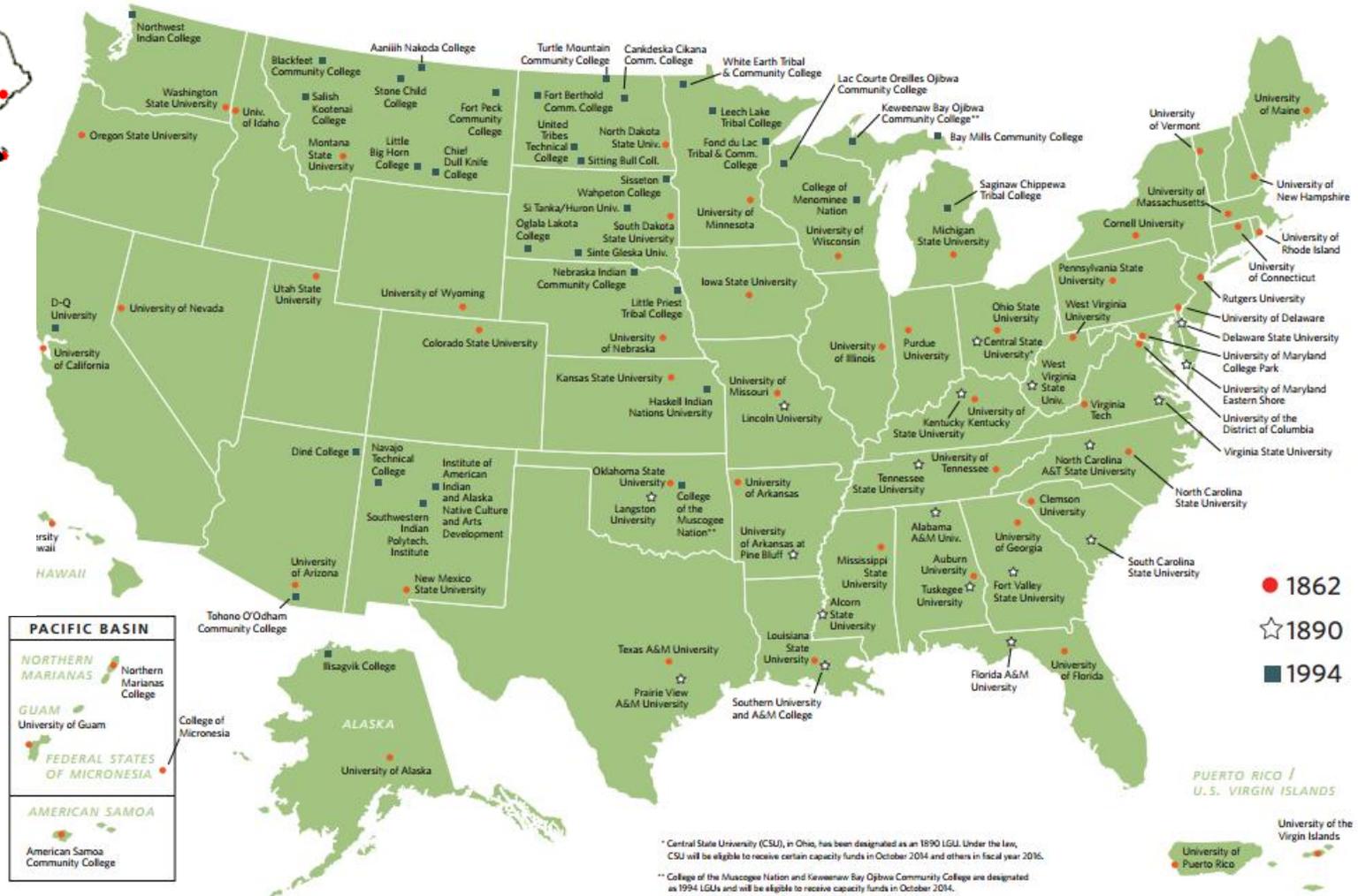
NIFA LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Major ● and Minor ● US Military Installations (Publicly Known)



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For exact location details, see: http://www.millennium-ark.net/News_Files/INFO_Files/Mil_Install.html



PACIFIC BASIN

- NORTHERN MARIANAS**
 - Northern Marianas College
- GUAM**
 - University of Guam
- FEDERAL STATES OF MICRONESIA**
 - College of Micronesia
- AMERICAN SAMOA**
 - American Samoa Community College

* Central State University (CSU), in Ohio, has been designated as an 1890 LGU. Under the law, CSU will be eligible to receive certain capacity funds in October 2014 and others in fiscal year 2016.
 ** College of the Muscogee Nation and Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College were designated as 1994 LGUs and will be eligible to receive capacity funds in October 2014.

Capacity Pools of Cooperative Extension



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Agriculture



Leadership Development



Natural Resources



Family & Consumer Sciences



Community & Economic Development



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visit: www.Extension100Years.net

Our Cooperative Extension System
can *thrive* in the role of Force
Multiplier in Department of Defense
missions to build family readiness
and resilience.



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