

**QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT
MILITARY FAMILIES LEARNING NETWORK
COVER SHEET**

1. Award Number(s): 2014-48770-22587; 2015-48770-24368
2. Project Title: eXtension - Military Families Partnership
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4. Telephone Number: (217) 265-5144; (334) 844-3231
5. Period of Performance: 01 OCT — 31 DEC 2015
6. Approved Project End Date(s): 31AUG2016[2014]; 31AUG2016[2015]
7. Period Covered by Report: (Check one)

First Quarter	_____
Second Quarter	_____
Third Quarter	_____
Fourth Quarter	X_____

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10. Date of Report: 15FEB2016
11. Report Number: (Number sequentially beginning with 1) 39
12. Name of NIFA-USDA Project Officer: Ahlishia Shipley

**eXtension Military Families Learning Network Quarterly Report
01OCT-31DEC 2015**

I. MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THIS PERIOD:

**PF = Personal Finance, NL = Network Literacy, FD = Family Development, FDEI = Family Development Early Intervention, MC = Military Caregiving, MCSN = Military Caregiving Special Needs, CCB = Community Capacity Building, NW = Nutrition and Wellness, FT = Family Transitions*

1. Eight professional development webinars were delivered (<http://www.extension.org/pages/62581/military-families-learning-network-webinars>) during this reporting period and published on the MFLN YouTube Channel. Two in October (1 NW, 1 PF/FT), two in November (1 FDEI, 1 PF), and four in December (1 PF, 1 FDEI, 1 FT, 1 MC).

Topics included:

PF – Military Family Financial Transitions: Handling Changes to Income, Benefits, & Money Management; Student Loans: What Financial Practitioners Need to Know; 2015 Personal Finance Year in Review

FDEI – Social Emotional Development in the Early Years: Creating Supportive and Inclusive Environments; Social Emotional Development in the Early Years: Enriching Social Emotional Literacy

MC – Financial Planning for Military Caregivers

FT – Military Family Financial Transitions: Handling Changes to Income, Benefits, & Money Management; Returning Warriors Using Outdoor Recreation for Restoration and Resilience

NW – Eating Well While Eating Out: How Calories on the Menu Can Help Guide Healthy Choices

2. Two virtual learning events (VLEs) were delivered by FD and MC during this reporting period and published on the MFLN YouTube Channel.

The FDVLE offered four sessions during the month of October. Session topics included: *The Ripple Effect: Trauma Informed Interventions with Abusers; From Coercion to Collaboration: Strength-based Interventions for Military Couples Experiencing Domestic Violence; Beyond Mandated Reporting: What You Need to Know about Young Children, Disability, and Child Abuse; and What's on the Web? Family Violence Resource Toolkit.*

The MCVLE offered three sessions during October and November. Session topics included: *Rethinking! Creating New Strategies to Build Trust and Credibility; Relating! Caring and Culture; and Recharging! Combating Compassion Fatigue.*

3. **Sixty-five blogs** were posted (<http://blogs.extension.org/militaryfamilies/>) during this reporting period. FD (including FDEI) posted 27, MC posted 11, PF posted 13, CCB posted 2, NL posted 1, NW posted 5, and FT posted 6.

4. The **Military Families Learning Network** completed 2015 with stability in staffing and a strong foundation for programmatic changes in 2016. The University of Illinois rebudget is in the final stages allowing for the hiring of an evaluation assistant housed at Virginia Tech and scheduled to start in early January, 2016. This hire allows Dr. Scott to fully transition to her work on educational program development with the implementation process set to begin in January 2016. A focus for this quarter was developing a strong theory of change upon which to build future programming with a focus on social learning and increasing engagement with both MFSPs and CES professionals. Towards this end, a new LinkedIn group was formed that is a “closed” moderated group to encourage professionals to engage with other as well as MFLN content area specialists.

Final DoD DMDC approval was granted in November for the virtual focus groups. Focus groups will be underway by the end of the first quarter in 2016. An application for support from the White House Social and Behavioral Sciences Team was submitted and initial feedback is promising. The SBST would assist MFLN in experimenting with communication messaging with the goal of increasing participation in MFLN programming.

The MFLN annual report will be completed early in the first quarter of 2016 detailing outputs and outcomes for the expanded 2015 programs.

Specific CA activities are highlighted below.

5. The **Community Capacity Building** [2014 + 2015] has shifted focus to program delivery. Activities include dissemination of an introductory letter to DoD and CES stakeholders detailing the CCB programs and intentions. This letter resulted in a meeting with key NIFA and DoD staff to continue conversations around various CCB efforts across NIFA and DoD. A new Social Media strategist has been hired and is working on updating the MFLN environmental scan results map detailing CES programs targeting military families. CCB also collaborated with the Family Transitions team to produce and present a webinar in December. The Mancini & Bowen curriculum was released in December. Planning is underway to begin targeted programming based on this curriculum by the second quarter of 2016. Programming during the first quarter of 2016 will scaffold toward effective use of the curriculum while also building connections with CES, state and family program directors, and Military OneSource.

6. The **Family Development** [2014 + 2015] concentration area FD delivered their first [Virtual Learning Event](#) during October, which included four sessions, with one presented by the FDEI team. Total participation was 263 attendees. Short videos from the VLE were also made available. The FD EI team presented two webinars this quarter and presented at the Division for Early Childhood annual conference on their MFLN work.

7. The **Military Caregiving** [2014 + 2015] concentration area presented its first [Virtual Learning Event](#) during the fourth quarter with 260 attendees. A new social media strategist was brought on board to assist MC and MCSN in educational programming. MC collaborated with PF to offer a webinar and post-webinar twitter chat in December.
8. The **Network Literacy** [2014 + 2015] concentration area completed the social network analysis and presented the results to the MFLN PIs at the quarterly PI meeting and at the National Association of Extension Staff and Professional Development Professionals conference. The educational technologist presented a webinar on PowerPoint best practices and the team continues to provide critical support to other CAs in social media programming, technical skills for developing media rich content and connecting with other professionals.
9. The **Nutrition and Wellness** [2014 + 2015] conducted 2 webinars with CEUs are available for registered dietitians. This CA is focusing primarily on LinkedIn with additional work in Facebook and Twitter. Additionally they have coordinated blog posts and social media with their webinars to present a consistent educational program across platforms.
10. The **Personal Finance** [2014 + 2015] conducted 4 webinars including two in collaboration with Military Caregiving and Family Transitions and continues to be active in social media platforms, most notably Twitter. The team also presented at the AFCPE conference and continues to work on a 3rd short video to be included in their educational programming.
11. The **Family Transitions** [2014 + 2015] concentration area presented 2 webinars in collaboration with PF and CCB in the fourth quarter as well as a collaborative twitter chat with PF. This team continues to explore and provide creative content in their social media platforms as well as via video, infographics, etc.
12. **MFLN Leadership** team continues to work in support of the concentration areas while meeting the needs of our DoD partners. We continue to meet quarterly with our DoD POC and SMEs and the focus of the fourth quarter meeting was introducing the new theory of change. We now alternate virtual and in-person meetings to cut down on travel expenses and time. Additionally, several team members presented at the NAESPDP meeting (Drs. Scott & Baughman and Ms. Jeannette). Additionally, Drs. Scott and Baughman presented at the American Evaluation Association conference and provided conference reviews for the new Military and Veterans TIG.
13. **Social media** points of note: Facebook “likes” for MFLN and its concentration areas reached 22,532 by the end of the fourth quarter. MFLN Web page (<http://www.extension.org/militaryfamilies>) views and blog page (<http://blogs.extension.org/militaryfamilies/>) views continue to rise.

Figure 1: Twitter Metrics across the MFLN

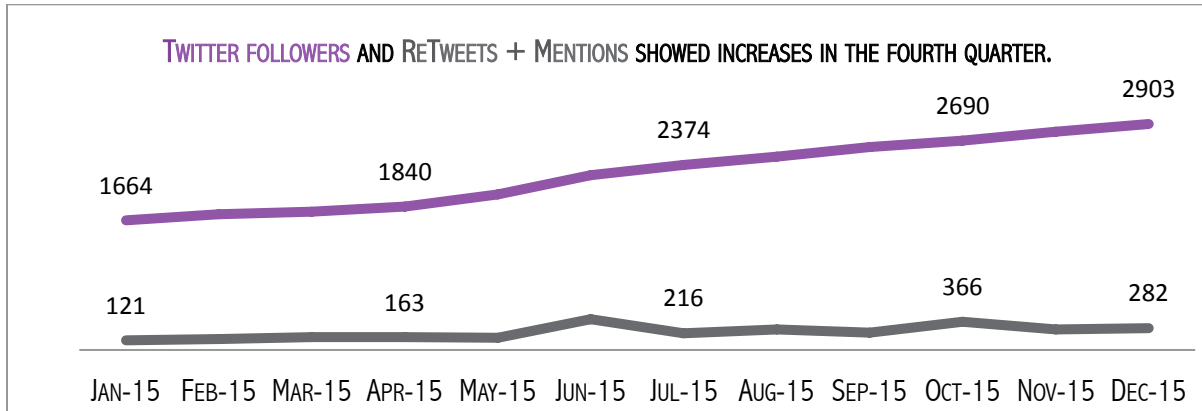


Figure 2: Facebook Metrics across the MFLN

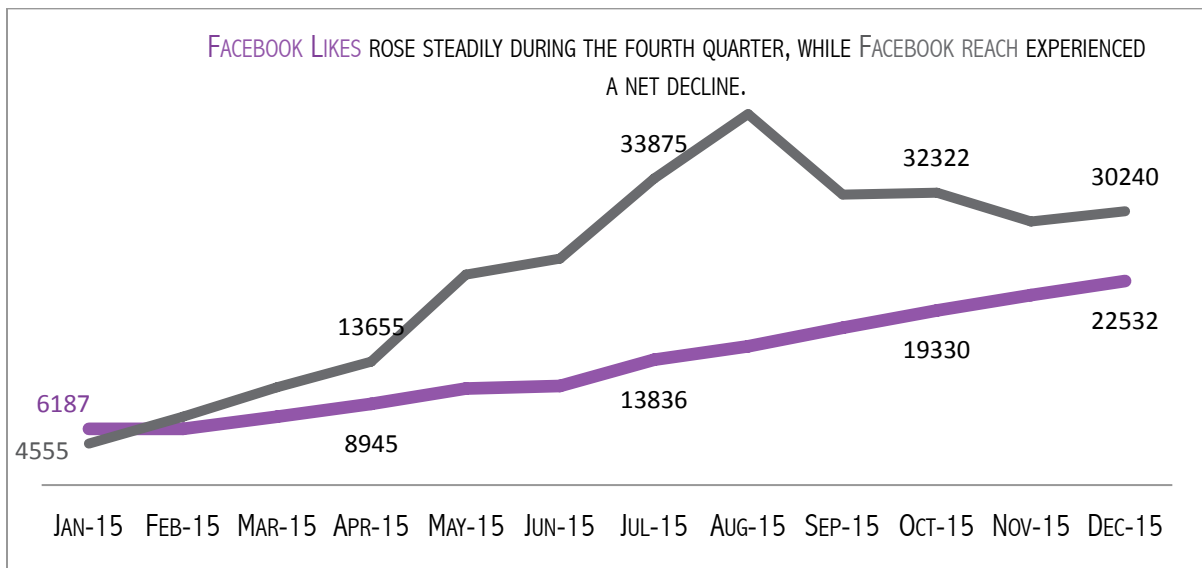
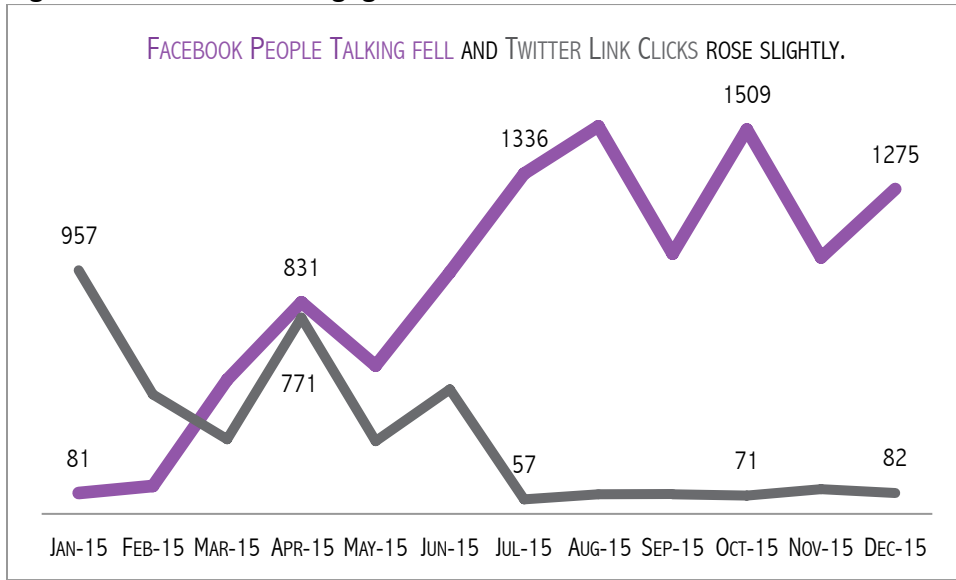


Figure 3. Social Media Engagement

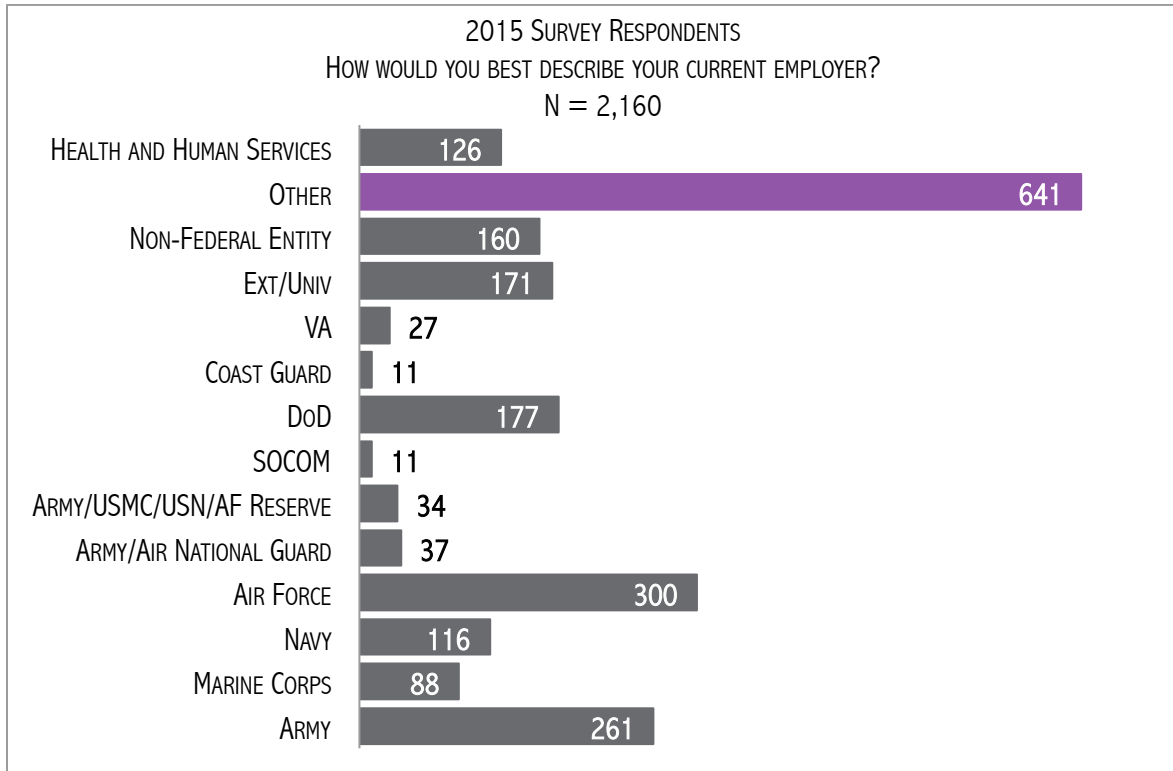


14. **Total webinar attendance** for 2015 is 3,712.

15. **Total continuing education units certified in 2015: 5,877** (2,468 PF; 635 MC; 1,026 FD; 1,548 FDEI; 200 NW).

16. In March 2014 MFLN began polling webinar evaluation survey respondents for their branch service/professional affiliations. The following chart details the **professional affiliations** reported of those participants responding to this optional survey question. Note: Health and Human Services was added to this survey question at the end of August 2015.

Figure 4. 2015 Webinar Evaluation Survey Respondents by Professional Affiliation



II. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT QUARTER:

1. The draft theory of change has been completed and will be launched via a network-wide meeting in the first quarter of 2016.
2. Collaboration with CCB continues with a potential meeting planned for early in the first quarter with key NIFA and DOD staff.
3. The Military Caregiving team was invited to contribute to the University of Maine's certificate in Grandfamilies leadership and should have completed their video early in the first quarter.
4. MFLN leadership will meet in person with DoD in early February, 2016.
5. New evaluation efforts (asynchronous online focus groups) will be during the first quarter of 2016.
6. Drs. Kostelecky and Baughman will attend the DoD – USDA Partnership for Military Families Leads Meeting in January, 2016.
- 7.

§ When appropriate and necessary, descriptions of effort/deliverables associated with Award Number 2014-48770-22587 with project dates of 9/1/14 – 8/31/16 will be identified by [2014] and Award Number 2015-48770-24368 with project dates of 9/1/15 – 8/31/16 will be identified by [2015].