Military Program
http://military.agrilife.org/

Relevance
With some of the largest installations in the nation, in both landmass and population, The State of Texas, and specifically Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, is positioned to bridge the gap between building support systems and providing quality education, services and care to Service Members, Veterans and their families. Since 2013, Texas has had over 124,000 active duty military personnel and over 50,000 civilian personnel employed at major U.S. military installations (Defense Manpower Data Center, 2013).

In addition to the active-duty component, Texas is second only to California in the largest veterans’ population, with over 1.6 million veterans (National Center for Veterans Analysis & Statistics, 2015). By Fiscal Year 2018 it is predicted that Texas will boast the largest Post-9/11 veteran population, adding approximately 320,000 new veterans to an already growing population (National Center for Veterans Analysis & Statistics, 2015).

Response
In 1985 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service executed a memorandum of agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Department of Defense (DoD). The partnership led to Extension providing continuous support for Fort Bliss (El Paso, TX) from 1987 to 2015 and Fort Hood (Killeen, TX) from 1996 to 2015. The newest addition to Extension Military Program has been the induction of family support programs at Joint Base San Antonio (San Antonio, TX) in 2006.

The Extension Military Program focuses on providing educational programs to assist military Families as they face the many uncertainties of life.

The Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) at Joint Base San Antonio provides non-clinical alcohol and drug prevention and education training to Service Members, Commanders, Civilian employees and military Families. ASAP training programs include Prevention Training, Risk Reduction, Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and Suicide Prevention. To learn more about ASAP at JBSA, visit: (http://military.agrilife.org/).

The Military Program also provides educational programming for a Department of Defense initiative under the Military Families Learning Network (MFLN) entitled, MFLN Military Caregiving.

The MFLN Military Caregiving concentration is responsible for providing professional development to service providers working with caregivers of wounded service members or military families caring for special needs dependents. For more information on MFLN Military Caregiving, visit: (https://militaryfamilies.extension.org/).
Results
When a new initiative is introduced in the caring of Service Members and Families, Extension staff, working together with their military partners, have met the challenge to provide quality educational programs, trainings and resources to assist the Service Members and Families.

Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP)
The Military Life Skills project, also known as the Army Substance Abuse Program at Joint Base San Antonio, provided non-clinical alcohol and drug prevention and education training. The project focuses on providing prevention education through four main programming areas: prevention training, risk reduction, employee assistance, and suicide prevention. In 2016, the project provided 308 trainings and presentation briefs to approximately 24,274 service members, commanders, civilian employees and military families. Reporting illustrated that of those individuals trained, 59% were males, compared to the 41% females trained.

Military Caregiving
During 2016, AgriLife Extension’s DoD-funded military caregiving project offered nine national webinars and one, three-part virtual learning conference reaching a total of 586 military helping professionals during the live sessions. In addition to the professional development trainings, the caregiving project provided 156 Social Work CEUs and 1,575 certificates of completion. The caregiving project also provided 36 online courses through Extension online that offer continuing education credit and certificates of completion for providers. Social media impacts for 2016 included 22,607 Facebook followers, 667 Twitter followers, and 51 blog articles published.

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