

### **If I am selected for program participation, where will I go for assignments, and when? Could I choose my assignment locations?**

*Assignment specifics vary greatly; specific information will be shared at the time of selection for assignment.* Staffing of assignments is done locally whenever possible. If you would like to learn more about European military installations please consult this link: [www.militaryinstallations.dod.mil](http://www.militaryinstallations.dod.mil). From the home page, click View a Directory of Installations. Under each branch of service you are given a list of countries. MFLCs fill assignments at European installations in the UK, Germany, Portugal, Italy and Turkey.

Certain types of assignments require specific training; for example, Air Force and Marine assignments have training and/or experience requirements. This training is supplied (in online modules) by MHN GS once the MFLC application and selection process is complete. *The training is only available online and is not available outside of the program.* Other assignment locations require bilingual (English/Spanish) MFLCs. Still others—for Child and Youth Services placements—require solid child and adolescent practice experience, particularly experience with young children. School based assignments require verifiable professional experience in a school setting. New MFLCs are assigned according to program needs; in other words, it's not usually possible for us to place you wherever you'd like to be, although we accommodate requests as we can. Flexibility is key in this program! As consultants gain experience, more opportunities become available since we have a greater breadth of assignments for experienced consultants.

### **How is Military & Family Life Consulting different from counseling or psychotherapy?**

MFLCs provide informal support and outreach for Service Members and families. MFLCs work exclusively with V-codes; they do not diagnose or treat mental disorders. (Mental disorders are referred to Military Mental Health resources or other professional resources.) MFLCs may facilitate groups, but these are not therapy groups. MFLC contacts are completely confidential; records are not kept and details of interactions are not shared.

### **What is MFLC Work Like?**

Consultants in the program find MFLC work tremendously gratifying and rewarding. MFLCs offer short-term, solution-focused support, often during scheduled appointments, sometimes much more informally (when Service Members approach on the installation, for example). The consultant's day might include individual meetings or sessions, meetings with key personnel in order to promote the MFLC program and services, and delivery of presentations (either psychoeducational presentations, or "briefings" to describe the program to the population of the installation) or other types of outreach/promotion of the program. The MFLC work week is typically a flexible 40 hours; after hours consultants may be asked to participate in special events, meet Service Members returning from deployment, or attend scheduled meetings.

**Do you send consultants to Iraq and Afghanistan?**

No, we do not.

**Can MFLCs assigned overseas travel locally while on assignment?**

On scheduled days off, consultants are free to travel or use the time as they choose.

**What is the MFLC application process? What are the timeframes?**

Within 10 business days of your initial inquiry we will ask you to submit our MHN GS MFLC Questionnaire and your resume. Applicants will be asked to sign a release for Criminal History Background Check and will be sent contracting materials to be signed and returned. If you are not credentialed for MHN network participation, we will send you a network application as well. The credentialing process generally is completed within 30 days; however, individual credentialing issues may delay the process. Credentialing is a requirement for MFLC network participation.

**I notice that your program uses an e-mail address as a contact for application information. If I do not use e-mail or the Internet, how shall I contact you for program information?**

As our program works with consultants in many different areas and time zones, e-mail is a primary form of communication between Military & Family Life Consultants and MHN GS. A current, valid e-mail address and frequent e-mail access are program requirements. Program materials and communications are sent using e-mail.

**Do MFLCs receive healthcare benefits?**

No. MFLCs are Independent Contractors. This is not a salaried, benefited position. (Note that HealthNet may offer some salaried MFLC positions; for these positions, the hourly rate quoted above *does not apply*. Look for more information about these positions at [www.careersathealthnet.com](http://www.careersathealthnet.com). Search by location.)

**Can a spouse accompany an MFLC when he/she travels for assignments?  
Can friends and family visit MFLCs on assignment?**

No. Consultants are expected to focus on service delivery during assignment periods; therefore families and friends may not visit.

**I have a friend who is unlicensed but has done a great deal of work with Military children. Can she become an MFLC?**

No—unfortunately, US, State licensure for independent practice is a program requirement. We do not currently have a network for unlicensed practitioners.

**If my wife (or sibling) and I are both selected as MFLCs, could we be assigned to the same location?**

No— we do not assign spouses, siblings, or relatives to the same installations.

**Are there specific requirements for participation in the Military & Family Life Consultant network/Program?**

Yes, detailed program requirements are included at the end of this communication.

**Who should I contact if I have applied to the program and would like to check my status?**

If it has been more than 45 days since you submitted *all* application materials and you have not heard from us, you may check your status by e-mailing [Dod.Inquiry@healthnet.com](mailto:Dod.Inquiry@healthnet.com); please place MFLC APPLICATION STATUS CHECK in your subject line.

**I would like to close my practice/quit my job to work exclusively as a Military & Family Life Consultant. How many assignments per year could I expect if I am selected?**

Assignments are made based upon factors including skill/experience match, geographic location and availability. *We do not guarantee ongoing assignments to individual consultants.* Your closing your practice or quitting your job is a personal decision; we do recommend that you make such a decision understanding that if selected for the program you would be an independent contractor. MHNGS is not able to guarantee assignments.

**I have heard that some MFLCs are placed in military schools. How can I apply for participation in the school program?**

Consultants working in the MFLC Schools program must have experience working in/with school systems in addition to the requirements outlined following the FAQs.

## MILITARY & FAMILY LIFE CONSULTANT MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

To be considered for the MFLC Network, consultants must meet the following minimum qualifications:

- **Have a valid state license as an independent behavioral health care practitioner.** *Providers eligible for network participation are: Psychologists, Social Workers, Professional Counselors, Marriage Family Therapists, and Registered Nurses (with psychiatric specialty).*
- Professional liability insurance of at least \$1 million/\$1 million
- Have an active U.S. Passport (or be willing to acquire one before assignments outside the United States)
- Have or be able to acquire Social Security card
- Possess a valid drivers license and willingness to drive at assigned locations
- Be able and willing to drive a standard transmission vehicle if interested in working overseas
- Consultants may not be currently *employed* by a behavioral health care plan
- Have a valid email address and frequent computer access
- Must physically be able to carry one's own luggage through travel process, and be willing and able to walk and be physically active while on bases (or in Youth Camps, as applicable)

### **Preferred Direct Practice Experience: Candidates must have three of the following:**

- Training and experience in rapid assessment and problem resolution (e.g. EAP)
- Ability to work in various environments helping people identify problems and develop action plans
- Experience working with children and adolescents (particularly very young children)
- Experience working with couples and families
- Experience working with grief and loss
- Experience with Veterans or Veteran Affairs;
- Experience working with military personnel and families
- Experience working in school systems

### **Participation in the program is contingent upon:**

- Recommendation of the Clinical Director following a personal interview
- Meeting MHN's credentialing requirements
- Passing a criminal history and background check
- Compliance with MFLC training program