

# Joint Family Support Assistance Program (JFSAP) Implementation Evaluation Project

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Presented by

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# Project Overview

- Two year project (February 2011- June 2013) conducted by the University of Georgia
- Sponsored through the Department of Defense (DoD) Department of Agriculture (USDA) partnership

POCs:

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# Purpose of JFSAP Project

- Determine if the JFSAP program is being implemented per legislative mandate (National Defense Authorization Act of 2007, Sec 675)
- Obtain information that can be used to guide the monitoring and future evaluations of the JFSAP program





# Project Results

## Final Products

- Results-oriented JFSAP program logic model
- Report on implementation of JFSAP nationwide and in four U.S. territories

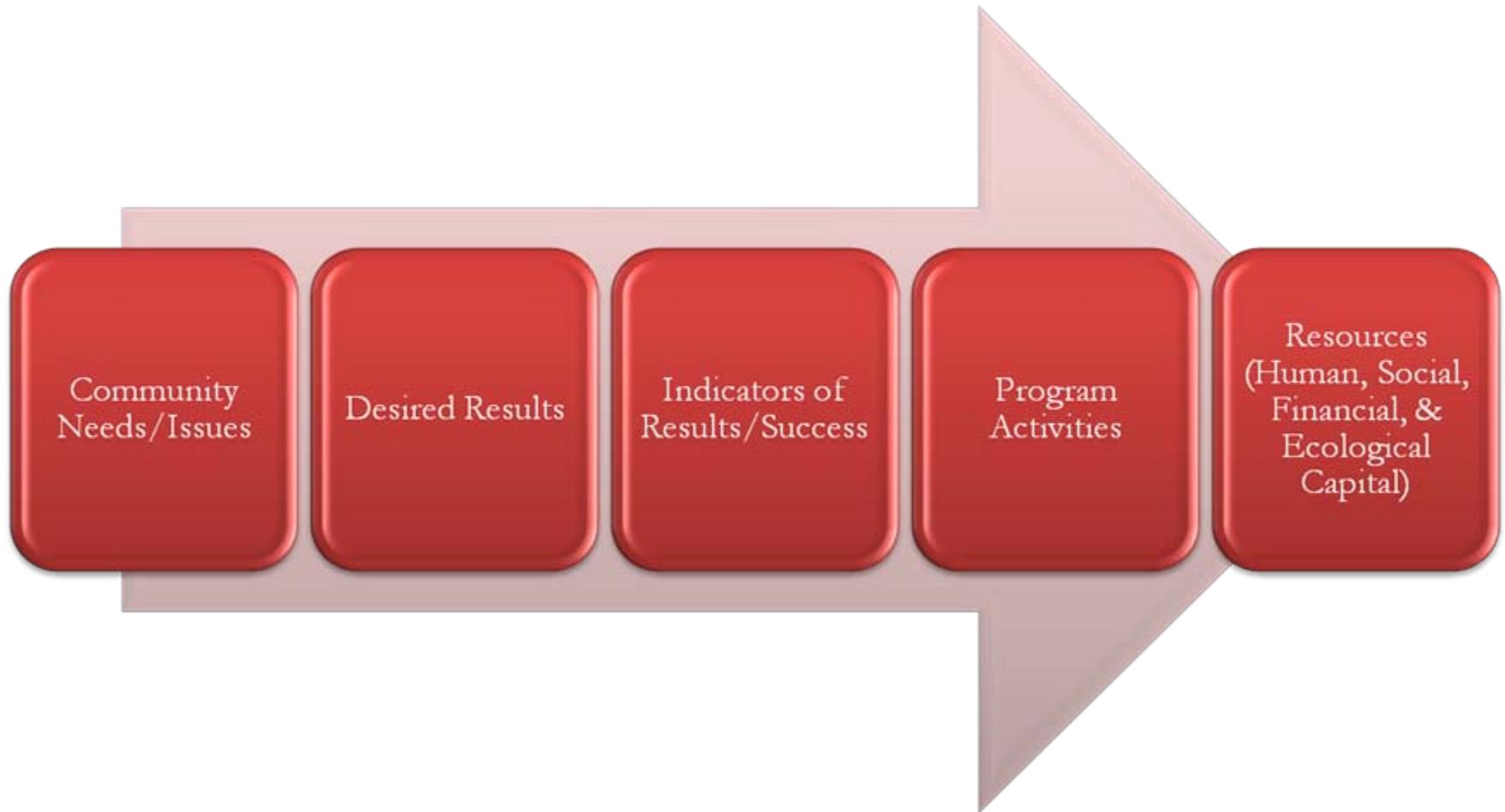
## Potential Uses of Evaluation Information

- Reshape reporting efforts so that the information collected is useful to DoD and program staff
- Identify revisions to data collection needed
- Inform OSD/OFP on program management and assistance needed
- Have framework for future evaluation studies of JFSAP that may be aimed at assessing program results



# Project Methodology

## Results-Oriented Program Management





# Project Methodology (cont.)

**Evaluability Assessment (EA)** – an evaluation planning and design tool to determine what parts of the program can be evaluated and what evaluation is feasible.

• An evaluability assessment is an exploratory, iterative process that examines:

- Program structure and design (i.e., relationship between program activities and results) from both the perspective of how the program was intended and how the program is actually implemented
- Indicators for results/success and what data are feasible to collect
- Intended use of the evaluation information





# Project Tasks & Timeline

## Tasks

## Timeline: 2011-2013

1. Clarify JFSAP program and discuss use of evaluation information and UGA project tasks with DoD → Ongoing
2. Conduct an evaluability assessment → May 2011-June 2012
3. Prepare and conduct an implementation assessment → September 2011-December 2012
4. Prepare and review report on JFSAP implementation → January 2013-June 2013





# Progress of Evaluation Project

## Evaluability Assessment

- ✓ Collected, reviewed, and analyzed extant JFSAP program documents
- ✓ Developed draft JFSAP program logic model
- ✓ Developed activity data indicators table
- Conduct interviews\* with SFPDs and some Guard and Reserve leaders (April-May 2012)
  - Note: Interviews with SFPDs to be conducted at this conference

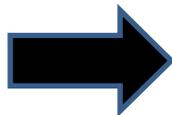


# Evaluability Assessment: JFSAP Logic Model\*

## Needs/Issues

### Geographically Dispersed Families

- Increased family, deployment and reintegration related issues that call for access to counseling, resources, and financial assistance
- Increased need for information and referral
- Increased need for awareness and knowledge of how to access family support programs offered to military families
- Need for outreach and alternative service delivery strategies



## Desired Results

### Total Force Families

- Know resources; Increased awareness of military and community services
- Know how to access resources
- Received information and referrals
- Use MOS and other resources when needed



## JFSAP Activities

### Families

- Conduct outreach
- Provide short-term solution focused counseling & psychoeducation and make referrals
- Provide child and youth counseling and referral resources
- Provide I & R
- Provide financial education and counseling
- Assist families at YRRP events
- Assess needs
- Publicize resources and 24/7 access to services



# Evaluability Assessment: Interviews

## Purpose

- Understand the implementation of the JFSAP teams in the field
- Determine what information can be collected via online survey

## Interview Groups

- State Family Program Directors (SFPDs) (5-10)
- Reserve Family Program Directors (2)
- Guard and Reserve Leaders [e.g., Battalion & Brigade] (40-100)



# Topic Areas of Interviews

## SFPDs

- JFSAP team activities
- SFPD guidance to state teams
- Resourcing of program operations
- SFPD's use of reports
- Input on online SFPD survey

## Guard & Reserve Leaders

- Awareness of and contact with JFSAP team(s)
- JFSAP team activities and collaboration with command
- Use of JFSAP team for deployment-related support
- Input on online Leader survey



# Evaluability Assessment (cont.)

## Other activities to be conducted for evaluability assessment process

- Conduct unit leader interviews
- Analyze interview data
- Prepare evaluability assessment report
- Discuss with DoD the information to be collected in the implementation assessment (based on interview results and determining what can be evaluated)





# Implementation Assessment

**Develop online surveys\* to be administered nationwide in Fall of 2012**

- **Survey Groups (by request)**

- All SFPDs
- A larger sample of Guard and Reserve leaders

- **Purpose and Topic Areas of Surveys**

- Collect quantitative and descriptive information about JFSAP program activities
- Note: same topic areas as the interviews, but with close-ended questions
- Note: will have a few open-ended questions



# Ways SFPDs Can be Involved

- Participate in an interview, by request (April 2012)
  - Provide input on online survey
- Identify leaders to MC&FP and NGB for interview and online survey (April/May and Fall 2012)
- Complete survey once received (Fall 2012)
  - Identify lessons learned and success indicators, and make suggestions for program improvement (open-ended items on survey)



# UGA Research Team

## (Presentor's Contact Information)



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