## STRENGTHENING MILITARY SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

## THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF

## AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

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## **OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION**

### MILITARY SOCIAL WORK SUB-CATEGORIES

Social Workers employed by specialized government agencies to assist **Veterans** and their families



Social Workers employed by Defense Departments/Ministries to assist Active Duty Military and their families

Social Workers employed by voluntary agencies to assist both Active Duty Military and Veterans and their families

ARMY



## IMilSW Exploratory Study 2016-2018

### • Study Aim:

"TOWARD A MORE GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING OF MILITARY SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE"

IMILSW EXPLORATORY STUDY 2016-2018 To develop a more global understanding of military social work practices within Departments of Defense / Ministries of Defense

### • Scope and inclusion criteria:

All countries that employ professional social workers within their Departments of Defense / Ministries of Defense

## Identifying countries with MilSW and SMEs:





Organizational structure, practice settings and roles

Theoretical perspectives and practice models

Ethical tensions

Working with military to civilian transition

Military Social Work Education

Interest in collaboration

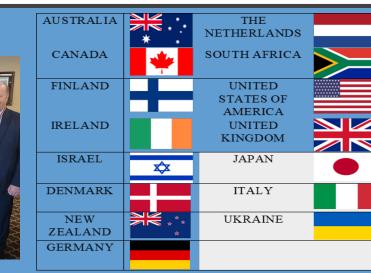


## INTERNATIONAL MILITARY SOCIAL WORK CONFERENCE 24-26 APRIL 2019 WEST POINT, NEW YORK















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### CONFERENCE AGENDA

### <u>Day I</u>

Welcoming & Reception Dinner

### <u>Day 2</u>

- Keynote Presentation: Prof. Rev'd Adrian Van Breda, University of Johannesburg, South Africa
- Presentation and discussion of IMilSW Exploratory Study Findings 2016-2018
- Agency visits & tour of West Point

### <u>Day 3</u>

Formation of the IMilSW Consortium















Mary Ann Forgey Karen Green-Hurdle Editors

## Military Social Work Around the Globe

Developing Global Collaboration in Military Social Work...... 1 1 Mary Ann Forgey and Karen Green-Hurdle 2 Military Social Work in Australia: Karen Green-Hundle and Philip Siebler 3 Suzanne M. Bailey, Henry G. Matheson, James F. J. Jamieson, Marie Pichette, and Audrey Hudon 4 Lene Westergaard Birk and Henriette Dueholm Christensen Kari Seppänen and Hannu Maijanen 6 The Approach to Military Social Work in the Republic of Ireland ... 75 Colin Fallon and Majella Hickey 7 Limor Zaks Zitronblat Occupational Social Work Within the Netherlands Armed Forces . 103 Monique Kruishaar and Rob Hulskamp The Approach to Military Social Work in Aotearoa New Zealand ... 117 -Antonia Nicholson, Natacha Cameron, Liam Cunnah, Tracy Milward, and Polly Yeung Heinrich H. Potgieter and Cynthia Apile Pitse Clare Low, Craig Richard Pearce, Richard Alan Leighton, Katherine Hillman, Ian Barber, Emma Mabbutt, Jennifer Brown, and Pauline Diane Bridgette Ross 12 Military Social Work in the US Armed Forces with a Focus on Service Members and Military Organizations ..... 167 Jeffrey S. Yarvis, Nickalous Korbut, and James A. Martin 13 History and Current Framework of Social Work Services Delivered to Families and Communities Within the US Military.... 185 René J. Robichaux and Keita Franklin 14 Equipping Uniformed and Civilian Military Social Workers for Service: Efforts of Civilian and Military Dexter R. Freeman, Christopher Flaherty, and Jill J. Henderson 15 Current Status of Military Social Work in Japan ...... 219 Kengo Tanaka and Kazushige Nakano 16 Slovakia: The Newest Country to Develop Military Social Work - A Description of the Planning Pavel Czirák 17 The Status of Military Social Work in Ukraine: Current Efforts to Develop This Role Natalija Gusak 18 Strengthening Military Social Work Through the Development of a Global Understanding Mary Ann Forgey and Karen Green-Hurdle 

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(2) Springer

## MAJOR FINDINGS

SIMILARITIES	DIFFERENCES	
No prior international MilSW collaboration	MilSW practice role and setting	South Africa's theoretical model of MilSW
Similar MilSW ethical tensions among countries	MilSW responsibility for military to veteran/ civilian transition	MilSW Education across countries

### SIMILAR ETHICAL TENSIONS AMONG COUNTRIES

Responsibility for the service member's individual well-being as a client and the responsibility to support the military mission Service member's right to privacy and confidentiality as a client and the commander's 'need to know' in the context of maintaining operational capability

Relationships and the need to maintain professional boundaries

### MILSW PRACTICE ROLE AND SETTING

ROLEClinical Social WorkerWorks primarily on individual level

Occupational Social Worker Works on individual, family, organization and community level





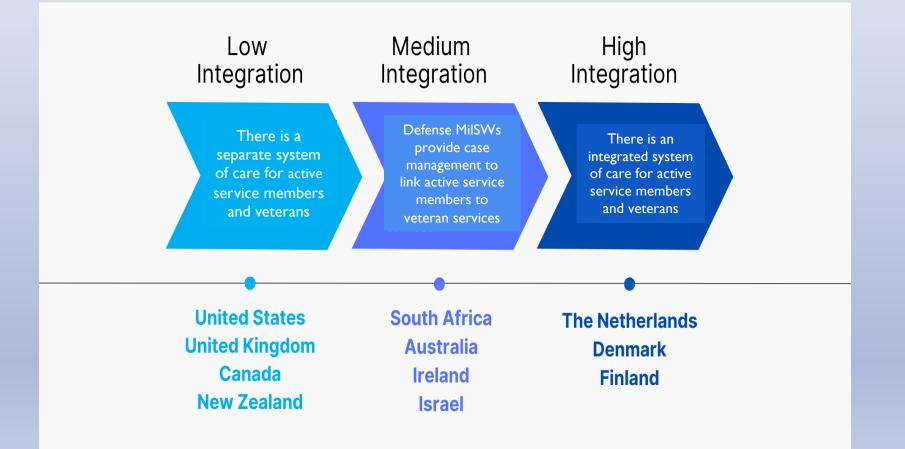
#### Multi-Service Center/Family Services



SOUTH AFRICA'S THEORETICAL MODEL OF MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SOCIAL WORK



## MILSW RESPONSIBILITY FOR MILITARY TO VETERAN/CIVILIAN TRANSITION

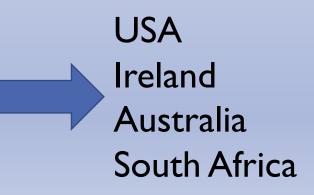


## MILSW EDUCATION ACROSS COUNTRIES

- Military Affiliated Schools of Social Work for Uniformed Military Social Workers
- Schools of Social Work with Specialized Military Coursework
- Military Social Work Education Standards
- Graduate Certificate programs in Military Social Work



• Field Placements in Military Social Work settings





## Development of webinars **PSYCH/ARMOR®**

Facilitating international practitioner, academic and student exchanges

Cross country scholarship

Cross country training projects



Need for an international 'home'

Responding to different types of military missions

Reaching consensus on IMilSW definition

## IMILSW DESCRIPTION

International Military Social Work (IMilSW) involves the <u>exchange of knowledge and</u> <u>experience</u> among uniformed and civilian military social work practitioners, educators, and researchers worldwide about military social work within their respective countries for the purpose of developing a comparative global perspective about the military social work response to the common and unique challenges facing current and former military members and their families.

The practice of IMilSW may also involve **global collective action** on the part of military social work practitioners, educators, or researchers to address military related challenges across national boundaries. This type of collective action may include practitioners from multiple countries practicing together within an international context; international collaboration on the development and delivery of Military Social Work education and training materials; and the conducting of cross-national military social work research and publication.

# QUESTIONS

AND

## COMMENTS

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST