

Biographies of presenters:

Laura Pettersen, Military Liaison & 4-H Military Partnership Project Director

Laura began her work with military families while serving as the 4-H Youth Development Educator in Monroe County. She currently serves as Military Liaison and 4-H Military Partnership Project Director with UW-Extension. Her work focuses on programs designed to build resilience and coping strategies with youth and education related to the experience of deployment with youth professionals, community groups, and schools. Collaboration with a multi-faceted team of partners including Department of Public Instruction, Military Youth and Family Coordinators, and Supporting Families Together Association ensures effective outreach. Laura is committed to enhancing understanding in order to better support Wisconsin's military families.

Andrea Turtenwald, 4-H Military Partnership AmeriCorps VISTA

Andrea is a recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin- La Crosse, where she received her Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Public Administration. She began working with AmeriCorps VISTA in April of 2012. Through her position as 4-H Military Partnership VISTA, she works with a number of different organizations, including 4-H, Boys & Girls Club of America, University of Wisconsin- Extension, and U.S. Army Child, Youth & School Services at Fort McCoy. One objective she has focused on in her current position is financial curriculum for youth grades 3-5 and 6-12 at the School Age Center at Fort McCoy. Andrea is excited about the opportunity to share helpful information through the Family Living Program Area in hopes that the State of Wisconsin as a whole can better serve our Military Families.

Jeff Edwards, Regional Financial Coordinator in Survivor Outreach for the U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC)

Jeff is a Regional Financial Counselor in Survivor Outreach Services with the U.S. Army Reserve Command. He is responsible for assisting Surviving Families in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Michigan with: Financial Planning, Estate Planning, Investment, Insurance and Liability Management, and with all other financial matters. Jeff began his career in finance in 1989 working with major Wall Street Investment Banks first as a successful Financial Advisor, then earning the additional titles of Branch Program Director, National Training Officer and Vice President. His career has spanned the country, including extensive work and travel between corporate center offices in New York City, Los Angeles and Chicago. Jeff is a graduate of the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics.