



A Pro Bono Project to Provide Mental Health Services to Families of All Reservists

Supporting Children Affected by the Iraqi War: What Responders Need to Know

Betsy McAlister Groves, LICSW

Director, Child Witness to Violence Project, Boston Medical Center, Associate Professor of Pediatrics,
Boston University School of Medicine.

Major Molinda Chartrand, MD

Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, Boston Medical Center, Assistant Professor of
Pediatrics, Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences

Brandeis University, Schwartz Auditorium

October 20, 2007 9:30 - Registration 10:00 – 1:00 Presentation

Wartime operations in Iraq and Afghanistan have a significant impact on the children and families of deployed soldiers, now numbering more than 1.5 million persons. Many families and children are able to cope in healthy ways with the stresses of deployment and parental absence. However, for some families, especially those in which the soldier is injured, killed or psychologically debilitated, the experience may have a traumatic effect on all family members. The goal of this workshop is to present a framework for understanding the range of children’s responses to the stressors of having a parent deployed to a war front and to identify strategies to support those children who may be more vulnerable. Drawing upon research findings from studies of military families, and the clinical experiences with traumatized children seen in the Child Witness to Violence Project at Boston Medical Center, the presenters will give an overview of childhood traumatic stress and its effects on social and emotional development. Guidelines for identifying children who are at risk and for providing support that builds on family and community strengths will be presented.

Educational Objectives:

- To increase knowledge of child traumatic stress and its effects on child development.
- To increase knowledge about the stresses of deployment and typical family reactions to deployment.
- To gain skills at identifying children who may be at risk.
- To become familiar with principles of intervention and support for children and families.



**American Academy of Pediatrics
Endorses SOFAR**
AAP has endorsed the SOFAR program. SOFAR offers pro-bono counseling and support services to families and children with loved ones serving overseas in Iraq, Afghanistan and other war zones. [Click to read](#)

Co-sponsored by:
National Association of Social Workers, Massachusetts Chapter; Mass Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Brandeis University, Lemberg Children’s Center PCFINE and MAPP

Continuing Education Information:

The Massachusetts Association for Psychoanalytic Psychology (MAPP) offers continuing education for psychologists and social workers. MAPP is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. MAPP maintains responsibility for this program and its content. Please contact Alice Rapkin at 781-433-0906 for the number of continuing education credits available and the authorization number.

The Lemberg Children’s Center, Education Program, Brandeis University will issue certificates of participation for educators.

SOFAR is a program of PCFINE www.pcfine.org

Registration for Supporting Children, October 20, 2007 PCFINE/SOFAR

Name _____ please check affiliation: **General Admission: \$25** Military Family - No Charge
 PCFINE/SOFAR Faculty, Students and Volunteers - No Charge

Address: _____ Email: _____

Please send Registration info & payment to: Alice Rapkin, PCFINE P.O. Box 920781 Needham, MA 02492
Tel: 617-266-2611 Fax: 781-433-0510 or email: pine@analysis.com
www.pcfine.org