

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Jennifer M. Pacurari, CPT, LLMSW, MIARNG

Officer-in Charge (OIC) of the Michigan National Guard Buddy to Buddy Peer Support and Resilience Teams program. CPT Pacurari also provides behavioral health support to the MIARNG Road to Reintegration, Yellow Ribbon Program and MEDCOM missions. CPT Pacurari received her Master's in Social Work (MSW) from the University of Michigan. She founded Social Workers for Veterans (SWV) at the University Of Michigan School Of Social Work. CPT Pacurari attended Basic Combat Training (BCT) at Fort Jackson, SC. She received her commission from Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Fort Benning, GA. She attended her Officer Basic Course (OBC) at Fort Bliss, TX. She served as a NATO forward-deployed (Germany) Air Defense Artillery Officer (ADA) with a firing PATRIOT battalion in the Active Army where she served as a firing battery Platoon Leader, Executive Officer and on battalion staff. She deployed to Israel in support of Operation Juniper Cobra.

Prior to her military service, CPT Pacurari has experience as a Crisis Intervention Counselor, Critical Incident and Stress Debriefing Team member for the Macomb Emergency Response Group (MERG), Domestic Violence Crisis Counselor, adolescent Peer Education and Prevention Program (PEPP) prevention specialist, and in community organization.

The Michigan Army National Guard Buddy to Buddy teams, developed as part of collaborative effort between the Michigan Army National Guard, and faculty from Michigan State University and the University of Michigan, is a lifecycle peer support and resilience program for returning veterans and service members. The goal of Buddy to Buddy teams is to facilitate camaraderie within National Guard units, decrease barriers to care faced by service members, and decrease stigma associated with seeking help and increasing access to care. This program is operated by the Michigan Army National Guard and may have the potential to reduce risk for suicide by increasing protective factors of resilience in soldiers.