



**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY
CALIFORNIA DIVISION**

How to Secure Military/Government Employments and Placements

There is not a comprehensive centralized jobs database, though the source with more jobs than any other is <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/>. For other jobs, either the individual military installation, or the service branch or sub-branch (e.g. Army Medical Corps), or (in case of contracted rather than employment positions) the specific contracting firm will list jobs (contract jobs are more likely overseas) on their websites. If you are interested in relocating you can use a search engine on terms such as "military mental health jobs" to locate a number of jobs. If you only want to work at specific local military installation(s), you can add those installation name(s) to your search string. Start dates are generally within 30-60 days after applications close.

Although federal law clearly permits licensed MFTs to be hired for these positions, this clarification was only issued in late 2004. Further, this law does not mandate that any MFTs be hired for MH/SA-related positions. As a result, some MFTs have reported job openings for which they felt qualified, but which required another type of credential (e.g. MSW). AAMFT is very interested in hearing your experience in this regard.

Unfortunately, the Vetern's Administration currently has no job classification to hire MFTs as such, though a few MFTs apparently work as psych techs and other para-professional positions. AAMFT is working to fix this (as we did for DoD), and the Senate has passed a bill (S 1182) that would (among other provisions) fix this.

Intern/Trainee Placements

I have never heard anything about DoD internships, but you could check with any local military facilities (Behavioral Health or similarly-named Department).

Ironically, the V.A. does permit MFT interns to provide treatment. Interns/trainees may want to check with their schools to see if a partnership with local VA facility is in place. Please let me know if you have any additional questions.