

NG and UIUC Partnership

After the 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (BCT) executed the survey, Colonels Hastings and Zubik approached the School of Social Work at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) for assistance in analyzing the data. Dr. Hack and Ms. Cleeland agreed to represent the UIUC half of the research collaboration and each oversaw, respectively, analysis of the quantitative and qualitative data. Both the 33rd BCT and the School

of Social Work hosted several meetings that allowed members of the 33rd BCT command and researchers from the School of Social Work to meet and discuss the goals of the project, emerging findings, and future research directions. The joint effort between the Illinois National Guard and the University of Illinois proved beneficial to both parties. It provided the 33rd BCT data it would never been able to acquire and research on its own. It provided

the UIUC a unique hands-on research learning opportunity for social work students at the bachelors (BSW) and masters (MSW) level. In the Fall Semester 2012, five MSW students volunteered their time to enter the quantitative data into a database statistical analysis. The success of the volunteer student involvement, an independent study course was developed for the Spring Semester 2013, which provided students an opportunity to assist

with data analysis and receive credits toward their degree. Two BSW students participated in the course by developing a research question and conducting the data analysis necessary to answer the question. Both were selected from a competitive campus wide application process to participate in the UIUC Undergraduate Research Symposium and present their findings.