

Introduction to Project Safe Guard (PSG)



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Project Safe Guard Evolution

Project Safe Guard (PSG): A National Guard (NG) research-based comprehensive integrated primary prevention training program on the secure storage of firearms to decrease the risk of harm to service members and their families.

PSG has led to self-reported behavior change (Generation I/II):

- 40% more likely to securely store their firearms (*after the training*)
- 200% more likely to securely store their firearms after receiving a cable lock (Anestis, et al., 2021)



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Project Safe Guard Evolution

Preliminary Results from Current Generation (III):

1-month follow-up survey shows:

- 46.5% of attendees reported now storing at least one firearm locked that had been stored unlocked at baseline

The most common reasons for their storage changes were:

- 68.8% preventing child/adolescent access
- 57.8% lowering the risk of unintentional injury or death
- 49.2% preventing access by someone other than a child/adolescent
- 46.1% lowering the risk of theft



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Current State of PSG

Program Partners: National Guard Bureau, The Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress (CSTS), Rutgers University New Jersey Gun Violence Research Center, and Anduril LLC

- **What:** Training on firearm secure storage for preventing multiple harmful behaviors
 - Ex: Domestic violence, sexual assault, child neglect, suicide prevention
- **Who:** Delivery by experts to interested States/Territories/Washington, DC (S/T/DC)
- **Where:** Training will occur on site at S/T/DC
- **Outcomes:** Targeting cultural norm change regarding secure firearm storage, and the increase in secure storage to decrease accidental firearm deaths involving children, suicides, and the lethality of domestic disputes



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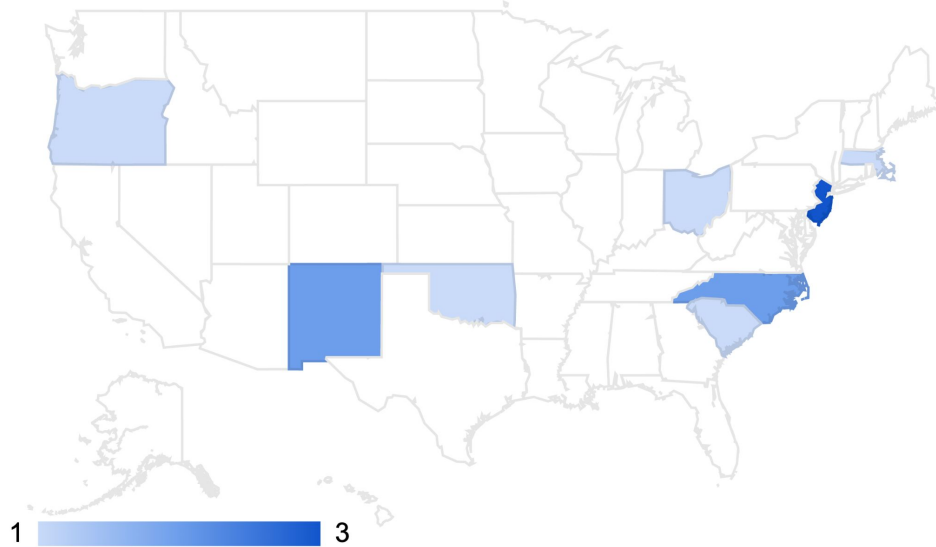
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PSG Reach & Impact



Training Volume:

- 27 in-person trainings completed
- 8 S/T/DC, 13 trips
- 809 participants trained

States Engaged:

- NJ (3), NM (2), NC (2), MA (1), OH (1), OK (1), OR (1), SC (1)

PSG Universal Training

- **Universal Training: 90 minute training for all Guardsman**
 - Topics:
 - Fatal injury/accident/suicide prevention facts, the impact of secure firearm storage on harmful behaviors, common misperceptions of firearm security, and methods of secure storage
 - Class size:
 - 25 to 50 participants
 - For groups larger than 50, we can deliver multiple trainings; 2-3 per day and across multiple days
- Future directions



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S/T/DC Expectations

S/T/DC Responsibilities

- Leadership letter of support
- NG participant selection
- Expenses for participants
- Suitable locations and training dates
- Facilitate registration (for provision of materials & lock boxes)
- Promotion and participation in evaluation efforts
- Distribution of lock boxes (either day of training or post-training) to participants who complete training

Questions?

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CSTS, Rutgers, Anduril Responsibilities

- Trainings and materials
- Evaluation efforts
- Final reports and dissemination products
- Provide a \$25 gift card for participants who complete a pre- and post-training questionnaire, and additional \$25 gift card for completing 1-month follow up questionnaire
- A firearm lock box will be provided for participants*

*Gifts, as defined in 5CFR 2635 are items from 1) outside sources or 2) between employees. For Project Safe Guard, lock boxes are purchased with official government funds to support a Commander-led program. Therefore, they are not considered a gift.