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RESPONDENTS INCLUDING SERVICE MEMBERS AND MILITARY SPOUSES

Blue Star Families' annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey provides a comprehensive understanding of what it means to serve as a military family. For that reason, it is a blueprint for strengthening America and identifying how we can continue to enhance military life.

This infographic offers a snapshot of military life experiences among active-duty family respondents who identify as Black/African-American. When referencing this data, please consider that many respondents reported multiple racial identities. Within this sample, 18% also identify as white, non-Hispanic, 9% as Hispanic/Latinx, and 8% as American Indian/Alaska Native. Furthermore, 87% of respondents are female, 78% are military spouses, and 63% are senior enlisted service members (or are married to one). Many of these issues could be affected by gender, rank, socioeconomic status, etc.



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If interested in supporting BSF's racial equity research, please contact giving@bluestarfam.org

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SPOTLIGHT ON BLACK/AFRICAN-AMERICAN MILITARY FAMILIES

TOP ISSUES, RANKED (n=283)

- 55%** MILITARY SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT
- 43%** AMOUNT OF TIME AWAY FROM FAMILY
- 40%** MILITARY PAY (TIED)
- 40%** DEPENDENT CHILDREN'S EDUCATION (TIED)
- 40%** MILITARY FAMILY STABILITY/QUALITY OF LIFE (TIED)

"n" refers to the number of respondents who provided an answer to the question

*among those who have currently served 10 years or less

Research derived from 2019 BSF Military Family Lifestyle Survey

FINANCIAL READINESS

#1 military life stressor (n=311, 52%)




7 in 10 experience stress due to current financial situation (n=225, 70%)

50% report un/underemployment is a top 3 contributor to financial stress (n=155)

SERVICE EXPERIENCE

27% plan to leave service within 3 years (n=327)

Top Reasons for Potentially Leaving Service*

-  Concerns about impact of service on family
-  Military lifestyle did not allow sufficient time with family
-  Lost faith or trust in military leadership (n=146)

CHILD CARE

"Military child care" #2 most cited DoD resource in need of improvement (n=256, 36%)

67% not always able to find child care for their current situation (n=119)

31% report out-of-pocket child care costs are a top 3 contributor to financial stress (n=155)

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This infographic offers a snapshot of military life experiences among active-duty family respondents who identify as Hispanic/Latinx. When referencing this data, please consider that many respondents reported multiple racial identities. Within this sample, 15% also identify as white, non-Hispanic. Furthermore, 88% of respondents are female, 86% are military spouses, and 62% are senior enlisted service members (or are married to one). Many of these issues could be affected by gender, rank, socioeconomic status, etc.



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SPOTLIGHT ON HISPANIC/LATINX MILITARY FAMILIES

TOP ISSUES, RANKED (n=622)



AMOUNT OF TIME AWAY FROM FAMILY



MILITARY SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT



DEPENDENT CHILDREN'S EDUCATION



MILITARY FAMILY STABILITY/QUALITY OF LIFE



MILITARY PAY

"n" refers to the number of respondents from the identified group who provided an answer to the question

*among those who have currently served 10 years or less

**among those who reported "relocation" as a military life concern

***among those who reported the unavailability of child care negatively impacted their pursuit of employment or education

Research derived from 2019 BSF Military Family Lifestyle Survey

SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Top Reasons for Potentially Leaving Service*

- Military lifestyle did not allow sufficient time with family
- Concerns about impact of service on family
- Lost faith or trust in military leadership

(n=292)

1 in 4

are unsure when they will leave service (n=698, 24%)

SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT



#2 most cited PCS concern**

(n=188, 35%)

2 in 3 report having two incomes is vital to family's well-being (n=455, 67%)

40% report un/underemployment is a top 3 contributor to financial stress (n=329)

CHILD CARE



"Military child care" #2 most cited DoD resource in need of improvement (n=545, 37%)

72% not always able to find child care for their current situation (n=247)

62% say child care affordability impacted education or employment pursuits*** (n=194)

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This infographic offers a snapshot of military life experiences among active-duty family respondents who identify as Asian. When referencing this data, please consider that many respondents reported multiple racial identities. Within this sample, 34% also identify as white, non-Hispanic, 7% as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 6% as Hispanic/Latinx. Furthermore, 89% of respondents are female, 87% are military spouses, and 54% are senior enlisted service members (or are married to one). Many of these issues could be affected by gender, rank, socioeconomic status, etc.



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SPOTLIGHT ON ASIAN MILITARY FAMILIES

TOP ISSUES, RANKED (n=236)



MILITARY SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT



MILITARY FAMILY STABILITY/QUALITY OF LIFE



DEPENDENT CHILDREN'S EDUCATION (TIED)



AMOUNT OF TIME AWAY FROM FAMILY (TIED)



MILITARY PAY

"n" refers to the number of respondents from the identified group who provided an answer to the question

*among those who have currently served 10 years or less

**among those who reported "relocation" as a military life concern

Research derived from 2019 BSF Military Family Lifestyle Survey

SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Top Reasons for Potentially Leaving Service*

- Concerns about impact of service on family
- Military lifestyle did not allow sufficient time with family
- Civilian spouse encountered too many employment challenges

(n=99)

61%

report planning to serve on active duty for 20+ years* (n=101)

CHILD CARE



"Military child care" **#2** most cited DoD resource in need of improvement (n=210)

73%

not always able to find child care for their current situation (n=111)

COMMUNITY INTEGRATION



#2 most cited PCS concern** (n=80, 35%)

31%

feel they have a voice in their civilian community (n=210, 31%)

7% don't know, 33% have no opinion

53%

feel welcome in their civilian community (n=218)

3% don't know, 33% have no opinion