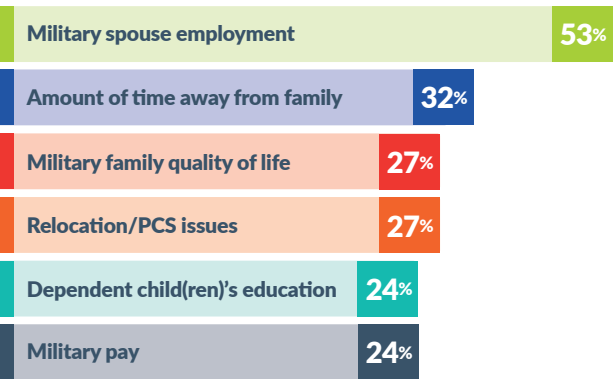
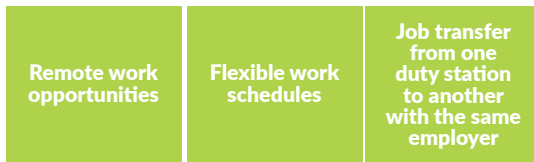


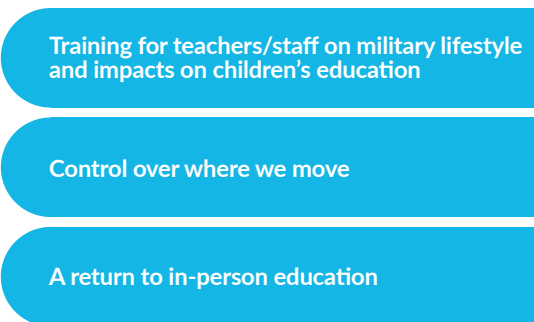
## Top 5 issues affecting active-duty families<sup>1</sup> (n=135)



### What would best address concerns about military spouse employment?<sup>2</sup> (n=68)



### What would best address concerns about dependent children's education?<sup>3</sup> (n=32)



### Family Separation

**1 in 5** active-duty family respondents have been separated from their family/service member for a total of **6 or more months** in the past 18 months. (n=124)

**55%** characterize OPTEMPO<sup>4</sup> as stressful or very stressful for healthy work/family life. (n=129)

# 139 respondents

Including active-duty service members and active-duty spouses



This infographic represents a geographic cross-section of 2021 MFLS data that only includes active-duty families. Respondent sample size is small and not generalizable. When referencing this data, please consider the following sample demographics:

- 81% are active-duty spouses
- 51% are officer ranks

#### Branch affiliation of respondents is:

- 33% Navy
- 32% Army
- 19% Air Force
- 10% Marine Corps
- 4% Coast Guard

#### Respondents identify as:

- 73% White
- 17% Hispanic or Latino/a/x or of Spanish origin
- 11% Black/African-American
- 9% Asian
- 4% American Indian/Alaska Native
- 2% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- <1% Other

- 26% are a member of a multi-racial/multi-ethnic family<sup>5</sup>

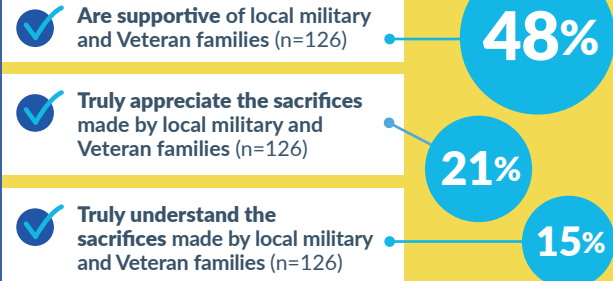
In collaboration with



## Active-duty family members and their civilian communities

**28%** of active-duty family respondents feel a sense of belonging to their local civilian community (n=129)

### Active-duty family respondents agree civilians in their local community:



### Spouse Employment<sup>6</sup> (n=83)

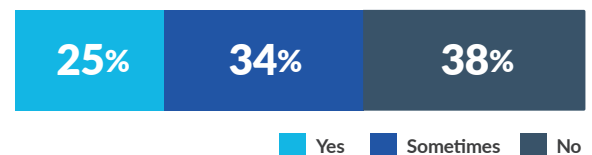


**74% of employed military spouses are underemployed in some way<sup>7</sup> (n=31)**

### Child Care

**"I am able to find child care that works for my current situation."**

Active-duty family respondents with a need for child care (n=61)



\*Total may not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>1</sup>Question and answer choice wording changed slightly from previous MFLS surveys

<sup>2</sup>Active-duty family respondents who indicated military spouse employment was a top issue of concern

<sup>3</sup>Active-duty family respondents who indicated military children's education was a top issue of concern

<sup>4</sup>Operational tempo

<sup>5</sup>Active-duty family respondents who have a spouse or child of a different race/ethnicity

<sup>6</sup>Active-duty spouses who are not also active-duty service members

<sup>7</sup>Indicates one or more circumstances of underemployment

# Snapshot of the military lifestyle



## TAKEAWAYS

>> Less than a third of Maryland active-duty family respondents feel a sense of belonging to their local community.

>> Less than half of Maryland active-duty family respondents feel their oldest children in K-12 education are thriving in their school.

>> Maryland active-duty family respondents report experiencing stress due to their current financial situation.

>> The majority of families with a need for child care are unable to consistently find care that meets their needs.

## Financial Readiness

44%

report their family's current personal financial condition causes them some or a great deal of stress. (n=107)

### Top Contributors to Their Financial Stress (n=46)

Spouse un/under-employment

Student loans

Out-of-pocket housing costs

## Housing

83%

of those with out-of-pocket monthly housing costs pay \$200 or more above BAH. (n=60)

### Top aspects of concern related to housing (n=104)

- Local housing market is unaffordable
- Cost of housing rental is too high

### Top 5 Resources Regularly Needed (n=105)



Communication from unit/command



Spouse group for unit/command



Access to medical care



Opportunity to exercise



Resources for children's activities



Access to mental health

Only 9% of spouses agree that they feel a sense of belonging to the unit/command spouse group (n=85)

## Military Children's Education

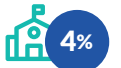
### Type of School of Oldest Child in K-12 (n=72)



Public school



Homeschool



Private school

### Top reason homeschooling families chose to homeschool their child(ren):

- To stabilize my child(ren)'s educational experience

41% rate the overall quality of the school their oldest child attends as above average or excellent. (n=54)

43%

agree that their oldest child enrolled in K-12 education is thriving in their school (n=56)

## Health and Mental Health

19%

do not currently receive mental health care but would like to. (n=109)

47% experienced challenges to having children, the desired number of children, and/or the desired spacing of children due to military service (n=108)

21%

report their child(ren) does not receive mental health care but they would like them to. (n=85)



Questions about the annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey and how you can offer support? [survey@bluestarfam.org](mailto:survey@bluestarfam.org)

Questions about Blue Star Families' Baltimore Chapter? [baltimore@bluestarfam.org](mailto:baltimore@bluestarfam.org)