Top 5 issues affecting active-duty families¹ (n=135)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Military spouse employment</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of time away from family</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military family quality of life</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relocation/PCS issues</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependent child(ren)'s education</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military pay</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What would best address concerns about military spouse employment?² (n=68)

- Remote work opportunities
- Flexible work schedules
- Job transfer from one duty station to another with the same employer

What would best address concerns about dependent children's education?³ (n=32)

- Training for teachers/staff on military lifestyle and impacts on children’s education
- Control over where we move
- A return to in-person education

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)

Military family quality of life characterize OPTEMPO as stressful or very stressful for healthy work/family life. (n=129)
**Snapshot of the military lifestyle**

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**Military Children’s Education**

- **Type of School of Oldest Child in K-12** (n=72)
  - Public school: 76%
  - Homeschool: 19%
  - Private school: 4%

- **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)

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**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

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**Housing**

- **83%** of those with out-of-pocket monthly housing costs pay $200 or more above BAH. (n=50)

- **Top aspects of concern related to housing** (n=104)
  - Local housing market is unaffordable
  - Cost of housing rental is too high

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**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)

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

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2021 MILITARY FAMILY LIFESTYLE SURVEY

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Questions about the annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey and how you can offer support? survey@bluestarfam.org

Questions about Blue Star Families’ Baltimore Chapter? baltimore@bluestarfam.org

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