Top 5 issues affecting active-duty families

1. Military spouse employment (49%)
2. Dependent child(ren)’s education (40%)
3. Relocation/PCS issues (32%)
4. BAH/Off-base housing concerns (29%)
5. Amount of time away from family (26%)

What would best address concerns about military spouse employment?
- Remote work opportunities
- Job transfer from one duty station to another with the same employer
- Control over where we move

What would best address concerns about dependent children’s education?
- Training for teachers/staff on military lifestyle and impacts on children
- Control over where we move
- A return to in-person education

Family Separation
- 18% have been separated from their family/service member for a total of 6 or more months in the past 18 months. (n=244)
- 5% are currently geobaching (n=243)

Characterize OPTEMPO* as stressful or very stressful for healthy work/family life (n=257): 58%

Active-duty family members and their civilian communities

- 274 respondents including active-duty service members and active-duty spouses
- 42% of active-duty family respondents feel a sense of belonging to their local civilian community (n=257)
- Active-duty family respondents agree civilians in their local community:
  - Are supportive of local military and Veteran families (n=253)
  - Truly appreciate the sacrifices made by local military and Veteran families (n=253)
  - Truly understand the sacrifices made by local military and Veteran families (n=253)

Spouse Employment (n=181)
- Employed 56%
- Want/need to work 18%
- Do not want/need to work 26%

59% of employed military spouses are underemployed in some way (n=99)

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=114)
- 27% Yes
- 47% Sometimes
- 20% No

*Total may not equal 100 due to rounding

1Question and answer choice wording changed slightly from previous MFLS surveys
2Active-duty family respondents who indicated military spouse employment was a top issue of concern
3Active-duty family respondents who indicated military children’s education was a top issue of concern
4Operational Tempo
5Choosing to live apart voluntarily, not including times of deployment
6Active-duty spouses who are not also active-duty service members
7Indicates one or more circumstances of underemployment
More than half of National Capital Region respondents report stress related to OPTEMPO.

A majority of National Capital Region respondents rate their child(ren)'s school as above average or excellent and agree that their child is thriving in his/her school.

Military spouse employment is the top issue for National Capital Region respondents. The majority of employed spouses report some form of underemployment.

The majority of National Capital Region respondents have out-of-pocket housing costs in excess of $200 a month.

Report their family’s current personal financial condition causes them some or a great deal of stress. (n=218)

Top Contributors to Their Financial Stress (n=83)

Type of School of Oldest Child in K-12 (n=140)

64% rate the overall quality of the school their oldest child attends as above average or excellent. (n=111)

agree that their oldest child enrolled in K-12 education is thriving in their school (n=114)

Top Housing Situation Concerns (n=208)

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

Top Housing Situation Concerns (n=208)

Military Children's Education

Housing

Which of the following best describes where you currently live? (n=217)

- Military Housing 17%
- Rent Civilian Housing 46%
- Own Civilian Housing 36%
- Live Rent-Free with Family/Friends 1%

Top Reasons for Child(ren) Not Receiving Care (n=27)

- I do not believe telehealth would be effective for my child
- Cannot find a provider who will treat my child

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

Questions about Blue Star Families’ National Capital Region Chapter? dc@bluestarfam.org

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