This infographic represents a geographic cross-section of 2021 Military Family Lifestyle Survey (MFLS) data, which includes active-duty families, Veteran families, National Guard families, and Reserve families. When referencing this data, please consider the following sample demographics:

- 44% are active-duty spouses
- 24% are Veteran/retired service members
- 18% are Veteran/retired spouses
- 7% are active-duty service members
- 2% are National Guard spouses
- 2% are Reserve spouses
- 1% are National Guard service members
- 1% are Reserve service members

Branch affiliation of respondents is:
- 68% Army
- 14% Navy
- 8% National Guard
- 6% Air Force
- 4% Marine Corps
- <1% Coast Guard
- <1% Multiple service members in different branches
- <1% Other

Respondents identify as:
- 80% White
- 13% Hispanic or Latino/a/x or of Spanish origin
- 8% Black/African American
- 4% American Indian/Alaska Native
- 2% Asian
- 1% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- 1% Other

In collaboration with
Syracuse University
D’Annello Institute for Veterans & Military Families

*Total may not equal 100 due to rounding

Military-connected family respondents agree that civilians in their local community:
- 58% are supportive of local military and Veteran families (n=196)
- 42% truly appreciate the sacrifices made by local military and Veteran families (n=197)
- 27% truly understand the sacrifices made by local military and Veteran families (n=196)

Length of time in community where respondents currently reside (n=104)

Quality of community resources available to respondents
Not fulfilled by installation

Map of Tennessee & Kentucky

Top 5 issues affecting military-connected families¹ (n=201)

Amount of time away from family 32%
Military spouse employment 29%
Military pay 27%
Impact of deployment on family 27%
Military/VA healthcare access 24%

Gender of Respondents (n=225)
- Female 73%
- Male 27%

Age of Respondents (n=225)
- 18-29 years old 32%
- 30-39 years old 21%
- 40-49 years old 15%
- 50-59 years old 20%
- 60+ years old 11%

Caregiving

- 22% of respondents consider themselves to be an unpaid caregiver (n =175)
- 21% of all respondents report that caregiver respite/support programs in their community are inadequate (n=142)

Of all respondents report that community support (e.g., programming for military members, Veterans, and their families; available and accessible child care) is inadequate (n=143)
Snapshot of the military lifestyle

>> 1 in 4 Tennessee/Kentucky respondents find community support programming for military-connected individuals to be inadequate.

>> Half of Tennessee/Kentucky respondents report experiencing stress due to their financial situation.

>> 1 in 5 Tennessee/Kentucky respondents identify as unpaid caregivers.

>> OPTEMPO is a source of stress for two-thirds of active-duty family respondents.

Financial Readiness

50% report their family’s current personal financial condition causes them some or a great deal of stress. (n=147)

Top Contributors to Financial Stress (n=68)

- Spouse un/under-employment
- Student loans
- Getting behind on bills
- Major home repairs

Perceptions of Discrimination in the Military*

Compared to the general U.S. society, there is...

- less racial discrimination (47%, n=129)
- more gender discrimination (42%, n=127)
- about the same amount of sexual orientation discrimination (44%, n=124)
- about the same amount of religious discrimination (46%, n=127)

*Respondent sample includes Veteran respondents, some of whom are over the age of 60.

Active-Duty Families (n=115)

- Military Children’s Education
  - 71% of active-duty family respondents with children have one or more children currently enrolled in K-12 education (n=87)

Type of school of oldest child in K-12 (n=62)

- Public school: 52%
- DoDEA: 31%
- Homeschool: 15%
- Private School: 3%

OPTEMPO

- 65% of active-duty family respondents characterize OPTEMPO as stressful or very stressful for healthy work/family life (n=110)

Child Care

- 29% of families with a need for child care are able to find care that meets their needs (n=55)

Spouse Employment* (n=72)

- Employed: 43%
- Want/need to work: 38%
- Do not want/need to work: 19%

*Active-duty spouses who are not also active-duty service members

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

Questions about Blue Star Families’ Tennessee Chapter? tennessee@bluestarfam.org

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