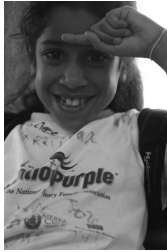


The Culture of Military Children and Families

**Patricia Barron,
BSN, MS
Director, Youth Initiatives**



What You Should Know About Military Families



Did You Know

There are over 2 million Active Duty and Reserve Component Service Members

Active Duty Members - 1,365,571

Army-517,783

Navy-332,269

Air Force-329,094

Marine Corps-186,425

DHS's Active Duty Coast Guard members - 40,650

National Guard, Reserve, and DHS Coast Guard Reserve members

Active Duty Members - 1,088,587

The Army National Guard-354,992

Army Reserve-266,430

Navy Reserve-128,421

Marine Corps Reserve-100,787

Air National Guard-106,254

Air Force Reserve-120,552

DHS's Coast Guard Reserve-1,1151



It's A Young Family Force



Just How Young?

46.3% of active duty members are 25 years of age or younger
The average age of Active Duty enlisted members is 27.1, while the average age of Active Duty officers is 34.6.

33.6 % of National Guard and Reserve are 25 yrs of age or younger
The average age of enlisted members is 31.2, while the average age of officers is 40.6.

Over 50% of military personnel report themselves as married
55.2% Active
49% Reserve
6.7% in dual military marriages – active
2.6% in dual military marriages – reserve

Number of family members: 1,864,427 - active 1,114,900 - reserve
Number of spouses 681,679-active 402,783-reserve
% with children 43.2%-active 41.9%-reserve
Average age at birth of 1st child 24.7-active 27.1-reserve
% of children age 0 to 5 41.0%- active 24.7%- reserve
% single parents 5.2%- active 8.4% - reserve

States with the Highest Population of Active Duty Military Personnel

California
Virginia
Texas
North Carolina
Georgia
Florida
Washington
Hawaii
Kentucky
South Carolina



** All states have National Guard units. Reserve units are spread throughout the United States.

Military Families Share:

Many Values

- Patriotic
- Ready to sacrifice
- Supportive of their service member
- Believe in something bigger than themselves

Also share many of the same concerns as civilian counterparts

- Education
- Employment
- Home Ownership



Military Families – But One Size Does Not Fit All!



Active Duty

Installation based – post, base, fort, station

- Many live on base but a good number live in the community
- Usually look to installation for service but may look to community services because of:

- Distance from installation
- Anonymity
- Preference not to deal with military

Typical Services

- Healthcare – TRICARE
- Housing
- Schools for military children (local or DOD)
- Childcare, Child and Youth programs, Recreation
- Legal Assistance
- Counseling
- Family Service Centers
- Exceptional Family Member Program
- Family Readiness/Support Groups



Active Duty but

Recruiters, ROTC instructors, other remote assignments

Usually geographically distant from an installation
May drive to access services on an installation but may be using community resources
Perhaps uses virtual military services



Military Children: Active Duty Snapshot

Different terminology
Multiple places to call "home"
Shopping at
Exchanges
Commissaries

Active Duty military children may attend DoD Schools...
Although 85% of military children are educated in public schools

Their lives are disrupted by multiple and long deployments
Active duty military children will say goodbye to more
significant people in their life by the age of 18 than most
People will in a lifetime.



"Sometimes when you move, you leave without saying goodbye to your friends"

Reserve Component



Includes all service members in the National Guard and Reserve
Drilling – once a month and 2 weeks a year
Activated – on orders for a specific time

Deployed/Mobilized
On duty in support of the contingency

AGR – Active Guard and Reserve – full time in service to the Guard or Reserve

Military Children: Guard and Reserve Snapshot

Many are new to the "military" association

Many live in rural areas where getting together with other military families is difficult
Their challenges and concerns are not always understood by civilian friends
Teachers and adults who come in contact with these kids also have little understanding of what their student may be going through

*"Our parents are serving our country
and we have a hero in our family..."*



OperationPurple *A program of the National Military Family Association*



Mission

The mission of the **Operation Purple®** program is to empower military children and their families to develop and maintain healthy and connected relationships, in spite of the current military environment, through a variety of means, including the healing and holistic aspect of the natural world.



Operation Purple at a Glance

Operation Purple camp close to 10,000 campers
Operation Purple Leadership Camp 100 campers
Operation Purple Healing Adventures
Operation Purple Pilot Family Retreats
Headlands Institute
Olympic Park Institute
Poconos Environmental Education Center
Silver Bay YMCA
Camp Erdmann YMCA
Tetons Science School



Wounded Warriors

May be cared for at:
Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs),
VA Hospitals and Poly Trauma Centers
Community based care

Families living at:
Fisher Houses
Military Hotels
Designated caregiver may be reimbursed for
Hotel expenses



Families Have Questions

How can I access a counselor?

I just need to talk to someone about my feelings during my spouse's deployment...who can I call?

Military OneSource - 6 counseling sessions

TRICARE: Up to 8 behavioral health appointments w/o a referral.

The toll-free numbers are:

West Region, 1-866-651-4970

North Region, 1-877-747-9579

South Region the number is 1-877-298-3514

Military Family Life Consultants – available through the unit

Give an Hour – www.giveanhour.org

Families Have Questions

How can we improve our budgeting skills to have money to last the month and still put something away for savings?

Military Money: www.militarymoney.org
MilitarySaves www.militarysaves.org
Moneywise in the Military <http://www.moneywise.tv/military/index.htm/>
Military Sentinel www.consumer.gov/milit

Booklet: "Money and Mobility"
Available at www.militaryfamily.org



Families Have Questions

Our family doesn't live near an installation. How can we get help?

Military OneSource www.militaryonesource.com
Joint Family Support Assistance Centers
www.guardfamily.org

Red Cross
VFW MAPP program
American Legion
The National Military Family Association



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Where can I find resources for myself and my family?

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The National Military Family Association
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The National Child Traumatic Stress Network
www.nctsn.net

The Military Family Research Institute
<http://www.mfri.purdue.edu>

Courage to Care Campaign – Uniformed Services University
www.usuhs.mil/psy/courage

Navy LIFELines
www.lifelines.navy.mil

Marine Corps Community Services
www.usmc-mcca.org

Zero to Three
www.zerotothree.org

The National Resource Directory
www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov

Sesame Workshop
www.sesameworkshop.org/initiatives/emotion

FOCUS Project
www.focusproject.org

Air Force Crossroads
www.afcrossroads.com

National Guard
www.jointservicesupport.org

Contact Information

The National Military Family Association
2500 North Van Dorn Street
Suite 102
Alexandria, VA 22032

p. 703.931.6632
f. 703.931.4700

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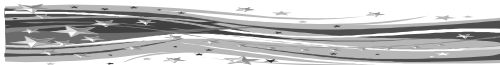
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