# 562

#### RESPONDENTS SERVICE INCLUDING MEMBERS AND MILITARY SPOUSES

Blue Star Families' annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey provides a comprehensive understanding of what it means to serve as a military family. For that reason, it is a blueprint for strengthening America, identifying how we can continue to enhance military family life.

This infographic represents a geographic cross-section of the results that only includes active-duty families due to limited veteran. National Guard. and Reserve family respondents. When referencing this data, please consider that the majority of respondents reported here are White / non-Hispanic, military spouses, half of whom are field or general grade officers themselves, or are married to ones, and there is a relatively representative distribution among the Services (32% Army, 23% Navy, 23% Air Force, 12% Marine Corps, and 7% Coast Guard). The average age of respondents here is 38, 91% are female, and 25% report they are unpaid caregivers.



IN COLLABORATION WITH:



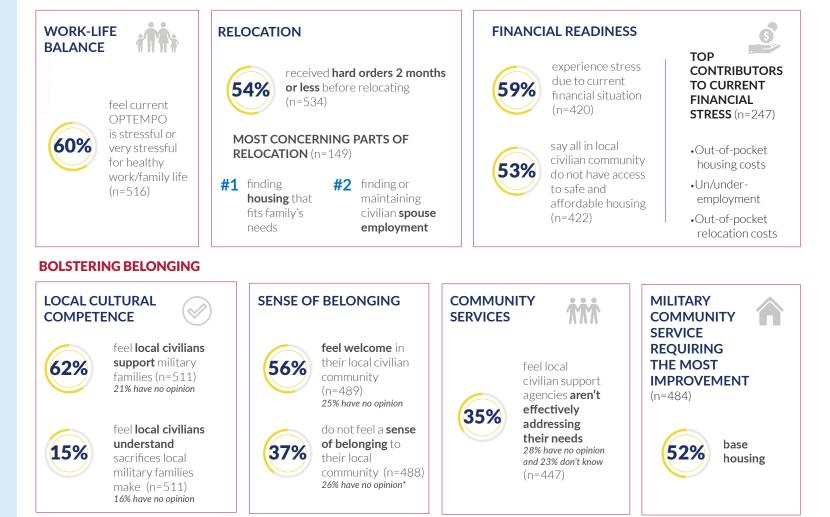
## NATIONAL CAPITAL **REGION RESULTS**



#### **2019 MILITARY FAMILY** LIFESTYLE SURVEY

	TOP 5 ISSUES RANKED (n=492)		TOP LIFESTYLE STRESSORS (n=533)	
	Dependent children's education	54%	Relocation issues	53%
	Military family stability	48%	Isolation from family/friends	45%
	Military spouse employment	47%	Financial issues/stress	41%
	Lack of control over military career	38%	Inability to reliably earn two income	<b>37%</b>
	Amount of time away from family	37%	Lack of childcare	35%

#### **MILITARY FAMILY STABILITY**



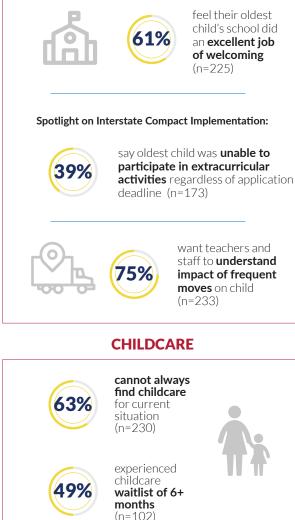
n = total responses to each question \* Question asked differently in 2018

## SNAPSHOT OF MILITARY FAMILIES IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (NCR)

#### **MILITARY CHILDREN'S EDUCATION SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT\*** 61% are not working, but want or need to work (n=225) (n=357) feel local employers are eager to hire deadline (n=173) military-connected employees (n=430) 23% have no opinion and 26% don't know '5% (n=233) are "not at all likely" to identify **CHILDCARE** military affiliation in interview (n=335) 25% say it depends on cannot alwavs the employer find childcare for current \* Military spouse respondents only situation (n=230) experienced **CONTACT INFORMATION** childcare waitlist of 6+ Questions about the annual Military Family months Lifestyle Survey or ways to support? (n=102)survey@bluestarfam.org

Questions about Blue Star Families' NCR Chapter?

DC@bluestarfam.org



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### **OVERALL TAKEAWAYS**

Over half of NCR respondents (half of whom are field or general grade officers themselves, or are married to one) report they are financially stressed. Out-of-pocket housing costs, spouse unemployment, and out-of-pocket relocation costs exacerbate financial stress.

There is an opportunity for the Department of Defense to increase notice for hard orders to the NCR area. For the full survey sample, orders issued at least three months prior to a move are associated with a higher sense of belonging to the local community.

There is an opportunity for schools in the NCR to better welcome military children, especially into extracurricular activities. When asked what made their child feel a sense of belonging to their school, parents from the full survey sample reported their child having friends, activities/clubs, good teachers/staff, and school welcoming practices.