

# 562

## RESPONDENTS INCLUDING SERVICE 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)

Dependent children's education	54%
Military family stability	48%
Military spouse employment	47%
Lack of control over military career	38%
Amount of time away from family	37%

### TOP LIFESTYLE STRESSORS (n=533)

Relocation issues	53%
Isolation from family/friends	45%
Financial issues/stress	41%
Inability to reliably earn two incomes	37%
Lack of childcare	35%

## MILITARY FAMILY STABILITY

### WORK-LIFE BALANCE



60%

feel current  
OPTEMPO  
is stressful or  
very stressful  
for healthy  
work/family life  
(n=516)

### RELOCATION

54%

received **hard orders 2 months  
or less** before relocating  
(n=534)

### MOST CONCERNING PARTS OF RELOCATION (n=149)

- #1 finding **housing** that fits family's needs
- #2 finding or maintaining civilian **spouse employment**

### FINANCIAL READINESS

59%

experience stress  
due to current  
financial situation  
(n=420)

53%

say all in local  
civilian community  
do not have access  
to safe and  
affordable housing  
(n=422)

### TOP CONTRIBUTORS TO CURRENT FINANCIAL STRESS (n=247)

- Out-of-pocket housing costs
- Un/under-employment
- Out-of-pocket relocation costs

## BOLSTERING BELONGING

### LOCAL CULTURAL COMPETENCE



62%

feel **local civilians support** military families (n=511)  
21% have no opinion

15%

feel **local civilians understand** sacrifices local military families make (n=511)  
16% have no opinion

### SENSE OF BELONGING

56%

feel **welcome** in their local civilian community (n=489)  
25% have no opinion

37%

do not feel a **sense of belonging** to their local community (n=488)  
26% have no opinion\*

### COMMUNITY SERVICES



35%

feel local civilian support agencies **aren't effectively addressing their needs**  
28% have no opinion and 23% don't know (n=447)

### MILITARY COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIRING THE MOST IMPROVEMENT (n=484)



52%

base housing

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

## SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT\*



are not working, but **want or need to work** (n=357)



feel **local employers are eager to hire** military-connected employees (n=430)  
23% have no opinion and 26% don't know



are **"not at all likely" to identify military affiliation** in interview (n=335)  
25% say it depends on the employer

\* Military spouse respondents only

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions about the annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey or ways to support?

[survey@bluestarfam.org](mailto:survey@bluestarfam.org)

Questions about Blue Star Families' NCR Chapter?

[DC@bluestarfam.org](mailto:DC@bluestarfam.org)

## MILITARY CHILDREN'S EDUCATION



feel their oldest child's school did an **excellent job of welcoming** (n=225)

### Spotlight on Interstate Compact Implementation:



say oldest child was **unable to participate in extracurricular activities** regardless of application deadline (n=173)



want teachers and staff to **understand impact of frequent moves** on child (n=233)

## CHILDCARE



**cannot always find childcare** for current situation (n=230)



experienced childcare **waitlist of 6+ months** (n=102)



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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.

