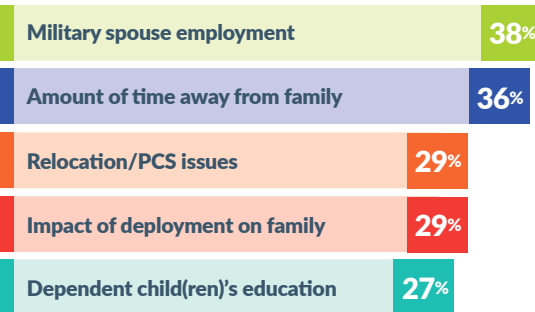


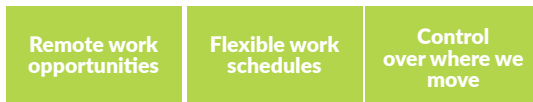


2021  
MILITARY  
FAMILY  
LIFESTYLE  
SURVEY

## Top 5 issues affecting active-duty families<sup>1</sup> (n=298)



### What would best address concerns about military spouse employment?<sup>2</sup> (n=111)



### What would best address concerns about dependent children's education?<sup>3</sup> (n=76)

Training for teachers/staff on military lifestyle and impacts on children's education

Control over where we move

The ability to extend time at current duty station



### Family Separation

**1 in 3** active-duty family respondents have been separated from their family/service member for a total of six or more months in the past 18 months (n=273)

**67%** characterize OPTEMPO<sup>4</sup> as stressful or very stressful for healthy work/family life. (n=285)

**Only 18%** of spouses agree that they feel a sense of belonging to the unit/command spouse group (n=204)

# 318 respondents

Including active-duty service members and active-duty spouses



## FLORIDA

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

- 80% are active-duty spouses
- 58% are enlisted ranks
- 16% are currently assigned to or supporting U.S. Special Operations Command

### Branch affiliation of respondents is:

- 43% Navy
- 11% Army
- 27% Air Force
- 8% Marine Corps
- 8% Coast Guard
- <1% Space Force

### Respondents identify as:

- 77% white
- 16% Hispanic or Latino/a/x or of Spanish origin
- 10% Black/African American
- 4% Asian
- 3% American Indian/Alaska Native
- 2% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- 1% Other
- 27% are a member of a multi-racial/multi-ethnic family<sup>5</sup>
- 3% identify as LGBTQ+

In collaboration with

**S** Syracuse University

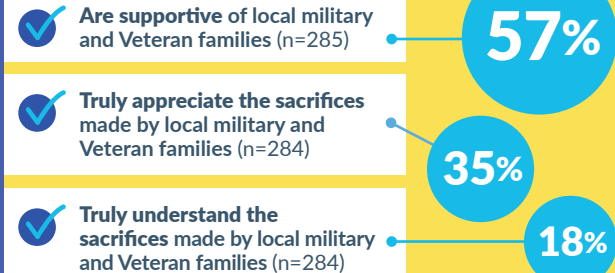
D'Aniello Institute for Veterans & Military Families

JPMorgan Chase & Co., Founding Partner

## Active-duty family members and their civilian communities

**38%** of active-duty family respondents feel a sense of belonging to their local civilian community (n=286)

### Active-duty family respondents agree civilians in their local community:



### Spouse Employment<sup>6</sup> (n=175)



**72% of employed military spouses are underemployed in some way<sup>7</sup>** (n=92)

**72%** of employed spouses agree that the work they do is meaningful (n=82)



### Caregiving

**18%** consider themselves to be an unpaid caregiver (n=263)

**20%** are enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) (n=260)

<sup>1</sup>Question and answer choice wording changed slightly from previous MFLS surveys.  
<sup>2</sup>Active-duty family respondents who indicate military spouse employment is a top issue of concern.  
<sup>3</sup>Active-duty family respondents who indicate military children's education is a top issue of concern.  
<sup>4</sup>Operational tempo.  
<sup>5</sup>Active-duty family respondents who have a spouse or child of a different race/ethnicity.  
<sup>6</sup>Active-duty spouses who are not also active-duty service members.  
<sup>7</sup>Indicates one or more circumstances of underemployment.

# Snapshot of the military lifestyle



## TAKEAWAYS

>> Two-thirds of Florida respondents report stress related to OPTEMPO.

>> Access to unit/command spouse group is a top needed resource. Fewer than 1 in 5 spouses feel a sense of belonging to the unit/command spouse group.

>> Military spouse employment is the top issue for Florida respondents. The majority of employed spouses report some form of underemployment.

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



## Financial Readiness

52%

report their family's current personal financial condition causes them some or a great deal of stress. (n=229)

## Top Contributors to Financial Stress (n=114)

Spouse un/under-employment

Student loans

Excessive credit card debt

23%

owe \$10,000 or more on their credit cards (n=225)



## Housing

Which of the following best describes where you currently live? (n=231)

15%

Military housing

24%

Rent civilian housing

58%

Own civilian housing

1%

Live rent-free with family/friends

2%

Live in temporary housing

Top housing situation concerns (n=222)

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



## Military Children's Education

Type of School of Oldest Child in K-12 (n=167)



79%

Public school



13%

Homeschool



6%

Private school



0.6%

DoDEA

54% rate the overall quality of the school their oldest child attends as above average or excellent. (n=126)

69%

agree that their oldest child enrolled in K-12 education is thriving in their school (n=135)



## Health and Mental Health

17%

do not currently receive mental health care but would like to. (n=241)

18%

report their child(ren) does not receive mental health care but they would like them to. (n=213)

Top reasons for child(ren) not receiving care (n=39)

- 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](mailto:survey@bluestarfam.org)

Questions about Blue Star Families' Jacksonville Chapter? [jacksonville@bluestarfam.org](mailto:jacksonville@bluestarfam.org)

Questions about Blue Star Families' Tampa Bay Region Chapter? [tampa@bluestarfam.org](mailto:tampa@bluestarfam.org)