



The Other 1%

March, 2015



Limitations to
Educational Access
for Military Families

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THE OTHER 1%

- 1 % of Americans serve in the military at any given time
 - Their families serve with them
 - 38% of military are minorities; nearly half of Army population
- 2 million military children in US in 2015
 - Average of 9 moves before they graduate high school
 - Significant family and psychological stressors
 - An additional 3 million children of veterans
- About 13% of U.S. adults overall are veterans
 - 24% of men
 - 2% of women
 - Reenlistment higher among minorities
 - Increase in veteran vs. active-duty population



MILITARY CHILDREN

TOP 5

IMPACTS OF DEPLOYMENT ON CHILDREN

60% ADAPTABILITY
54% INCREASED INDEPENDENCE
54% PERSONAL GROWTH
53% INCREASED RESILIENCE
46% INCREASED PRIDE

POSITIVE

56% SEPARATION ANXIETY
49% WORRY
36% IRRITABILITY
35% DIFFICULTY SLEEPING
30% DIFFICULTY CONCENTRATING

NEGATIVE

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THE OTHER 1% (CONT.)

- Average income (including all benefits such as housing, insurance, etc.)
 - Enlisted member just under \$40K
 - Married military member with two kids ~\$50K
- More than 62,000 homeless veterans
- 450,000+ injured veterans since 2001
- Highest veteran suicide rate in history (18 deaths per day)
- Average unemployment rate among veterans is 18.5% (18-24 year olds)
- Average unemployment rate among civilian spouses of active-duty service member is 26%



FINANCIAL READINESS

TOP 3 OBSTACLES TO FINANCIAL SECURITY

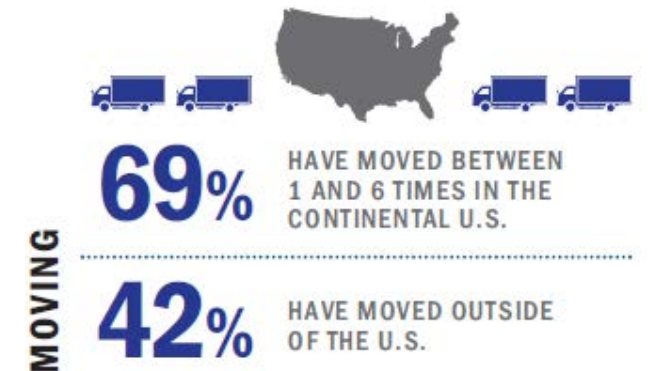
-  **40%** SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT
-  **38%** UNCERTAINTY IN MILITARY LIFE
-  **34%** UNCERTAINTY IN POTENTIAL CHANGES IN BENEFITS

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THE OTHER 1% (CONT.)

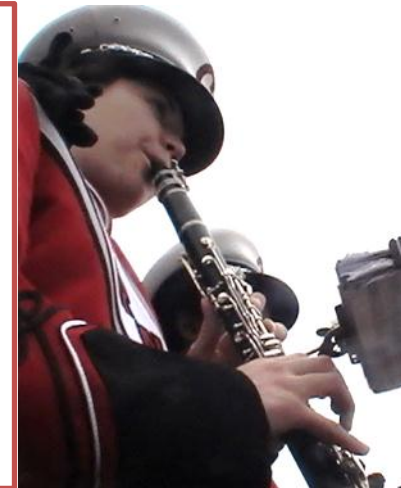
- **Highly mobile population**
 - Average nine moves during a child's high school years
- **Family disconnects**
 - Displacement from home of origin and support systems
 - Urban to rural transition
 - Single-parent households during deployment
- **Deployment**
 - Financial impacts
 - Mental health impacts



THE OTHER 1% (CONT.)

- ~25% of service members/ veterans have a college degree
 - Highest percentage among officer corps
 - Only 10% of veteran students complete undergraduate students (vs 31% non-veterans)
 - 4% of undergrads are service members or veterans
- 34% of military spouses have a college degree
 - Unable to transfer licenses/certifications
 - Underemployed/unemployed
- 1-2% (and growing) of undergrads are military children
- Available resources
 - Post-9/11 GI Bill (transferable)
 - Limited spouse education benefits, i.e., MyCAA
 - Survivor and disabled dependent assistance

Katie N., graduate, Cornell University – “The second hardest part about going to college was moving to a new completely un-military place. You are surrounded by people who are ignorant of the lives of military families and whose opinions on the military differ vastly from your own.”



IDENTIFYING THE MILITARY STUDENT

- Military family members facing barriers to educational access
 - Veterans
 - Active-Duty
 - Military Spouses
 - **Military Children**

In 2011, First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden identified military families as a sector in need of special attention and established the Joining Forces initiative to bring attention to the unique needs of military families and create a greater connection between the American public and the military.

- Identifying the military student
 - K-12
 - Impacts from multiple school moves during K-12
 - Impacts from multiple deployments
 - Higher Education
 - First generation students
 - Isolation from military environment
 - Transferability

CHALLENGES: K-12 TO HIGHER EDUCATION

- Ongoing transfer and attendance challenges to families due to regular deployments and change of duty station
 - Transfer of Records
 - Educational Records
 - Immunizations
 - Grades, Placement & Attendance
 - Course & Educational Program Placement
 - Special Education Services
 - Eligibility for Student Enrollment
 - Eligibility for Extracurricular Participation
 - Absence Related to Deployment Activities
- Graduation challenges and impacts to higher education
 - Waiving courses required for graduation if similar course work has been completed
 - Flexibility in accepting state exit or end-of-course exams, national achievement tests, or alternative testing in lieu of testing requirements for graduation in the receiving state
 - Allowing a student to receive a diploma from the sending school instead of the receiving school

NATIONAL SOLUTION: MILITARY INTERSTATE COMPACT COMMISSION

- Military families encounter school challenges for their children for enrollment, eligibility, placement and graduation due to frequent relocations
- Compact developed to provide uniform treatment of military children across school districts and states – all 50 states adopted as of 2014
 - Council of State Governments' National Center for Interstate Compacts
 - Department of Defense
 - National associations
 - Federal and state officials
 - Departments of education and school administrators
 - Military families
- School Liaison Officers help military families navigate public school system
 - Course requirement clarity and parity
 - Continued services when students change schools
 - Extracurricular activity requirement transferability
 - Enrollment age and policy waivers
- Compact guidelines still not being incorporated at local level

REGIONAL SUCCESS STORIES

- **Success Stories**

- **Virginia Beach City Public School System**

- Educates 20,000 military children
 - Registration forms facilitate tracking of military students
 - Established school liaison offices

- **State of North Carolina**

- Third largest military population in the US (59,000 K-12 students)
 - Exceeds Interstate Compact recommendations
 - Reach Every Military Child in North Carolina (MCNC) – joint effort by NM Dept of Public Instruction and military School Liaison Officers
 - College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) Military/Military Dependent program supports career and professional development for veterans and dependents

Military Child Education Coalition identified key priorities:

- Create the Military Interstate Compact Commission
- Develop Student 2 Student program, which pairs new students with a classmate on the first day they arrive
- Implement all recommendations of the Compact
- Develop a system to help schools identify military children nationwide

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- Promote greater sensitivity among educators, institutions, and communities
 - Create liaisons or counseling positions to focus on unique needs of military students in an educational setting (implement Compact recommendations)
 - Educate counselors and financial aid personnel on available benefits and family service programs
 - Institutions may be unknowingly unfriendly to military families
 - Participation in Yellow Ribbon Program
 - Displacement or award impacts due to availability of GI Bill
 - Limiting access through state residency requirements
- Collect and utilize data to identify and support military students (active-duty, veterans, spouses, children)
 - Institutions do not have good data on the number of dependent children or spouses at universities, and even veterans are tracked through differing methods, e.g., self-reporting or veteran benefits
 - Study and attention on military children focused on young children and short-term impacts of deployment, more so than older or adult children or spouses and long-term impacts
- Encourage student involvement and engagement on campus according to peer group

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- Improve student awareness and skill sets to identify goals of higher education and better prepare them for success in school and in career
- Examine institutional policies, practices, and program to identify areas to better serve military students
 - Number of students from military families in higher education institutions merits consideration as a defined subpopulation at many institutions
 - Similar in size to subpopulations of first generation students, student athletes, etc.
 - If population more than 2% (high military population states), student affairs or veterans affairs on campus support a military student organization
- Similar lessons apply across all members of military families, from dependent children to spouses to service members and veterans