Identifying the Real Costs of Military Spouse Unemployment

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WHY THIS?
...AND NOT THIS?
Unemployment Rates

[Graph showing trends in unemployment rates from 2005 to 2017, with key periods marked by different colors: Recession, UNRATE, Census ACS, DMDC Surveys, and HoH Survey. The graph highlights the impact of recessions on unemployment rates.]
Underemployment

- 18% are in a seasonal or temporary position
- 37% are not in their preferred career field
- 48% are being paid less than in a previous job
- 63% have had past positions that require more skills/responsibilities than current position
- 69% say they have more work experience than required for current position
- 71% have more formal education than is needed for current position

*Percentages exceed 100% as multiple responses were allowed.*
Impact of Moves

Did you ever have to quit a job due to a move because of your spouse’s military service?

67% Yes, had to quit/change job

33% Total No

23% - No, I was not employed
4% - No, I was employed, but my employer set up a remote work environment
5% - No, I was employed, but my employer helped me transfer the job to the new location
Greater Impact on Military Spouses

During your marriage to a military service person, have you ever faced unemployment?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>% Yes, Faced Unemployment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HS or Less</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Grad</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Grad</td>
<td>70%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Financial Well-Being

- 5% Well Off
- 50% Comfortable
- 38% Paycheck to Paycheck
- 6% Struggling
The Importance of Dual Incomes

- **60%** American Dual Income Households
- **50%** Military Dual Income Households
- **77%** Military Spouses Who Say Having Two Incomes Is Vitaly Important
Source of Stress

- Deployments: 61%
- Leaving behind friends & family: 52%
- Finding work or managing your career: 47%
- Moving from one duty station to another: 44%
- Making new friends: 42%
- Military paperwork & bureaucracy: 34%
- Enrolling children in a new school: 29%
### Stay or Go?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retirement benefits</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential for deployments and their impact on family</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patriotism and desire to serve</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The availability of career opportunities for both spouses</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being away from family and/or hometowns</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stress from job</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not enough family income</td>
<td>39%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frequent relocations</td>
<td>28%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
“Unless Americans come to realize that military families face the same struggles as civilians, employment opportunities are not going to progress.”

2017 Survey Comment