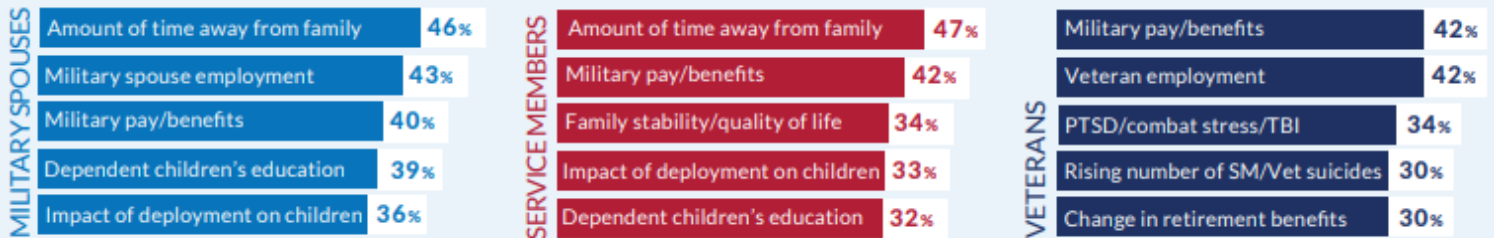




**Monthly Convening Activity: February 2018-Blue Star Families Military Family Lifestyle Survey Results**  
 For this activity, please create groups of 7-10 members (Please try to have members from varied areas of expertise for the best experience/discussion☺).

# TOP 5 ISSUES

## RANKED AS MOST CONCERNING



Source: 2017 Blue Star Families Military Family Lifestyle Survey Infographic (<https://bluestarfam.org/survey/>).

### Group Input Colors

- Group 1: Black
- Group 2: Red
- Group 3: Green
- Group 4: Blue
- Group 5: Purple

1. The 2017 Blue Star Families Military Family Lifestyle Survey finds the top issue that most concerns military spouses and service members to be, "Amount of time away from the family" and for veterans, "Military pay/benefits." Do you feel that this may or may not be the case in SD?
  - Service Members:
    - Time away from families
    - stretching of the pay \$
  - Veterans: Pay/Benefits – cost of living
  - Income an issue for active + vets (more for vets)
  - Yes, both are relevant in San Diego
  - Correlation between expenses + absences → weariness, fatigue
  - Agree that op tempo is up
  - (Trend of high childcare affects practicality of spouses working)
  - Yes – veterans – Cost of Living
  - Service Members & Spouses: "Amount of time away from the family"
    - Yes, Op Tempo, needs of the world (ie :disaster relief)
    - Longest fleet (Navy + USMC) on West Coast
  - San Diego: Saturated with veteran services where other areas require travel + time. Sometimes too many choices to offer
  - Yes!
    - Childcare/family support may be larger issue



2. From today's presentation, can you shed light on trends you are seeing while working with military families?

- Service Members:
  - Relationship issues.
  - Educational Needs/childcare
- Affordable child care
- Mental health especially, Re: Active Duty deployments
- S.A.H. spouses isolated from community
- Improvement needed in financial education
- Info not getting home to spouses
- Divorce
- Transition
- Deployment effects
- Finances & Employment
  - Possibly more separation
- Childcare. Single income families. Housing (Affordability Accessibility)
- Divorce/Separation
- 

3. Where may there exist gaps in service for military families?

- Service Members:
  - Coordination/Awareness
  - Communication of services
- Getting the word out/home to spouses
  - Could mentorship be a good option?
  - Network more with (meet spouses where they are):
    - Spouse groups
    - Ombudsman
    - Social media groups
    - Commands/leadership
- Culture change – communicate the importance of sharing info with family
- Financial Management & Resources
- Education & Career Transfers
- Gaps between resources & Commands
- Children Counseling (MH)
- Breakdown in communication in N. County region
  - What's available in community?
  - DoD can't support off-installation
  - How to access resources?
  - Availability & eligibility



4. What resources or agencies can be leveraged in San Diego to address some of those gaps?

- Resource Fair – Indoctrination
- Getting the word out/home to spouses
  - Could mentorship be a good option?
  - Network more with (meet spouses where they are):
    - Spouse groups
    - Ombudsman
    - Social media groups
    - Commands/leadership
- Culture change – communicate the importance of sharing info with family
- \$, NMCRS, STEP, Approaching commands/utilizing communication
- 211 (Collaborative Model), Lincoln Military Housing
- Ombudsman participation (region & force)
- Leadership spouse associations
- Resource fair leadership = spouses
- Leadership Workshop

5. Any additional thoughts on ways SDMFC can address these gaps?

- Connection with larger agencies (SDMFC & SDVC, ISC/VANC)
- Connect organizations together
- Education
- Keep collaborating; change takes time
- Invite/encourage military leaders to attend Collaborative
- Collaboration between non-profit & for profit SDMFC
- Resource Fair
- Resource workshop fair
- Policy/Government Action Team