significant strides have been made in the area of military family research during the short five-year period from 1975 through 1980. This annotated bibliography on military family literature contains over 400 references and is an update of the 153-item bibliography contained in the McCubbin, Dahl and Hunter book, "Families in the Military System", published in 1976. A number of new topics are addressed in the present bibliography which had received little if any attention in prior years. The majority of these new areas evolved from the...
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THE LITERATURE ON MILITARY FAMILIES: 1980

An Annotated Bibliography

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UPDATING OF THIS ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY.

It is the intention of the authors to update this annotated bibliography on an on-going basis. Thus, researchers and service delivery personnel who are aware of articles or papers on military families which should be included in any future issue of this bibliography can assist the authors by forwarding copies of all such materials to Dr. Edna J. Hunter, Family Research Center, United States International University, 10455 Pomerado Road, San Diego, CA 92131.
ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY
ON MILITARY FAMILY LITERATURE: 1980*

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An Annotated Bibliography

INTRODUCTION

There has long been a recognition of the major impact that military organizations have on military families. It has only been during the past decade that there has been a growing recognition that military families also exert a major impact on military organizations. Times have indeed changed. The Army brat of 1980 may actually find that his "mother wears combat boots." Moreover, the Air Force pilot who soars off "into the wild blue yonder" may be pregnant, and Navy operations personnel are likely to admit that "the hand that rocks the cradle can indeed rock the boat!" In fact, it may even be that the hand doing the rocking belongs to a "dependent" husband.

It was Professor Reuben Hill of the University of Minnesota who pointed out that when a tug-of-war occurs between the military family and military organization, it is usually the family that wins (Hunter and Cheng, 1977). During the drafttime military, a continuous supply of able-bodied personnel mitigated against any significant concern over family dissatisfactions. Lost manpower due to family factors was easily and quickly replaced. However, with the advent of the All Volunteer Force (AVF) retention has become a critical issue. The "married man's" military which developed post-World War II, has become even more married. For example, in 1970 less than half the Army personnel was married; by 1978, the percentage had climbed to 60.2% (Shaylor, 1978). Recent personnel statistics for the Navy career force show that 80 percent is now married (McCullah, 1978). Thus family factors take on added importance in the accomplishment of the military mission.

Prior to World War II, families were granted minimal attention by military planners. Today, however, housing and medical care are offered; stores are operated to provide food and household articles; and a wide range of personalized services such as religious and family counseling, financial assistance, and child care are available (Nichols, 1978). Currently, even greater family support services are in the planning and implementation stages.

Why are these changes occurring? We can quickly mention several: public disenchantment with the military as a career option during and subsequent to the Vietnam conflict, changing roles for men and women in society in general, and changing roles for women specifically. These factors, combined with the end of the compulsory conscription in 1973, have resulted in the increasing influence of military family members on retention and job satisfaction.
The recognition that retention, job satisfaction, and health care costs are often directly related to family problems explains in part the recent efforts of military operations and service delivery personnel to respond to family needs. However, the reasons for these efforts perhaps extend even further to a new recognition that the family has a moral "right" to have its needs met (Family Program Branch, 1978), as well as an affirmation of the intrinsic value of the family as basic to a strong military organization (Hayward, 1980; Hunter, 1979, 1980).

Regardless of the motivating forces which underlie the increased concern for the military family, there is considerable evidence that efforts have been proliferating in all service branches to meet family needs and to increase family satisfactions with the military as a career option and a desirable family lifestyle (Hunter, 1976; McCullah, 1978; Orthner, & Brown, 1978; Shaylor, 1978).

Three national conferences and numerous regional meetings addressing the special needs of military families have been held since 1976 (Hunter, 1979). Understandably, the literature on military families has proliferated since McCubbin, Dahl and Hunter brought the first book devoted specifically to the military family, Families in the Military System (1976). In the annotated bibliography included in that volume (Farish, Baker and Robertson, 1976), the authors were able to locate a mere 153 published and unpublished articles on military families.

Those papers dealt primarily with the seven major areas: geographic mobility, child adjustment and development, adjustment to separation, family reunion and reintegration, adjustment to loss, families in transition, and services to families under stress (McCubbin, Dahl and Hunter, 1976). For the most part, the studies reported in those articles were based upon small unrepresentative samples, were problem-oriented, and were primarily clinically descriptive in nature. Most of the studies emanated from one individual's personal interest in a specific problem, and topics were often selected primarily because of their suitability for masters or doctoral projects. Needless to say, efforts were fragmented and theory building was in no way accretive.

Significant strides have been made during the short five-year period from 1975 through 1980. The present annotated bibliography on military family literature which follows contains over 400 references. A number of new topics are addressed which had received little if any attention in the years prior to 1976. The majority of these new areas evolved from the shift from the draft to the All Volunteer military. Also influential were the changed roles for women and men in recent years, more dual career families and all-military families (both husband and wife active duty military) greater numbers of active duty mother and single-parent families within the military system, and the failure of pay and allowances to meet the severe inflationary pressures of the late 1970s (Hunter, 1979; Hunter and Million, 1977; Orthner and Brown, 1978; Thomas and Durning, 1977; Williams, 1978).
Although many of these additions to the 1976 bibliography continue to represent fragmented efforts, there is increasing evidence of in-depth analyses of the military policies which impact families (McCubbin, Marsden, Durning and Hunter, 1978; Hunter, 1979; Landrum, 1979; Shaylor, 1978), and plans appear to be evolving at the Washington level for service-wide needs assessments, problem surveys and institutionalized program implementation with built-in evaluative components (Croan, 1980; Orthner and Brown, 1978).

The caution sounded by former Chief of Naval Operations Elmo Zumwalt in 1977 at the San Diego Conference on military family research (Hunter, 1978) appears to have been heeded. Current activities support Admiral Zumwalt's contention that ongoing researches on the military family are necessary -- that findings based upon research of the 1960s and 1970s do not necessarily reflect the problems, needs, or requirements for support systems that may be necessary for military families in the 1980s.

Although new areas of interest have opened up and innovative efforts to meet the needs of military families begun, significant gaps in knowledge remain. The plea must again be made, as it was in 1976, for accretive research, research based upon specific objectives of both the military organization and the military family.

REFERENCES


Schilling Manor, a single-parent military community for wives and children of military servicemen assigned to unaccompanied tours of duty overseas, was systematically investigated as to residents' community participation, military identification, perceptions of the community, role played by the neighborhood chairman, and utilization of available caretaking resources. Analyses of self-report questionnaires and open-ended interviews showed that family participation in community activities was positively correlated with higher rank, number of months residing at Schilling, years of active service, and residents' level of education. Wives of foreign birth were less socialized and identified less with the military. Although a variety of roles were identified as those of the neighborhood chairman, her specific functions remained unclear. The dysfunctional aspects of community leadership and the total community system were emphasized.


This article addressed the response of the Army to the problem of child abuse and neglect within its ranks, focusing on the efforts of the Army in detecting and treating high-risk families at the Beaumont Army Medical Center in El Paso, Texas. Reporting laws and referral sources, as well as the incidence of child maltreatment at the hospital were examined. From this information the referral pattern was extrapolated to project the incidence of child maltreatment in the Army as a whole. Army efforts in the form of child advocacy and case management programs were also discussed. Federal-state jurisdictional relationships were examined and discussed in terms of their impact upon the effectiveness of reporting laws and judicial intervention in combating child abuse and neglect in military families within or without military communities in a non-punitive fashion.


Going overseas is a major event that seriously impacts the life of the military child as well as that of the family. The author emphasized that that a foreign tour involves much more than just having to ship the family car or traveling to get there. The family is disrupted as soon as the permanent change of station is mentioned to the teenager. The author pointed out that the family cannot expect to feel instantly "at home" in the host nation. No matter how positive about this new country or the move, the entire family will miss the USA. Parents should expect children to grieve over what they have left behind and anticipate that it will take them some time to adjust to their new situation. If some adjustment problems are severe, the author advised getting professional assistance at once. Nonetheless, the author concluded, children are adaptable and resilient and most benefit from their foreign stay by being wiser, more interesting, more confident, and more satisfied with themselves.

A three phase investigation was carried out to determine the effects of prolonged father absence on family reintegration. Data were collected prior to separation (Phase I), during (Phase II), and post-separation (Phase III) on families of regular Army middle-rank enlisted men who were experiencing an unaccompanied-by-family tour of duty. In all three phases families were administered the identical battery of tests to obtain sociological/demographic variables. A control group, comprised of those families of men whose orders had been changed and father continued to live at home, was also employed. Reunion data (Phase III), which were emphasized in this report, showed little difference between father-absent families and the control group on measurements of anxiety and neuroticism. The Family Role Inventory identified specific role shifts after reunion. The children of the father-absent group showed significant increases in hostile envy of siblings both during the separation and at reunion. Due to the enduring impact of the separation experience on these families, a number of suggestions of a primary prevention, secondary prevention, and tertiary prevention nature for community support programs for families during father separation periods are made.


Researchers at the Army research Institute studied the effect of father absence on the children of military personnel. Specifically, the study explored father absence in terms of parent and child personality variables and various dimensions of parent-child relationships. Of particular interest were family dynamics and family structure to determine which types of interactions transmit the effects of father absence to the child. Standard sociological inquiries and psychological tests were used to establish baseline data on the families before separation. Data were obtained from the wife, husband (middle-rank Army enlisted men alerted for unaccompanied overseas movement to noncombat areas), and their five-to-eight year-old son. Data collected on the child included use of projective tests and standardized teacher's rating scales. The family was then re-evaluated six to nine months subsequent to the father's departure with similar procedures.

The paper examines the sources of stress, resulting from captivity, that POWs contend with upon reintegration into American society and outlines a role that the helping profession can play in order to cushion the impact for the serviceman and his family. The reorienting required of the POW when making the transition from captivity to reintegration and the stresses inherent in society that must be contended with are discussed, along with the negative psychological side effects. Intervention strategies, such as: (1) reinforcing his ability to cope, (2) offering new perspectives of past experiences, (3) alerting to future stresses, (4) mobilizing and facilitating his style of problem solving, and (5) reinforcing the positive value of the experience, are proposed to help the returning POW.


The author believes that the Air Force Command needs to better explore and understand the role of the military wife. The efforts made so far, such as open houses for wives, are considered adequate half-way measures. The author suggested that the men themselves and their commanders visit the places where the wives work to understand the important things they are doing. The author indicated that her independent status was related to the importance of her husband's job more than to her dependent status. Her developing more self-reliance when her husband was away and a broadening of her experiences with each new move or place visited and was seen as fulfilling to herself as well as to her marriage.


This investigation compared levels of depression in 24 wives of nuclear submarine personnel under conditions of husband-presence and husband-absence. It was hypothesized that the wives would show significantly higher depression scores under conditions of husband-absence than under husband-presence. This hypothesis was supported. The results were discussed in terms of the tremendous stresses imposed on the wives as a result of the nuclear submarine deployment schedule and the failure of the Navy and the military spouses to recognize and reward the wives for their efforts.

This report presented a discussion and review of the literature on psychosomatic problems occurring because of military retirement. The author stated that specific problems facing the military retiree are: their search for new employment and for new financial arrangements, their adjustment to the loss of military work and social position, their development of a civilian way of life, their integration into a new permanent residence and new household patterns, and their adjustment to closer familial interpersonal relations. The literature points out that pre-discharge emotional conflict is often evidenced in a free floating anxiety and depression, resulting in alcoholism or poor work performance as a means to allay the anxiety. Other reactions range from somatic complaints of headaches and peptic ulcers to such depressive symptoms as insomnia, impotence, or hypochondriacal pain. In addition, psychosomatic problems can also occur in dependents of retirees. The author presented case histories as examples, and suggested that a multi-directional approach to treatment be taken. Physicians should be made more familiar with the problems precipitating the military retiree's symptoms, and counseling for both the retiree and his entire family was suggested.


Based on previous research indicating that the military wife has a prominent influence on her husband's decision making and career satisfaction, the wives of over 800 men assigned to the 381st Strategic Missile Wing were interviewed concerning their attitudes and opinions about the military. Three mailed questionnaires were used to collect data. Data, analyzed through factor analysis and discriminant function analysis, indicated that the Air Force wives were not well informed as to the facilities and services that are available. Dependent briefings, designed to inform the wives of services available, were negatively looked upon because of their impersonal and "military" atmosphere. The alternate source of information, their husbands, also proved to be insufficient. A desire to find more accessible information channels and a need to participate more in the system were mentioned by the wives. In general, the study revealed that the Air Force wife holds a favorable attitude towards her role as a military dependent. However, the career officer wife held the most positive attitude towards the Air Force and the first-term enlisted wife seemed least favorable.
This article presents a discussion of the impact of World War II on soldiers and their families in terms of stress disorders and separation adjustment problems. The significance of the role of psychiatry in the detection and rehabilitation of affected soldiers was emphasized. The author also commented on the role of both the families of orientation and procreation in the etiology and rehabilitation of the affected soldier. Moreover, the increased incidence of stress-related disorders in servicewives as well as in delinquency in their children were attributed to the trauma of separation. The author concluded that there was a tremendous need to improve and expand existing health facilities, create new ones, and to increase the public's awareness as to the needs of returning veterans and their families.

The structural relationship between the Army family and the military installation was examined with respect to issues of housing, health, economic factors, education and recreation. In addition, the social-psychological community of Army personnel and their families was described in relation to factors of career advancement, privacy, sense of community, mobility, separation and marital status. These factors were viewed in the context of differences between living on- and off-post, their effect on the quality of family life, and attitude of the Army member. Demographic information describing incidence of utilization of post facilities, rates of marriage, divorce, and fertility were presented. In their attempt to identify available data and research sources relating to Army families, the authors concluded that the need for additional research is indicated in the areas of family social characteristics; families of female personnel; benefits and facilities provided to Army families, as well as the social and psychological factors that affect them; influences of the family on retention; and agencies that could coordinate available services and channel research efforts concerned with Army families.

In this brief paper, the author gives an overview of separation problems and pressures faced by the military family. Several questions addressing the pressures and problems stemming from military employment were listed. The questions dealt with length of cruises, medical assistance for the family, discomforts of shipboard life, lack of proper financial remuneration, housing, support systems, and emotional needs of military families. Although many of the questions were merely posed without answers, a number of suggestions were offered.
The reactions of wives to prolonged absence of a husband still classified as missing in action were investigated. Group discussions with the wives were conducted and feelings about their husbands' absence, their own personal and emotional adjustment, and their perceptions of their children's adjustment were examined. Findings indicated that although most of the women had serious concerns for their children's welfare, had experienced difficulties establishing their own identities, and were hesitant to admit to themselves the possibility that their husbands might never return, all were acutely aware that life must go on, and many had made tremendous strides in adapting to a new lifestyle.


A group of 85 Navy families who experienced routine nine month military separations were asked to report their perceptions of available service supports existing prior to deployment during separation, and at return. Wives, more so than husbands, expressed the need for counseling services both before, during, and following separation, which would indicate that there should be on-going support for families -- not merely during the separation period. Results also showed that telephone, mail communication between spouses during the separation, and counseling during the separation period for the wives were important to family members in dealing with the stress of separation. Both husbands and wives reported that they could have benefited from family counseling services subsequent to the husband's return in order to facilitate family reintegration processes. With rare exception, results showed that families did not perceive family research interviews as an invasion of privacy. They, in fact, welcomed them and viewed them as a demonstration of genuine interest in their families and in their personal opinions.


The article reflects a pastor's attempt to understand the grieving processes of the wives of submariners. A questionnaire developed by the author was used to measure psychological and physiological responses before, during, and after separation, as well as the religious interest and backgrounds of 101 wives of submariners. The findings suggest that as the submariner's wife approaches the time when her husband is to leave on patrol she displays the grief cycle outlined by Lindeman. The wives also maintain a long-standing identification with either the 'home' church or the one that they were married in. Ways in which the church can intervene, both spiritually and therapeutically, are suggested.

The author compared the reactions of Navy wives experiencing military enforced separation to the grief responses of those who had lost a loved one through death. A sample of 158 Navy wives responded to a 94-item questionnaire designed to measure psychological and physiological responses, before, during, and after separation. The findings of this study suggest that as the average submariner wife experiences the separation she displays many of the same psychophysiological symptoms outlined by Lindemann and Wesberg as persons who lose a loved one through death. The six stages of grief through which the Navy wife passed following deployment were clearly outlined. The study revealed that churched women (e.g., those who regularly attended church) appeared to have more basic ego strength than the unchurched women, and they rated higher than the other women in areas such as organization, continuance of routine, reality testing, and in the ability to be alone. In conclusion, the author suggested that churched women might not have adapted as well as they did had they not been sensitive to the spiritual dimension which enabled them to interpret life experiences within a religious context.


The concept of civilianization of the military was operationalized and related specifically to the area of health and welfare resource participation. The purpose of the study was to assess whether health and welfare resource participation could be predicted. A questionnaire was administered to a random sample of 1706 cases at a military post. Three analyses were computed. Two analyses involved viewing the civilianization index and the health and welfare resource participation index against the independent variables of rank, age, education, marital status, and years of active military duty. The third analysis assessed the relationship of the two indices with the same variables used as controls. Significant relationships between specific variables were determined and prediction made from these civilianization variables and health and welfare resource participation. Likewise, predictions of health and welfare resource participation could be determined on the basis of civilianization.

This article is a brief review of the Army's research in the field of psychiatric services for wives of military personnel. A three-part discussion of the various stresses experienced by 40 wives whose husbands were in Vietnam was presented. Part I covered the period of orders and pre-departure time; including depressive symptoms of guilt, anger, and concern for the husband's career. Part II discussed the period during separation; addressing loneliness, anxiety, frustration, awkward social position, a feeling of a "stagnant figure in a world of child-raising and house-cleaning." Part III examined the time of husband's return; including tension, apprehension about possible changes, irritation at loss of independence and authority, impaired communication, and problems over the children's discipline. The authors stressed the fact that no psychiatric help was made available for these women as it was for their husbands, and, thus, they recommended further extensive studies of this high risk group, with emphasis on ways to provide preventive measures.


This study is concerned with the effect, during the next decade, of large-scale military retirement by men who entered the Armed Forces during World War II and focuses on the potential social problems which occur with such mass military retirement. A major distinguishing characteristic of the retiree is that the criteria of length of service and physical condition, rather than age, are the primary determinants of his retirement; thus, he is much younger upon retirement than a civilian retiree. A new pattern emerging from the military retiree is his choice of a second career versus actual retirement, a phenomenon also of potential interest to social scientists. Retirees tend to settle together in large concentrations in selected localities. As a result, a direct effect of such concentration is the inevitability of job competition, not only between other retirees, but also with the civilian community. It is predicted that retirees will have a great impact on community institutions in the form of participation in certain voluntary associations. Heavy concentration of retirees may also bring about both social stereotyping from the community and, correspondingly, a high degree of retiree group identification. The author concludes by speculating that much needed research may well reveal that the average military retiree does not undergo major adjustments to civilian life.

This article deals with the problems of second-careers, which the majority of retirees, both officers and enlisted men, are forced to enter in order to maintain the economic and social status they held while on active duty. Financial, economic, psychological, job-related, and environmental aspects of the second-career pursued in the military (i.e., communications, electronics specialist) provide a transference of skills that can secure high-paying civilian jobs. Trends toward a narrowing of the distinction between military and civilian jobs have been observed. Some statutes restrict many officers from second-career jobs related to their particular training due to both dual office and dual compensation laws, as well as conflict of interest laws. Concentration of retirees in favorable locations further aggravates the second-career problem because of high rates of unemployment. Government, public service-oriented federal jobs, and managerial positions seem to attract military officers. Some correlation was found between identification with military and adjustment to civilian life after retirement and between military rank and civilian income.


This long and informative study examined the characteristics, adjustments, and impact on American society of former professional military men pursuing careers in civilian society after retirement. Due to an increasing number of non-disabled retirees, coupled with changes in the socio-economic base of recruitment and elaboration of technical specialization within the military, a large group of middle-aged ex-military men are competing directly with civilians for well-paying jobs. Programs of mid-career counseling were begun in 1964 for the retirees, but, in general, the retiree's success in obtaining a job for his second career depends on how similar his skills and credentials are to those of civilians competing against him. The Federal Government employs the majority of military retirees; a smaller percentage is employed at the State and local levels. The geographical clustering of retirees was explained in terms of availability of military facilities, good climate and a desire to be near a familiar military environment. The author discussed the issue of conflicts of interest arising as a result of employment of retired officers by defense contractors and the statutes that have been implemented to regulate such practices.

One effect of forced retirement of military middle-aged men is their sudden emergence into the civilian job market for a second career. Using data from several studies on second-career employment of retired military men, a pattern of actual convergence between military and civilian institutions was discovered. Four particular aspects of this convergence were discussed: structural similarities, dynamic similarities, inter-penetrability, and attitudinal and ideological similarities. Studies indicated that most military retirees obtained comparable civilian employment -- no doubt a direct effect of such military/civilian convergence -- and were concentrated largely in governmental and institutional employment areas. Civilian job success was found to be related more to educational level and rank, rather than to specific skills or abilities. As a result, some retirees with minimal education were either at a disadvantage or forced to undergo formal retraining. A major convergence of both military and civilian institutions is that the civilian community is likewise encouraging early retirement programs.


This study compared families who lived on base with families living off base (N=30). Location of residence, either on or off base, was examined as a possible discriminating factor between the families. Results indicated that military families held a common bond among themselves by being highly mobile, unanimously availing themselves of military privileges, and experiencing frequent episodes of father-absence. Off-base families were found to adhere to a theme of diversity in that they preferred a lifestyle in which there were no restrictions, privacy, a non-constricted atmosphere, and few constraints on choice of housing. On-base families showed more similar attitudes and behavior, and preferred to reside on the military installation for reasons of safety, convenience and financial savings. Differences in feelings and attitudes were attributed to differing personality variables. Because of the attitudinal variation found in these families, it was also suggested that all military families should not be categorized as one "type."

This presentation outlined the procedures and unique problems associated with changing a POW’s or MIA’s status from missing or captured, to dead. The procedures were outlined in detail. The review board for status changes, normally consisting of three commissioned and two non-commissioned officers as well as one civilian, reviews the entire case file, makes recommendations, and then first forwards the case to the Secretary of the appropriate service and then on to the Department of Defense. Upon final approval, a personal notification is made to the next of kin indicating the change of status pursuant to the Missing Persons Act. Case examples were discussed to illustrate the problems associated with applying the above procedure. Although many problems of the MIAs are unique, the author believed that the laws were adequate to deal with them.

Bond, G. D. All is not well in married housing. U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings, September 1979, pp. 119-120.

This article explored the topic of military housing and the disparities involved in the assignment, management and cost of married officers' housing. The author recommended that: 1) the age for additional bedrooms for children be lowered to six for all children, regardless of sex; 2) assignment to quarters for all grades should be based on available move-in date instead of detachment date; and 3) a flat rate per square foot be established. For example, an individual, regardless of rank, would pay $200 per month for 1,000 square feet; an individual in 2,000 square feet would pay $400 per month, etc. Thus, those with large families would pay more, yet receive more. The author speculated that by improving housing conditions, a concomitant increase in retention and enlistment rates may result.


This study examined the incidence of maladjustment in a population of active duty Vietnam veterans during their first seven months back in the United States and contrasted incidence with that of a control group of soldiers who had not served in Vietnam (non-veterans). The total sample of 577 Vietnam veterans was compared with the control group of 172 non-veterans to discriminate between the types of maladjustment present in each group. The results indicated that 23 percent of the veterans had some record of maladjustment. In comparing the veteran and non-veteran groups, no significant differences were found. Moreover, of the veterans encountering adjustment difficulty, most were single offenses of a disciplinary-legal nature. Only one percent of the veterans had difficulties severe enough to warrant a discharge.

This paper described a study that was designed to define some of the common adjustment issues which faced returning combat veterans as they completed their military duty during their first months back in the States. The setting for the study was an east coast garrison Army post where a total interview sample of 64 returnees was comprised of three approximately equal sized groups of adjusting, legally maladjusting, and emotionally maladjusting veterans. Common adjustment issues by both adjusting and maladjusting veterans included: (1) military issues of adjusting to changes in military mission, group support, and leadership; (2) family issues of adjusting to changes in family dynamics and to discrepancies between fantasized and real homecoming; (3) social issues of adjusting to one's participation in an unpopular war and to increased racial polarization; and (4) emotional issues of adjusting to changes in temperament, to recurrent thoughts and feelings about the war experience, and, for some, to changes in drug use patterns.


This was the second installment of a three part report on a study which attempted to define the characteristics, adjustment stresses and coping methods that differentiate those successfully readjusting returnees from the Vietnam War who were "making it" back in the States, from those veterans who had severe difficulties in the readjustment process. The setting for the study was an east coast garrison Army post from which a total interview sample of 64 returnees was comprised of three approximately equal-sized groups of adjusting, legally maladjusting, and emotionally maladjusting veterans. The findings suggested that the successfully adjusting returnee can be retrospectively differentiated from his less successful cohorts by demographic differences that attest to his past adjustment success, by a less stressful transition experience due to his better preparedness for and understanding of the readjustment issues, and by his use of a variety of secondary process coping methods, that allow both emotional conflict resolution and satisfactory functioning. In addition, strategies for facilitating successful re-entry were proposed.

This chapter summarized the findings of two studies of the reentry transition of the Vietnam veteran. A sample of 64 veterans were divided up into groups of 22 adjusting veterans (Group A), 22 legally maladjusting veterans (Group B), and 20 emotionally maladjusting veterans (Group C). The first study, an incidence study, suggested that maladjustment problems for Vietnam veterans were no greater than those of non-veteran controls in the same social milieu. The results of the interview study indicated that, of those men experiencing readjustment difficulties, the problem revolved around issues such as family, social, and emotional adjustment. It appeared as though Group A coped successfully because of factors such as: 1) higher education level; 2) higher ranking; 3) a greater knowledge of the military organization and its operational procedures; and 4) a more fluid emotional expression. Group B coped by suppressing anxiety and denying readjustment conflict in a defensive way or expressing internal conflict through impulsive acts, often relying on external authorities to keep them in line. They had little understanding of organizational operations. Group C adopted a variety of avoidance behaviors instead of actively coping with the emotional difficulties.


The author proposed that a high degree of psychological father presence, when incongruent with reality and if persistent over time, is negatively related to family functionality. In-depth structured interviews in 1975 with 47 MIA families were utilized to obtain data. The findings indicated that a high degree of psychological father presence was related to a high degree of dysfunction for both the wise and children. In general, data support the hypothesis that psychological father presence (PFP) is related to high degrees of control, organization, and rigidity within the family environment which suggests family dysfunction. The data also revealed a positive relationship between PFP and family expressiveness, achievement and cohesiveness which indicate that PFP may be functional for the family system. The MIA family must be able to resolve the issue of the role of the missing parent in order to establish the orderliness necessary for family integrity. In conclusion, the author pointed out that psychological father presence was established as a viable concept in regard to father absence.


Findings from this study add strong support to the theoretical proposition by Boss (1975, 1977) that in a family with a physically absent father, such as families of missing-in-action servicemen, a high degree of Psychological Father Presence (PFP) relates to, and is a significant predictor of, dysfunctional wives, as well as family dysfunction. There was no support for the premise that the wife's androgynous qualities allowed her to close out psychologically her missing husband more easily from the family system, but this is due to the even greater importance of her instrumental qualities in the organization of a father absent family. Although correlational findings indicated that androgyny is significantly and positively related to the wife's ease in performing instrumental family roles, PFP related more closely to her personal psychological state. Regression analyses showed that PFP remains the only significant predictor of wife and family function in those families with missing fathers.


In families stressed with the loss of one parent, e.g., the MIA family, it has been observed that coping and adaptation by the remaining parent requires flexibility, as exemplified by androgyny and sex role perceptions. In this study, it is significant that empirical support was found to validate the clinical observations. The findings indicated that androgyny was positively related to family/wife functioning, and psychological father presence was negatively related to that variable. Psychological Father Presence (PFP) was hypothesized to act as an intervening variable between androgyny and family functioning but results did not support the hypothesis. It was concluded that these two independent variables, androgyny and PFP, are separately and independently related to family/wife functioning. Further research, however, is needed to delineate the effect of PFP on family functioning. Though further investigation is also needed, not only on the family of the missing-in-action serviceman, but also on one-parent systems where family boundaries remain unclear.

This study examined the effects of wartime husband/father absence on the family unit and the different coping patterns of 135 families residing in Iowa in 1950. Father absence was not always considered a hardship; in some cases it was a "blessing." Successful coping was found to depend on many factors: pre-induction family situation, children's attitudes towards the new situation, presence or absence of in-laws, housing problems, and mother's employment. A wide range of reactions to the new situation was found, depending mainly on the mothers' and children's attitudes towards separation. Good pre-war marital adjustment was related to difficulties during separation and to good adjustment at reunion. Open ranks families were able to cope successfully with both separation and reunion, whereas among closed ranks families, father's return disrupted the new and more independent role of the wife. After some weeks of euphoria subsequent to reunion, most families settled into their pre-war patterns.


This study examines the problems and frustrations experienced by American military families based in Europe. Problems encountered by some families included: difficulty in making friends in the host country, a feeling of uninvolvement, segmentation and loss of stability as a result of the transient living situation, and insufficient and cramped military housing. In addition, school facilities and teaching aids for the 130,000 military children abroad were often out-dated and in limited supply. Prevalence of behavioral problems in children appeared to be no different than in the States, but school and community resources to help deal with them were not available. For families with mental health problems, the only professional resource available was the dispensary physician on base. The military man, rather than the family members, had first access to the extremely limited mental health services available. Coordination of a variety of military and social agencies through the Army Community Services was proposed to deal with family problems.

The "submariners' wives syndrome" describes patterns of interpersonal emotional adjustments to job-related familial instability. This study assessed how 30 officers' wives handled their interpersonal relationships during these transitions. Three theory-derived coping strategies -- internalization, substitution, and replacement -- were measured by an unforced card-sort technique which grouped similar interpersonal "episodes." A weighted summation score for coping strategy was correlated with independent measures of marital satisfaction and perception of self as a "good Navy wife," producing an empirically-grounded hypothesis that substitution is the most effective coping strategy. A content analysis of subjects' descriptive essays provided further information about coping procedures.


In this article, the author reports on a 5 May 1972 meeting of the families of American soldiers missing or held prisoner in Indochina. This group of families and relatives had organized as the National League of Families of Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia. The meeting was made up of individuals who had diametrically opposite views regarding Vietnam, the President's peace strategy, handling of the MIA/POWs, bombing of North Vietnam, and other issues related directly or indirectly to their relatives held in captivity or missing in action. Those present who were administration supporters seemed a little restless with the position presented by the President's representative, a position which placed such heavy reliance on the South Vietnamese and which was so conciliatory in its peace terms. The families were then told that they were closer to getting their men back now than they had ever been before.
Branham, M. C., Jr., Prewitt, C. B. An assessment of family life in an Air Force environment. USAF Chaplain Resource Board, Department of the Air Force, Chaplain Service (date unknown)

This study explored Air Force marriage and family life from the chaplain's perspective and suggest chaplain-related approaches to improving the quality of family living in the Air Force community. Section I contained an overview of the status of the family in American culture in terms of trends and predictions. Section II focused on cultural transitions and how these changes affect Air Force family life. The article also examined the unique family-life problems that are present in the Air Force. Section III examined the role of the chaplain in Air Force family life and a number of programs and methods being used by family-conscious Air Force chaplains, while Section IV contained a general evaluation of these efforts. The final section was concerned with directions Air Force chaplains could take, and gave suggestions for new direction for chaplains at the installation level.


Military sponsored day-care, because of its obvious socio-economic impact on the lives of the young military family, is spotlighted in this paper. Statistics are presented that suggest, not only that the need for military day-care exists, but that it is expected to increase. While the day-care that exists now is supervised under the auspices of the various programs of the various service branches, the Department of Defense has no advocacy or policy in this regard. Subsequently, the author reports that the quality of military day-care is, on the whole, inadequate to meet the developmental needs of the children or families it serves. Specific recommendations, concerning the Department of Defense's response to this need, are given.


This article is a presentation of a list of twenty-five do's and don'ts, a series of suggestions by the Homemaking Education Service of the U.S. Office of Education, dealing with ways to ease the stress of re-entry into civilian life for the serviceman during World War II. The suggestions, listed under such headings as, "Have Respect for the Serviceman's Maturity," "Be Fair About His Gripes," "Understanding About His Nerves," and "Informed About Resources Available to Him," suggest that the veteran, following his war experience, needs to be dealt with in a supportive and sympathetic fashion in order to make his re-entry into American society a non-stressful occasion.

Four military medical officers presented a list of anticipated medical and psychiatric problems for Vietnam prisoners of war and missing in action and families of both groups, based on data from 1,591 captives from World War II and the Korean conflict. Responses to the conditions of captivity were examined, including fear of the unknown, hardships, and indignities inflicted upon the men. Problems of repatriation and readjustment were also considered and repercussions of the men's return on the families were examined. The article is primarily descriptive in nature.

Bruce, M. Stress on the military family structure caused by change due to mobility, separation, and reintegration. Unpublished manuscript, San Diego State University, 1980.

This paper was an extensive review of the literature examining the numerous and unique stresses that impinge upon the military family. Significant areas examined included the autocratic nature of the Navy and its impact upon the family, the role of family members, and the continual readjustments necessary which result in illness and grief. Also examined were economic and child care concerns. The problems associated with changed family roles subsequent to reunion were also addressed.


A sample of 14 abusive and 20 non-abusive parents were compared on three self-report marital questionnaires. The questionnaires; the Locke-Wallace Marital Adjustment Test, the Marital Status Inventory, and the Areas of Change Questionnaire; have been used in pre-post evaluations for treatment and in discriminating between distressed and non-distressed marriages. The results indicated that both groups reported having distressed marital relationships. The report presented initial normative data for abusive parents and non-abusive parents whose children displayed high rates of non-compliance. Due to the small sample size, conclusions are highly tentative.

The purpose of this study was to investigate the prevalence of psychiatric disorders in a pediatric clinic for military dependents. Utilizing a semistructured parent interview, a behavior questionnaire completed by the child's teacher, and a diagnostic play interview with the child, data were collected on a sample of 50 boys and 50 girls between the ages of 8 and 11. The results indicated that a clinically significant psychiatric disorder was thought to be present in 35% of the 100 children. Neurotic disorders were present more frequently in girls; conduct disorders more often in boys. Mixed conduct and neurotic disorders were found in 25% of both sex groups. In addition, specific developmental disorders such as hyperactivity, enuresis, and tics were present more frequently in boys. In general, mothers of children diagnosed as having a psychiatric disorder differed little from those of children without an apparent psychiatric disorder in regard to their assessments of their children's behavior or emotional state. The author speculated that a 35% prevalence rate for psychiatric disorders may have been low because of a lack of awareness of psychiatric services available to military dependents.


Military Families: adjustment to loss, family separation, support systems, volunteerism, Israeli families, wartime stress study focused on the means by which community intervenors (i.e., mental health specialists, social scientists, and community organizers) organize support systems for civilian populations in the event of war or disaster. Supportive organizational efforts were differentiated according to sub-population categories of: 1) families of casualties, 2) families of potential casualties, and 3) dependent and needy individuals. General principles of intervention included linking directly involved family members with significant others (i.e., kin, friends, neighbors) to supportive community representatives; insuring continued unobtrusive monitoring of the families' reactions; avoiding diagnostic labeling of the suffering individual; utilizing volunteers as intermediaries; organizing mutual help groups and networks; and insuring support for the professional and non-professional support groups involved. Specific intervention principles were described for dealing with families of fallen soldiers, of men missing in action, prisoners of war, and of soldiers on active duty.
Carlsmith, L. Effect of early father absence on scholastic aptitude. 

This article reports the results of an investigation into the possible effects of father absence on young children in terms of the patterns of math and verbal aptitude scores which children attain later on college entrance examinations. A questionnaire on father absence was administered to 450 Harvard freshmen. The study revealed there were lasting measureable effects due to the absence of the father at an early age and that the age of the child at the time of father absence is an important variable in determining the extent of the effects. A comparison of father absent versus father present students indicated that: 1) early and long separation from the father resulted in relatively greater verbal ability; 2) no separation produced relatively greater ability in mathematics; and 3) later brief separation appeared to produce greater mathematical ability (relative to verbal ability.

Carlsmith, L. Some personality characteristics of boys separated from their fathers during World War II. Ethos, 1973, 1, 466-477.

This article compared the aptitudes, interest, and other personality characteristics of boys whose fathers were absent during WWII with boys whose fathers were not. Data from fathers' military service during WWII were collected from 450 students in the Harvard class of 1964. On the basis of these data, a sample of 20 father-absent students who had been separated from their fathers before the age of six months for between 22 and 36 months were selected for individual interviews and tests. Twenty students whose fathers had not been in military service were selected as a control group. A comparison of the two groups indicated that boys who experienced early separation from their fathers were likely to manifest many more of the traits and interests typically associated with the feminine role. Father absent students had a weaker evaluation of adult men, projected their own ideal self closer to women, and were more reticent to enter the adult professional world than were the father present students. However, they appeared content with their present role identity and manifested no symptoms of conflict or anxiety concerning it. Thus, although father absent students in this sample were well adjusted to their present student role, they felt somewhat less secure about their future roles as adult men.

This article proposed a program for the prevention of child abuse and neglect in military families. To develop such a program a study was undertaken by two of the authors in which 225 families, who had been identified to an Army Child Advocacy program as abusive and/or grossly neglectful, revealed that the abusing families had certain characteristics which were not constant for all military families in similar situations. Combining the common characteristics of the abusive parents that were studied, a program was proposed containing seven major aspects: public relations; outreach, interviews; education and training; paternal involvement; hospitalization visitation; home visitation; and adjunct activities. The establishment and the organization on military installations of this preventative program were discussed and outlined. The authors concluded that enough is known about child abuse and neglect to determine probable causes and to institute preventative measures. Thus, it should be possible to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect in military communities where the opportunity to participate in such a comprehensive program is offered.


This paper examined in detail the nature and the extent of diversity in personal and family living patterns among 565,294 Air Force personnel (469,838 enlisted persons and 95,456 officers). Changes in American society were discussed as they impact the lifestyle currently found in the Air Force community. Data from the Air Force Personnel Center were used to describe the distribution of members into single, married with civilian wife, married with civilian husband, military couples, and single-parent households. Traditional assumptions about the Air Force family were discussed in light of the data presented; and implications for personnel, recruiting, morale, retention, and readiness examined.

Chambliss, C. R. Ministry to the black military family. Paper presented at the meeting of the Annual Black Chaplains' Workshop, Atlanta, April 1978.

This paper discussed the strengths of and the obstacles confronting the black military family which parallel the struggles of the black family in the civilian sphere. Also emphasized were the opportunities offered by the military to the black family as well as the role of the Chaplain in ministering to their particular needs and assuring that the opportunities available are sustained, realized, and increased.
The paradigms developed by the author were viewed as useful and appropriate to the Navy situation, depicting the wide array of resources which can impact on and support the inter-related functions associated with every family system. It was recommended that Navy efforts in developing the new Navy Family Program be directed to improving the quality of Navy family life towards four major goals: 1) provide a plan of supporting the Navy family and making such a plan accountable through the chain of command; 2) raise the conscious level of awareness within the total Navy system regarding families and their needs; 3) increase the competence of all Navy personnel to deal with people and families in a humane manner; and 4) enhance the development and maintenance of informal person-to-person and family-to-family networks and social contract. In addition to these four overall goals, a number of programs and policy recommendations were listed.


This article focused on the effects of mobility on military family life in the United States. The author examined many problems associated with family mobility. First, local communities tend to disapprove of migrants, often denying them basic rights and services. Mobility also impacts on the equilibrium of the family necessitating adjustment in the social, cultural, physical, psychological, economic, and affectional realm. Other difficulties include: 1) separation from the family of orientation and other relatives; 2) special adjustments of children; and 3) disruption of the career aspirations of the working wife. To prevent problems associated with mobility, the author recommended that both private and public sectors of all communities open up and provide basic rights and services, special educational services, casework and counseling services, and pre-mobility counseling for the mobile family.


This newspaper article examined through a personal account the ambiguity and distress experienced by one MIA wife and her son. The need to resolve the absence and fate of a missing husband/father was poignantly illustrated. Also discussed was the opportunity for personal growth and achieving a broader perspective that could be gained through the resolution of an issue which had become an impetus to build a new life.

This pamphlet was a recent report given to the U.S. Congress by the Comptroller General concerning the status of the military services' efforts to combat child abuse and neglect within their ranks. Statistics regarding the incidence on a national level are given. Although there were no reliable statistics on the incidence of child maltreatment within the military, provocative pressures peculiar to the military such as: 1) long absences of one parent, 2) frequent geographical mobility, and 3) periods of residence in relatively isolated areas in the U.S. and foreign countries, were given as indications of the significance of the problem. The establishment and implementation of child advocacy programs in the Army, Navy, and Air Force were described. The relationship between the programs and both the Department of Defense and civilian social welfare programs were discussed, and were evaluated in the areas of prevention, identification, intake, and assessment, treatment, and follow-up of potential cases. The military child maltreatment reporting systems were also described. The conclusion was made that existing programs are in need of improvement, and specific recommendations on how problems can be remedied were presented.


This article discussed how Marine wives can joint their husbands overseas even though moving overseas is not command-sponsored. The article gave a step-by-step, detailed guide including addresses and phone numbers on how to prepare for accompanying one's military husband overseas. Careful compliance with the guidelines stated in this article, according to the authors, should guarantee most non-command sponsored dependents all the information needed in making a successful change of station to overseas.


This article examined group psychotherapy which was offered to service personnel and dependents in the communities surrounding Fort Dix, New Jersey. The basic premise behind the use of group work was that many problems of adjustment in the military relate to group interaction which group therapy allows to be explored. Homogenous groups were formed according to age, rank, sex, time of service, and types of problems. During these sessions the participants dealt with various problems such as alcoholism, retirement and separation anxiety, marital problems, and occupational adjustment. The author pointed out that neurotic, personality, and psychotic disorders were often manifested as marital problems.

This study focused on children of mixed parents (inter-faith, inter-racial, and international) and was a survey of questions concerning the experience of children with cross-national parents in the military. Prior research findings indicate that mixed children have a problem of identity and usually revert to a life of various kinds of pathological behaviors. The author of this research paper states that there are three main reasons that the literature shows children of mixed breed in such a negative view: (1) authors' background, (2) research findings, and (3) choice of children from mixed parentage is not a causal factor of any specific pathology, but rather, a stress factor that affects general problems of living. This report concludes that even socially accepted and integrated children of cross-cultural parents have periods of self-doubt about who they are. A question raised is to what extent does the military share towards reducing the mixed children's feeling psychological uncertainty about themselves.


This document is a "roadmap" or plan developed by Westinghouse Public Applied Systems Division for navy family research. It was designed to provide the navy with a systematic framework for building the knowledge base which is required to design and implement effective navy family-related policies and programs. Over 100 distinct research areas were identified with significant issues and previous research pertaining to each area described briefly. All research areas were related to the stated to the stated key objectives of the navy family program to ensure that research results are useful in planning. Principles to be considered in the future planning, management, and dissemination of family research in the navy were given.


The purpose of this presentation was to provide an overview of the family counseling program established by the U.S. Navy to coordinate a program of services for the returned prisoners of war and their families, and the families of the men missing in action. A tentative assessment of the services was offered. The program involved the identification of resources, coordination of a multi-discipline team, identification of the RPW/MIA population, as well as the creation and utilization of outreach techniques. Aspects of the program included 1) maintaining the relationships with the families; 2) being available for education and consultation; and 3) coordinating services with other agencies. These services were based on the community mental health model, and included prevention, reduction, and rehabilitation of maladaptive behaviors.

This was a 3-year study of the emotional readjustment to civilian life of a group of 200 veterans attending college. There appeared to be agreement that the majority of veterans were preoccupied with their economic situation, that they tended to idealize what they had left behind, and that they tended to forget that civilians at home were also in the process of changing. Beyond these common factors, the author discussed seven additional changes affecting domestic reassimilation, such as feelings of social, material and emotional insecurity or inadequacy, familial responsibilities and obligations, lack of needed skills, and loss of morale. Although the clinicians were aware of the readjustment problems of civilian life, they were unable to isolate the factors that would make reassimilation easier, since variations in individual responses precluded any fixed program. The author recommended that caution be used in therapy in order to minimize the anxiety of the men.


This study was part of a larger in-depth study of family adjustment to separation conducted by the Family Studies Branch in 1972. It represented a preliminary report of children's adjustment to war-induced father absence. Matched samples of fourteen children from twelve reunited, thirteen non-reunited and nine reconstituted (with step-fathers) families were given the California Test of Personality, Form AA, to test two hypotheses: 1) the reunited group will obtain scores indicative of better adjustment than the reconstituted group; 2) the reconstituted group will obtain scores indicative of better adjustment than the non-reunited group. Results indicated that Hypothesis I was confirmed, in general, with the children who had experienced fathers' return revealing better personal and social adjustment. Hypothesis II was not confirmed; there were no significant differences between the children in the non-reunited and reconstituted groups on personal and social adjustment. The author cited the size of the sample and the recency of the study (one year) following the addition of the step-father or the father's return as possible limitations to the generalizability of the findings.

An investigation to determine the effects of long-term father absence due to wartime separation was undertaken with 99 children of men who had been taken prisoner during the Vietnam War. Subjects were administered the California Test of Personality approximately 12 to 22 months after their fathers' return to determine their levels of social and personal adjustment. Scores by sex and age were compared with pre-established normative data using a t-test for significant differences. Findings indicated that the children of returned prisoners of war revealed poorer personal and social adjustment than the norm. Numerous inter-group findings were discussed.


This study examined the adjustment of a population of 42 children who had experienced a unique wartime absence -- absence due to a father held POW in the Vietnam conflict. The study, based on data gathered longitudinally, was designed to compare the adjustment of these children, using the California Test of Personality, one year after father returned, with children's adjustment two years after return. In addition, an attempt was made to identify the best combination of factors which may be used to explain not only the degree of change in adjustment during this time period, but also their level of adjustment two years post-return. Results indicated significant change towards better adjustment in the children's adjustment from the first to the second year following father's return. The variable dealing with mother's tension symptoms during separation was shown to be predictive of children's personal, social, and total adjustment two years after father's return.


Matched samples of 14 children from each of three types of families, reunited (fathers returned from Vietnam), non-reunited (fathers did not return), reconstituted (fathers did not return and mothers remarried), were compared as to their personal and social adjustment using the California Test of Personality. Findings indicated that children of reunited parents showed significantly better adjustment in areas of school and community relations, and a general freedom from withdrawal tendencies, nervous symptoms and anti-social tendencies when compared with the reconstituted group. It was concluded that the addition of a new father may present its unique stresses and does not immediately offset the deleterious effects of prolonged separation.

Previous direct assessments of the adjustment of children of returned American prisoners of the Vietnam conflict revealed consistent below-the-norm performance on the California Test of Personality. Although variability within the group was noted, no significant within-group differences were evidenced as to age and sex of the children and length of father absence. The purpose of the present study was to examine two major groups of predictors stressed by previous research with other father-absent populations, father's experience in captivity and mother's adjustment to separation, along with background and longitudinally collected marriage and family data, as to their relationship to three criterion measures of child adjustment -- personal, social and total adjustment. Subjects included 55 children all of whom completed the California Test of Personality 14 to 21 months after their fathers' return. Step-wise multiple regression analyses revealed the predictors which can best explain the variability in the children's adjustment.


This report was based on data gathered after the first year of a longitudinal investigation of POW/MIA families, and was designed to compare the second generational effects of long-term father absence on children who had been reunited with their fathers with children who had not been reunited with their fathers. The sample included 99 children of reunited families and 105 children of non-reunited families, and focused on three major variables that appear to contribute to the ill-effects of extended periods of father absence. Subjects were administered the California Test of Personality approximately 12 to 24 months after the return of American prisoners of war from Vietnam to determine levels of personal and social adjustment. Scores by sex and age were compared. Findings indicated no significant differences between the two groups on the children's total social and personal adjustment scores. However, the samples did indicate significant differences on the component scale scores with the reunited children scoring higher on both freedom from nervous symptoms and community relations.

This article outlined the steps taken by the U.S. Army and American Red Cross to transport approximately 45,000 British war brides and their children to the United States after the end of World War II. Both organizations provided physical care, general orientation briefings, recreational and educational activities, and social services. Problems which arose fell into three general categories: 1) problems arising out of the functions of the military setup in which they found themselves; 2) problems arising out of personal and family relationships, heightened by the woman’s leaving home; and 3) problems evolving out of the crystallization within the individual of the meaning of the break from home, family, and country, and the new adjustments involved upon arrival in the U.S. Statistics showed that the majority of the brides were able to carry through with their plans with minimal difficulty.


This research assessed how adolescents and their parents perceived the influence of the Army on adolescents in career Army families, specifically in terms of their friendship patterns, school experience, and social advantages/disadvantages. Sixty 16 to 18 year-old adolescents from Army families were randomly sampled, and they and their parents were given a structured interview. A major and unexpected finding was that the adolescents and their parents felt that being an adolescent in the Army was not unique. Adolescents and parents generally responded similarly; however, parents were more likely to view their Army experience more favorably than did the adolescents. Data suggest that adolescent developmental tasks may be deferred to later adolescence when the adolescents depart from their families and the Army system. Thus, a suggestion is made that the Army find ways of accommodating the Army adolescent population by recognizing the developmental tasks of this age group.


This paper addressed parent absence as a type of stress for the contemporary military family. Through a review of relevant literature, the author attempted to test the following hypotheses: 1) the greater the degree of emotional stability possessed by the present parent during the absence of the other parent, the greater the likelihood that the children would be well-adjusted, and 2) the less socially isolated the present parent is, the greater will be the social and emotional adjustment of the children. The author concluded that both hypotheses were substantially supported by the literature and that the significant variable was not the presence or absence of one parent, but the level of adjustment of and the identification with the community by the parent who was present.
Davis, J. A. Emotional problems of service families living in Japan. 
*Social Work, 1960, 5, 100-105.*

This article described some of the adjustment problems experienced by service families that presented themselves at a military psychiatric clinic in Japan. Although servicemen experienced adjustment problems because of the quick re-establishment of workmates and routine, the wives had more difficulty and experienced considerably more discomfort. Isolation, insecurity, anger, frustration, and despair resulted from the family's estrangement from family and friends, as well as being thrust into a foreign culture where the language and customs were incomprehensible. Preventive services utilized included the establishment of individual and agency relationships with the family as well as orientation lectures given by specialists in the personnel, legal, medical and religious fields. The author emphasized that the families who had evidenced only marginal adjustment in the past suffered the most, and the stressful new living situation served as a major precipitating factor in problems presented.


This study was exploratory and investigated the coping mechanisms wives use during periods of family separations resulting from military deployments. One hundred and eight wives who were presently experiencing the problems of enforced family separation were surveyed. The study indicated that problems of personal needs such as loneliness and loss of companionship of the husband were reported most frequently, with problems of child care running a close second. Financial needs were less significant. The study found that families reduced the stress of separation by using the informal assistance of relatives, friends, and neighbors before turning to the more formal resources within the military community.


In this presentation, the author discussed in detail Lindeman's six stages of grief due to object loss and separation, comparing these stages experienced in the death of a loved one to the grief stages of a Navy wife experiencing separation due to deployment of her husband. The author contends that of the three parts of deployment, namely, the deployment, and post-deployment, post-deployment readjustment is the most stressful. When the husband returns from deployment, both the husband and wife often experience in their reunion process the difficulty of marital and family readjustment. The author, speaking from both personal experience and from conducting 32 readjustment seminars for the wives of men on deployed ships, explained how to effect readjustment in the areas of communication (verbal, non-verbal, and sexual), expectations, finances, and family lifestyle. The presentation was documented with research findings and offered practical solutions.

This is a final draft of recommendations generated as a result of two previous meetings in February and March of 1979, which addressed the issue of the impact of the family on retention. The participants recognized the important influence that the family and spouse can have on career decisions of Air Force members and recommended that steps be taken to improve the quality of Air Force life. Eighteen initiatives or recommendations were proposed which addressed the major concerns listed by personnel who had already left the Air Force. Progress made on each of the initiatives between November 1979 and January 1980 was given.


This report of a workshop contained the conclusions and initiatives formulated at a workshop on single member parents and military couples with dependent children. Statistics as to the number of personnel in each group that are in the Air Force were presented and child care problems discussed. The workshop participants concluded that the numbers in each group will increase significantly, probably doubling, by 1985, and addressed the problems that may be created by the increase. Sixteen initiatives or recommendations were given to deal with the problems that already exist and to head off those that may develop, thus assuring that the Air Force's mission will be successfully completed.


This regulation outlines Air Force policy on dependent care responsibilities as they affect the accomplishment of military duties. It gives guidance on dependent care planning and sets up procedures for counseling on dependent care responsibilities, and explains how deferments or exemptions may be obtained in unique dependent care situations.


This pamphlet was prepared to help military personnel and their families move their possessions with minimal trouble and expense to them and the Government. Procedures to be followed in preparing to ship household goods, unaccompanied baggage, and car were given, as well as entitlements available such as insurance to recover property due to loss and/or damage.

This pamphlet is a general information packet made available to the dependents of Navy personnel by the Naval Surface Force, Pacific Fleet. Areas such as: 1) predeployment preparations; 2) medical needs and services; 3) organizations designed to assist dependents during deployments; 4) general information on emergency leave, humanitarian discharges or transfer, privileges available to dependents, credit unions, allotments, travel, correspondence; 5) Navy facilities in San Diego; and 6) important phone numbers, are explored succinctly and purposively to make dependents aware of the responsibilities and options available to meet them.


This comprehensive report pertains to a study conducted by the Naval Personnel Research and Development Laboratory which attempted to measure the perceptions of Navy wives of the conditions of Navy life. Data were obtained through the use of a structured questionnaire administered to 3,063 officers' wives and 7,520 enlisted men's wives. Questions were identical contentwise for wives of both officers and enlisted men. Findings related to the following areas of concern: 1) background characteristics of both husband and wife; 2) financial matters; 3) quality of services available to Navy families; 4) attitudes towards military life, 5) improvements wives would like to see in service facilities; and 6) unfavorable aspects of being a Navy wife. Results were reported in percent responding to each question.

This study examined factors which might influence whether or not Naval officers remain in the Navy. Through personal interviews with both men and their wives, the investigator sought to determine the impact of an officer's and family on his career during the early, middle, and late stages of the officer's career. Findings indicated that marital/family adjustments figure prominently in all three career phases and become even more important during the mid- and late-career stages. In the early career one of the officer's most difficult challenges is accepting the vicissitudes of Navy life, including separations, long work hours, and its assumption the career comes first. At mid-career, the family issues become more acute and the developmental needs of the wife and children are critical. At the late-career phase, the needs to reduce family mobility for the children's sake, to plan in earnest for retirement and career transition, to grow into the executive role, and to confront the issues of aging are encountered. The author concluded that there is a strong link at all three stages between family dynamics and officer productivity.


In this article, the authors emphasized that the Navy of the future was faced with some complex personnel problems which could impair readiness and effective utilization of advanced technology. It was the thesis of this article that one of the principle reasons for the failure of Naval officers to re-enlist was the adverse impact of the Navy career pattern of marriage and family life, especially for those in critical shortage and of strategic importance. The authors discussed some typical marriage and family problems which occur at various career stages which need to be addressed if the Navy is to achieve better resource management, more productivity and higher re-enlistment rates. Because the military's competitive reward system and career orientation demand that Naval officers postpone many personal and family matters until retirement, the authors predict that some sort of trauma will occur at that time due to the postponement in resolving personal issues. The military is unique as an organization in that it forces its members to retire at that period in their lives in which many crisis-provoking questions are being asked. Thus, the Naval officer must cope with the real possibility of a mid-life crisis which will greatly impact on his family if it materializes. It will impact on the Navy if it happens before actual retirement.


In reply to Senator Ted Kennedy's comment that an all-volunteer Army creates a "ghetto army" manned heavily by the poor and minorities, the authors summarized findings regarding Canadian military families which revealed the following: 1) the Canadian military family has a high spatial mobility, moving once every 2.43 years; 2) average years married among military personnel was 13 years; 3) average number of children was 2.2 versus 1.9 for the average Canadian family; 4) 28.8% of the married military own their own homes, versus 62% for a national average; 5) a National Education Survey indicated that the military family, male and female, had a higher level of education than the 1965 labor force of the Canadian population; 6) the effect of father separation is disruptive; and 7) a majority of those surveyed felt that being in the military was a handicap when moving into a new community yet preferred to live in the civilian community. The author concluded with a profile of the average military family and left the reader to decide from the findings whether or not the Canadian Army is a "ghetto army."

The purpose of this paper was to survey "compassionate posting" for the years 1970 to 1972, and to explore the efficacy of this policy to transfer or allow to remain in one place a serviceperson and family because of personal or family needs or special problems. Results showed that the compassionate posting cancellation request was usually made by a man who had been in the area several years and wanted to stay. Results also indicated that there were many gaps in the records of social workers which could be remedied through use of uniform reporting forms. The authors concluded that a system was needed in order to follow a compassionate status case from the time of request to the termination of compassionate status. This procedure would allow the program to be monitored by social work services and provide knowledge of efficacy. It would also allow proper follow-up contact.

Dibsie, P. Handling days apart: a trying experience, San Diego Tribune, September 20, 1979, pp. E-1; E-2.

This newspaper article examined the coping skills of a Navy wife of 16 years who had experienced a number of military separations and reunions within her marriage. In addition to personal experience of separation and reunion, the article described a course taught at Southwestern College in San Diego entitled, "The Military Wife: How She Manages Stress." Class content was reviewed as well as a number of coping suggestions for those who are left behind by deployment.
This study evaluated 56 Navy families who applied to a Naval Child Guidance Clinic for help in dealing with their disturbed children. Evaluations showed that the children, ranging in age from 3 to 19 years, were experiencing school difficulties, behavioral problems, or suffering from neurotic complaints. The author described characteristics unique to the Navy family, such as mobility of the family unit, strong group identification, strong family ties and the stress imposed on the family by the repeated absences of the father. Although parents tended to blame their child's difficulties on institutional pressure (Navy or school), themselves, or an unknown cause, neither father absence nor any recent family moves were significantly correlated with the children's problems. Testing did not indicate any recurring psychological pattern in the fathers but revealed a profile of the mothers as depressed, ambivalent and anergic. A comparison of reports from mothers with reports from the fathers indicated discrepancies concerning the nature of child rearing, perceptions of the marriage, and feelings toward each other.

This author has long contended that the retention rate of the Navy men would rise significantly if we paid more attention to the manner in which the families of our sailors are treated. Although the author recognized that a commanding officer has no control over the type and availability of housing, pay raises, tempo of operations, or any of the major points of unhappiness usually presented in opposition to re-enlistment, the author explained how one might handle those items over which he does have some control. It was recommended that a volunteer be assigned to sponsor each new arrival at a command. The importance of a command letter prior to each patrol, the sharing of "dependent notes," familygrams, as well as a practical list of questions and answers on daily coping during separation were also addressed. This personal approach to the problem of re-enlistment is believed to be largely responsible for the high re-enlistment rate maintained in the submarine force.

The author has summarized recent research and drawn a literary composite of the military wife from this research. The military wives' responsibilities and how they are trained into the do's and don'ts of Army life commensurate with the status of the military husband were discussed. According to the author, the wife puts her husband's needs, and therefore the military's needs, before her own, making her an unpaid laborer. The conclusion was drawn that the ideology of feminism is more congruent among officers' wives than enlisted wives because officers' wives are more socio-economically and educationally like NOW militant feminists.


This report deals with the military's expectations about the role of military wife. As a group, military wives have been virtually ignored by the military as well as by social scientists until recently. Recently the feminist movement has reached the wives of active-duty military personnel in terms of awareness, interest, and involvement although the nature of the military community and the lifestyle associated with the military duty would make this group of women relatively unavailable for recruitment to such a movement. However, the authors hypothesized that wives with: 1) more education, 2) more extensive employment, 3) lower identification with the role of the military wife, and 4) those whose husbands were in service for a shorter period of time, would be more aware of and interested in the feminist movement. A random sample was evenly drawn from 500 officer and enlisted ranks. Feeling informed about the women's movement appears to increase with age up to 45 years and then declines. Wives of junior personnel correspondingly reported being less informed about the movement. The data also revealed that the wives who attended feminist meetings were most likely to be those with college degrees.
Doodeman, L. (Ed.). Mili-wife questionnaire results: the comment page wives speak out on - the military, pro and con, moving, children, rank consciousness, housing, benefits, women's liberation. Ladycom, 1974, 6, 22-52.

This paper reports on a survey dealing with the reactions of 4,500 Ladycom (a magazine serving military wives around the world) readers to their status as military wives. The 85-item multi-choice questionnaire covered various personal and psychological aspects of the military wives' lives. Tabulations were made comparing the opinions of readers under 35 years of age (72.6%) and those over 35 years (26.4). Over half the responses came from wives of enlisted men, and 38.2% from wives of officers. The article does not attempt to interpret most of the answers. Also included were excerpts from military wives' comments on the military, pro and con, with respect to moving, children, fidelity, rank consciousness, housing, benefits and women's liberation.


Out of 680 cases studied during a six month period in 1963 at the Mental Hygiene Consultation Service in Fort Carson, Colorado, 56 (8%) involved couples with foreign-born wives. Of these couples, most men had married their wives while on a tour of duty overseas and had been attracted by their wives because they were not as "pushy and aggressive" as American women. Adjustment for the couples in the United States was often difficult as a result of a cool reception by the husband's family, difficulties with the language, culture shock, rejection by the neighbors, and feelings of loneliness and alienation. For the 10 children included in the study, ranging in age from 4 to 17 years, the problems were generally found to be the same as those of American children, but were often aggravated by the stricter rules and cultural characteristics of the mother. The article questions the future of these mixed marriages after the husband's retirement, especially in cases where the couples settle in small, provincial towns that have little understanding or interest in foreign ways.
Druss, R. Problems associated with retirement from military service. 
Military Medicine, 1965, 130, 383-385.

The author presents a discussion of the problems associated with retirement from the military. Representing a crisis point in the life of a career soldier, impending retirement from the service can cause social and economic problems, as well as neurotic and intrapsychic problems. On the basis of extensive work with potential retirees at the Mental Hygiene Consultation Service (MHCS), Fort Carson, Colorado, the author identified marital problems, psychosomatic problems or poor work performance as the major symptoms of adjustment reactions to impending retirement. The problems include a lack of civilian work skills, the change from a migrant way of life to permanent ties in one community, assuming a novice status within a future civilian work situation, and the immediate loss of security and prestige previously guaranteed by association with the military. Because of the soldier's use of denial as a means to cope with his anxiety and fear of retirement, the author suggests that therapeutic intervention should be aimed at prevention. The first type of conflict (social and economic) can be dealt with by practical advice and guidance, while the latter (emotional adjustment) may require professional counseling.

Duncan, A. Vietnam war widows: how they learn to live and love again. 

Anecdotal experiences of Vietnam war widows as they learned to work out their feelings of grief, helplessness and insecurity within a program called Operation Second Life are described. Through group workshops, the wives shared their feelings on such topics as problems with child rearing, parents and in-laws, and gave solace to new members. The most difficult stage for the women, in their search for a new identity and self-awareness, was that of shifting from being a widow to being a single woman. Despite their loss, most of the women still retained a strong identification with the armed services, and predicted that they would marry a military man again. Prevention-oriented counseling programs of this nature were recommended.
Duvall, E. Loneliness and the serviceman's wife. *Marriage and Family Living*, 1945, 7, 77-81

A loneliness scale was developed using the exact phrases given by 77 wives and fiancées of servicemen who were separated from their husbands during World War II. The scale differentiated five groups: (1) the extremely lonely group, who feels severe tension and loneliness; (2) the severely lonely group, but finds some release for tension; (3) the considerably lonely group, who keep occupied; (4) the moderately lonely group, who keep occupied; and (5) the little loneliness group, who feel adequate. Forty-seven percent of wives felt considerable to extreme loneliness, 41% felt moderate or little loneliness. Results also showed that length of marriage, length of separation, and wife's work experience were not significantly related to wife's loneliness score. However, the extent of the wife's social participation was closely related to her degree of loneliness; thus, more active wives felt less lonely than less active wives. For some wives, children were an aid in relieving loneliness. Specific recommendations are made for community programs which would include recreation, childcare, and counseling services designed to aid servicemen's wives in their adjustment to family separation.


This paper, published during World War II, explored the unique nature of war bereavements. Contrasted with bereavements that occur at home, the author emphasized that war bereavements are often more difficult due to inaccessibility of details which may lead to imagined horrors concerning the death, having to accept the news through the bluntness of a telegram, and often times being prevented from having any funeral ritual that serves the psychological purpose of confirming the death to the survivors. On the other hand, the bereaved may be comforted by pride if he believes the serviceman died for some cause. Also, the family has, to some extent, previously adjusted to the man's absence by altering roles and family functioning at the time he left for war. The author discusses principles by which a person can aid the bereaved, such as learning about the grief process itself, and offers suggestions that may help the bereaved to focus his attention outside himself. The spontaneous airing of memories and feelings is encouraged so they can be assimilated and reset in the context of past events. Some of the signs signaling recovery in the bereaved are physical health, interest in self, life and the future, productivity, intellectual acceptance of the loss, relaxation of tensions, and renewed emotional stability.

This paper, given at the Stress Conference in Tel Aviv in January 1975, deals with some of the basic issues concerning war widows in Israel. Groups of war widows were formed in order that they might examine expressions of feelings, attitudes, and reactions concerning the past (in relation to the dead husband) and the future. Special situations and problems such as posthumous children, additional deaths in the family, delayed burials, as well as personal conflicts (i.e., suicide attempts, difficulties with in-laws, reactions of children) were discussed. Because the groups were not active in all areas of the country, not all widows were contacted; others refused to be identified as widows. Suggestions for assistance, other than self-help groups, were presented, including public services, mental health clinics and community health programs.


This article chronicled the tenacious efforts of POW/MIA families to seek the release of all prisoners and a full accounting of the missing in action during the Vietnam conflict. In particular, the activities of the National League of Families of Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia were examined. These activities revolved around political activity aimed at influencing political candidates to support actions taken to obtain the identification and release of all men in captivity and missing. The League's frustration over the Government's policies of inaction regarding this matter was highlighted.

This paper examined the pattern of factors which relate to differential family adjustment to the crisis of a father's absence, specifically, and to the mother's success in coping with the crisis. Data were collected from the families of 23 married men, each of whom had at least one 5 to 8 year-old male child, and who was scheduled for a minimum of one year on an unaccompanied tour in a non-combat area. After examination of preliminary data based on extensive batteries of sociometric, psychological and interview procedures given prior to husband's departure, and again 6 to 9 months after his departure, the mothers were divided into four sub-groups: anxious-maladaptive, anxious-adaptive, non-anxious-maladaptive, minimal or no-change according to their pre-crisis disposition. Four general conclusions were drawn: the varieties of behavior of persons in crisis can be classified into a relatively small number of patterns; coping patterns are unpredictable since they depend on so many variables; father's absence can have totally different impacts on their families and facilitate either adaptive or maladaptive behavior; and finally, discussion groups and intervention programs to assist mothers would be of considerable value and should be encouraged.


This final report is a summary of the proceedings, presentations, and recommendations of the Navywide Family Awareness Conference held in Norfolk, Virginia in 1978, as well as an evaluation of the Conference by those in attendance. Additionally, a synthesis of the recommendations arising from the Conference with an update on the status of the recommendations was included. Selected verbatim speeches, presentations, and workshop information were also included in this report.


This is an extensive alphabetical annotated bibliography of most of the documented material relating to research on various aspects of military families which was available at the time of publication in 1976. The bibliography contains 153 references and covers such topics as geographical mobility, child adjustment and development, adjustment to separation, family reunion and reintegration, adjustment to loss, families in transition, and services to families under stress.

This article was the first part of a three-part series which explored how youngsters perceive the duties of their military parents. The report indicated that, depending on the parents views of the military and their child rearing practices, most (if not all) very young children know very little about military life.

Figley, C. R. Interpersonal adjustment and family life among Vietnam veterans, a general bibliography: part II. Unpublished manuscript, West Lafayette, IN: Family Research Institute, Purdue University, 1975.

The goal of compiling this bibliography was to synthesize the literature pertaining to the Vietnam veteran experience, focusing on the following areas: 1) the development and maintenance of intimate relationships during and after military service; 2) the relationship between combat experience and interpersonal competence; and 3) the relationship between the American family system and interpersonal violence.


The purpose of this study was to determine the relationship between a returned prisoner-of-war's (RPW) recent life changes and his family-related anxiety, as perceived by him. Eighty-seven married Navy and Marine Corps RPWs, who were scheduled for the annual follow-up examination at the Naval Aerospace Medical Institute in Pensacola, Florida, in 1978, completed both the Schedule of Recent Experiences (SRE) and the Family-Related Anxiety Scale (FRA). A variety of scoring methods (Weighted, unweighted, frequency, and sub-area scores) were employed in order to derive life change scores for the SRE. Linear multiple regression procedures were utilized in order to analyze the unique contribution of each predictor (SRE subscores) in accounting for the variance in the criterion variable. The results indicated that only the unweighted life change scores related to social and personal adjustment were uniquely related to family-related anxiety.

This article discussed the psychiatric aspects of the rehabilitation of returning veterans after World War II. The information was derived from the authors' experience treating 250 psychiatric patients in military hospitals, observing civilians who witnessed the Coconut Grove catastrophe, and observing veterans seen in a clinic. The psychology of readjustment of the soldier was discussed from the viewpoints of the attitudes necessary for successful adjustment to Army life and the conflict that results upon return to civilian life, the changes that take place within the home during separation, and the readjustment of both the soldier and the family upon reunion. Finally, the role of the psychiatrist in facilitating and coordinating the adjustment of the returning veteran and his family was discussed.


The participation of Army officer wives in the areas of education, employment and volunteer work and the peculiar aspects of military life which affect this participation were examined in this study. Wives, chosen from a random sampling of 1,000 U.S. Army officers, responded to a 63-item questionnaire. Findings indicated the Army officer wife to be well-educated -- 40 percent with a B.A. degree; half of the wives indicated interest in further study. Almost half of the wives participated in volunteer services, largely on the Army post. Eighty percent of the wives were working either full- or part-time for financial reasons, but due to the transiency of military life, wives experienced a number of employment disadvantages centering around the loss of benefits caused by transfers. Frequent transfers also interfered with educational goals, because of the difficulty in transferring credits, acceptance by schools, etc. Education, nursing, and clerical work were the most common occupational fields, whether the wife was working, continuing her education, or volunteering her services. Some implications of these findings for the Army were discussed in terms of further research, greater publicity of Education Centers provided by the Army, and Army employment of qualified dependents.

This presentation presented the purpose, philosophy, and focus of the Canadian Forces Personnel Applied Research Unit. The importance of family and social stability to the military family and its relationships to retention and personnel performance were emphasized. The author underscored the need for research to identify problematic areas for families and a three-pronged attack involving military philosophy, policy, and practice, necessary to minimize their impact.


This article examined the particular stresses and supports experienced by military families and their relation to individual psychopathology. The authors believe that the family structures that develop are the result of the environmental pressures inherent in the military acting upon the personalities of the men drawn to the military and of their chosen marital partners. The presenting problems tend to involve one person, usually the wife, with the husband resisting involvement. Treatment is usually brief, due to the transiency of the families. The authors presented three definable family constellations most frequently seen and discussed them in terms of treatment. The family constellations are: 1) the work-oriented, distant, compulsive male married to a dependent, compliant phobic female; 2) the phobic, symbiotic family in which both partners are forced to retreat to the nuclear family as a means of coping with frequent moves and loss of extra-familial supports; and 3) the explosive family in which one or, more commonly, both partners are impulsive, action-oriented, and prone to frequent bouts of fighting, drinking, sexual indiscretions, and estrangements.

This paper was based on a two-year period spent among American servicepersons and their families in Iran. The mental health of this community of overseas Americans was described and implications for screening and preparing our military emissaries were discussed. Oberg's five phases of culture shock were also discussed. Factors such as physical environment, highway traffic, isolation and drugs catalyzed common and serious personal and family conflicts. The extra strains on family relationships also appeared to affect job performance. Although successful prior overseas assignments and screening of health records did not predict how well a family would adjust in Iran, orientation programs and sponsorship were related to the adjustment of servicepersons and their families. Those families that adjusted well were members of healthy families who were neighborly, and socially active. They learned the local language and culture, and joined American and international groups. Three crucial elements in the early adjustment or maladaptation of military emissaries were mentioned: 1) screening out "medically and emotionally unsuitable persons" and "screening in" persons with special desirable experiences; 2) mandatory and accurate pre-assignment orientation to the new culture for both servicepersons and their dependents; and 3) the contribution of sponsors and sponsors' spouses.


This was an investigation of the social conditions and interactions of Navy families in relation to the behavior of their children. A control group was matched to the experimental group of 15 children who were experiencing emotional difficulties. Data were obtained through face-to-face interviews with the mother, father, and child. The relation of the child's behavior was examined in response to a family move, changing roles of the parents as a result of father absence, parent's ways of dealing with the child, the relationship between parents, ways of dealing with family problems, family participation in community activities, and the community's attitude towards the family. In general, it was found that the child was more affected by parental behaviors and attitudes than by the physical environment in which he lived. An overall difference between the two groups of parents was found in their perception of the emotional needs of their children. Parents in the behavior problem group were found to be less involved with their children, exhibited more physical problems, showed ineffective use of finances, and expressed discrepant attitudes towards their children. Although the findings suggested that separation from the father, especially during the early part of childhood, was related to the child's behavioral problem, this relationship could not be isolated from the other variables in the study.
This article is a story about a young POW wife who was experiencing the agonies, depressions, adjustments, fears, anger, and loneliness that characterize the POW wife. Much of the article was a chronological account of the POW wife's daily activities and how she coped as a single parent. The article concluded with the concern expressed by the POW wife regarding the problems of reunion and readjustment.


The impact of midlife career change on retired soldiers was examined. A random sample of 666 Army retirees in the Los Angeles area furnished the data for the research, obtained through responses to a mailed questionnaire. The subjects were middle-aged, married, with children at home, educated, financially secure, in good health, enjoying a high level of psychological well-being, had spent 20 years in a military career, and had spent less than 10 years in a second career. It was found that those who were able to transfer their military skills to the civilian labor market had a number of advantages: prestige, finance, and psychological well-being, as compared with those who had to embark into a totally new career. Social discontinuity created by a geographic move was a problem in some cases where identification with the new environment was difficult to achieve.


This report gives the reactions of 42 boys and 7 girls in response to enlistment of a brother or father into the armed service during World War II. Two groups were observed which included 29 children who had been referred for treatment by child guidance clinics for behavioral problems, undesirable habits, school maladjustments or personality disorders. The remaining 20 cases were delinquent boys referred to the Boston Juvenile Court. Data included observations through home visits of parents and siblings. Children exhibited an immediate reaction of fear, anxiety or grief towards their family member's enlistment and, in a few cases, the referral problem became more severe after the family member's departure. However, only in the delinquent group did any new problems emerge following enlistment. The delinquent group also displayed a marked lack of interest and participation in the war activities compared with other children of the same age. Only one child was treated for emotional problems attributed specifically to the enlistment of a family member.

This study examined the drinking patterns and practices of married women dependents living in five overseas housing areas. Data were collected over a three-month period from five samples (N=261) of dependent wives living in Army and Air Force base housing communities in Europe. Two measures were used in gathering information on the extent of drinking: a self-rating and quantity-frequency (Q-F) index. The results indicated that the military lifestyle, with the high availability of alcohol at reduced prices and stressful aspects of overseas assignment, were possible reasons for the increased alcohol consumption during overseas assignments. There appeared to be evidence suggesting that service wives in an overseas setting may run a higher risk of drinking pathologies than their civilian counterparts, since military norms for drinking are more permissive.

Gatty, B. Parents. Ladycom, October 1979, pp. 30-31; 50.

This article focused on soldiers who are sole-parents, e.g., single, widowed, divorced or separated from their spouses, have spouses unable to care for themselves, or are single individuals who have adopted a child. The Army has a policy for sole-parents which has three key provisions: 1) it requires counseling for all enlisted sole-parents and for officer sole-parents with less than three years service; 2) it establishes a commander's bar to re-enlistment for soldiers whose personal or family problems significantly affect their ability to perform their duty; and 3) it provides a regulatory bar to re-enlistment for failure to provide an approved plan. In this study, most of the single parents were men, and most were enlisted personnel. The article also reviewed how the Air Force and the Navy have been examining and coping with the single parent situation. The author concluded that it appears that there is room for sole-parents in the military.

The problems related to retirement from the military and their effects on dependents are discussed. The authors present an overview of the military family as a dependent unit within a distinct and self-contained social system. Tensions may be felt among all family members when the serviceman faces stresses such as competing in a non-military work role, feeling a loss of security previously provided by the military environment, and shifting from a closed social system to one in which there is less specificity of roles. In addition to the psychosomatic and psychic symptoms experienced by retirees, retirement comes at a time when the wife, because of her age, may suffer from gynecological problems, and children approaching adolescence may indulge in acting-out behavior. Retirement is discussed within the framework of crisis theory, and several case histories are presented. In order to alleviate the stress of transition from a military career to a civilian one, preventative services are recommended.


The purpose of this paper was to analyze characteristics of the 29 million men of military age in order to delineate those groups with the greatest likelihood of being drafted. These characteristics included: age distribution, marital status, number of dependents, educational attainment, and occupational background. Each characteristic was considered separately for family heads and for other persons. A profile of the men who would constitute the armed forces by the end of 1943 was obtained.


This paper presents a role transition model as a paradigm for dealing with the bereaved military wife. The processes by which she moves from being a wife to widow, and then to woman again, were explored. The paradigm was preceded by an overview of various interpretations of bereavement and anecdotal experiences unique to Israeli war widows. The reaction to bereavement is regarded as a normal process necessary to be experienced and worked through in various phases. In the initial phase, immediate, practical decisions must be made, activities which keep her in touch with reality and which are "active coping behavior." Assimilating the fact of the husband's death is another necessary aspect of this stage. The next stage is that of taking on the role of "widow" and experiencing the role of single parent and the reality of physical aloneness. When the widow begins to adjust to her day-to-day existence with some confidence, she begins to consider her future and exhibits interests in outside activities, such as community affairs and other men. She then reaches the final phase and makes the transition to "woman" again.

Over the last century the U.S. military has undergone a demographic transformation centering on the increasing proportion of its personnel, both officers and enlisted men, who are married. In the course of the twentieth century the U.S. military had been transformed from an organization composed of a high proportion of active duty personnel who were unmarried to one in which the majority are married and have children. The most dramatic change in marital status since World War II has occurred in the enlisted category, although there has been an increase in the officer corps as well. Since 1960 the number of dependents of all military personnel have outnumbered the personnel. Upon retirement of active duty personnel, most members still have dependent children. Because its personnel are being recruited into a highly familistic environment, the armed forces have come to offer benefits which allow it to compete with the civilian sector and make it particularly attractive to men with families. This situation is in marked contrast to that of the frontier post days, or even those of World War I, in which little, if any, provision was made for dependents.


This book is a series of clinical case studies of military children who were seen for brief psychiatric therapy. Its intent was to delineate the distinctive common stresses of military children, and in so doing, to clarify the relationship between stress and reaction, for the benefit of military children, as well as for the field of child psychiatry, in general. Each chapter discusses the impact of a specific stress situation on the military child. The diverse and maladaptive behavioral responses of military children to extended father absence were exemplified in several case studies. Paradoxically, perhaps, the return of the father to the home, rather than his departure, became more a crisis situation for many children since his return interfered with an already established household. The stresses put on a child due to frequent family migrations to a new community were presented as one of the unique military demands on family life. Identity problems were found in children where inconsistent child rearing practices occurred due to culturally mixed marriages, a common feature of military life. The problems faced by the adolescent child and newly returned military father were examined. Some inappropriate reactions to grief by children at father's death or injury were also described. Finally, an overview of the medical and psychiatric help available to military families was presented.

This article described three types of dependents who go overseas and discussed the difficulty of detailing all three types. First of all, there are dependents who want to go and are interested in the culture, language, traditions, customs and history of the culture in which they will be living. Then there are dependents who think they want to go overseas but are not really sure. And, finally, there are dependents who do not want to go overseas at all, but go only to keep family separations to a minimum. Naturally, the second and the third groups pose a real problem for the detailer since overseas they will still be considered as representatives of the United States. The author pointed out that there is obviously a strong need for some sort of screening action to evaluate suitability for such assignments. Practical suggestions on how to prepare for an overseas assignment and thus provide a portrait of democracy in action were presented.


The purpose of this paper was to make a case for the importance of stimulating interest in the military of conducting a well-designed study of the effects of Parent Effectiveness Training on the military family. This report gave an overview of Parent Effectiveness Training (PET). The report concluded that although insufficient scientific validation of the effectiveness of PET exists, there is enough available evidence that a course in PET does produce positive changes in parents' behavior, which in time will result in positive changes in the behavior of their children.

This report summarized research on Navy wives' attitudes and opinions about Navy life and their relationship to the husbands' reenlistment. Results indicated that wives are a factor that importantly influences the reenlistment decision of Navy enlisted personnel. Factors such as: 1) the new Navy wife's introduction to Navy life; 2) the reality of separation; and 3) knowledge about the availability of services, lead either to feelings of satisfaction or dissatisfaction. A parallel study was designed to provide information necessary to develop a Navy wives' contact model involving face-to-face interviews in a group setting. The primary objective of this study was to determine the manner in which Navy wives' attitudes and opinions were related to willingness for husbands to reenlist and the influence of the husbands' career status on this relationship. The results indicated that most wives' attitudes and opinions toward Navy life tended to be favorable; however, most felt their husbands' decisions about reenlistment revolved around career growth and development opportunities. They were in favor of the career counseling program, but expressed a desire that it be expanded to include more counseling of wives.


This research report was designed to investigate the attitudes of Navy wives regarding the reenlistments of their enlisted husbands in the Navy. More specifically, the research objectives were: 1) to verify findings about wives' attitudes towards Navy life; 2) to study their attitudes towards issues of specific interest to the Navy; and 3) to determine the potential of Navy wives as an influence to improve personnel satisfaction and increase retention of Navy enlisted personnel. The study found that wives' attitudes were a significant factor influencing the retention of enlisted personnel. It was found that non-career wives had a less favorable attitude towards the Navy than other wives, a significant finding since a large segment of the Navy is comprised of non-career personnel who are least likely to re-enlist.

This study presents four representative case histories of Army wives experiencing emotional upheavals as a result of their husband's retirement from the service. The diagnoses included such psychological problems as an acute situational reaction to fear of loss of financial stability; depression in response to anticipated loss of self-esteem with loss of position in the military community; hysteria; and a schizo-affective disorder. The author emphasized that retirement has an effect on all retirees and their families but in varying degrees. Role confusion and loss of "psychic income" are mentioned as common problems. A program utilizing both military and civilian community support, in which mental hygiene plays a definite, but not definitive, role, is recommended.


In this survey 10,637 spouses provided a rather mixed picture regarding the Air Force as a career. One half of the wives surveyed viewed the Air Force as definitely more appealing than civilian life. For those whose husbands were career-oriented, the commissary and BX were quite important, but not important for those leaving the service. Security was seen as a very positive feature of an Air Force career, and "family separation" was perceived as the most negative feature. Working wives of Air Force personnel did not view their work as stigmatizing to the command but felt that it was difficult to preserve an independent career. TDY assignments were seen as unsatisfactory for over 1/3 of the respondents; almost half of the wives were dissatisfied with the long, irregular hours worked by their mates. As expected, non-career oriented individuals were more negative in their responses than spouses of career-oriented personnel.


This paper presents a discussion of the various conflicts that may occur and impede the psychological adjustment of the returning serviceman following World War II. Because the focal point of life for the veteran immediately following the war was the home, the author stressed that it was the family that must grow in maturity and learn to adjust to the moral, ethical, and social problems that may occur. The author's suggestions included treating the serviceman with understanding and respect, acknowledging him as a person, rather than for what he has done or been in the war, and avoiding excesses of concern and pity, while, at the same time, respecting both his need for silence and communication. In addition, the family must become an informed source of vocational counseling and more humanistic in its basic approach to living.

This article discussed the problems faced by wives of returning prisoners of war from Vietnam and stressed the critical importance of the initial meeting or contact. The article pointed out that the problems of reunion are not peculiar to the wives of the prisoners of war but are faced by individual citizens and the nation as well, although not as intensely. The article also explained what "not to do" for the returning prisoners of war and concluded these men should be offered that to which they are entitled - their place in the country's future.


This paper describes the effects of captivity on the social reintegration of six returned Prisoners of War and discusses previously unreported problems faced by these men and their families. Data were obtained from personal and family interviews, work records, medical examinations, and peer interviews. The findings suggest that not only were cognitive, social, professional, emotional and family difficulties present in most of the men, but the difficulties were quite specific, each following an identical, if not synchronized, course of onset, impact and resolution. Useful recommendations for handling the re-entry of future POWs were given, as well as programs and plans for action that point to the need for diminished homecoming activities, elimination of unnecessary stresses, and preparation of the men for cultural shock if their captivity was of long duration.
Clinical assessment of a small group of POW returnees suggests that the stresses of prolonged captivity are specific and can be viewed in the framework of general knowledge concerning man's reaction to stress. Applying the Gross Stress Model, the authors discuss four phases of stress reaction: (1) the anticipatory phase concerned with future orientation and contingency planning; (2) the impact phase concerned with the present, through the duration of the stress; (3) the recoil phase, in which a slow return to pre-phase one is started; and (4) the post-traumatic phase, during which the sense of self is maximally reconstructed. From the experience of these returned prisoners, some conclusions can be drawn and recommendations made: (1) the importance of the therapist's contact with the wife and family prior to the prisoner's re-entry; (2) a slowdown in the return and the reunion process (including homecoming activities and public exposures); (3) creation of a climate of trust and confidence with the therapist; and finally (4) discussion and preparation for the POWs' work situation and job performance.


Clinical data gathered on two groups of POW wives undergoing group therapy before their husbands' return were described. Psychological and psychophysiological symptoms were reported to be common among the wives. Feelings expressed in therapy centered on themes of repressed anger, feelings of perceived desertion, concerns for the children, and a re-definition of role as a result of change from dependent wife to independent family provider. Difficulties of sexual adjustment and social isolation were also expressed by the wives, but the most difficult conflict perceived was the ambivalence and guilt felt towards the prospect of the husband's return. Problems suffered by the children included role distortion, sleep disorders and separation anxiety; it was also found that the male children displayed more psychiatric symptoms. The therapeutic effects of group therapy are emphasized, including nine specific recommendations for treatment of POW wives.

This paper discussed the phenomenon of volunteering in time of community crisis within the framework of Caplan's (1974) theory of support systems. The author extended the model by proposing that volunteering in times of community crisis is a natural phenomenon arising and taking over when natural support systems and the usual "protective processes" are temporarily disrupted. Based on volunteer work with families of men missing in action in the October 1973 war in Israel, it was observed that "targeting" of volunteer efforts was an effective means of coping with the type of crisis in which there exists no cultural patterns. The author proposed that the natural phenomenon of volunteering can be "mimicked" by targeting helping efforts during specific phases of a crisis. Caplan's distinction between "generalist" and "specificist" informal care givers was discussed in relation to the issue of how and when to most effectively utilize volunteer services. In addition, volunteering was viewed as a reciprocal venture in which both the helper and those being helped receive mental health benefits.


This study sought to answer the following questions: 1) How do the personalities of the MIA wives as a group differ from the personalities of women in general? 2) What are the existing relationships between the personality traits of the MIA wife and the coping styles she employed to handle the grief? The sample for this study was 27 wives whose husbands were listed as missing in action during the Vietnam conflict. Data were collected through three paper and pencil tests: the Personality Research Form, the Coping with Separation Inventory, and the Family Environment Scales. Results indicated that the MIA wife group scored significantly higher than the test norm group on three personality traits — endurance, harm avoidance, and order; and significantly lower on impulsivity, nurturance, and social recognition. Moreover, particular personality traits correlated significantly with certain family environment dimensions: achievement and social recognition with achievement orientation; achievement, affiliation, endurance, and control with high organization; and achievement and harm avoidance with control.

This study examined historically the payments provided by the Government to families of soldiers, in the form of gratuities, land grants, and bounties. The article dealt with the payment of bounties made to noncommissioned officers and men during the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Mexican War, prior to the enactment of the Federal Conscription Law. Several state and local laws with respect to bounty payments were examined. Federal provisions for bounty payments during the Civil War were also examined in detail, including a comprehensive summary of bounty payments given. The author concluded that although the use of bounty payments was marred by corruption, poor administration, and inadequate amounts to meet the needs of soldiers, they did improve the situation for dependents since nothing had existed previously.


This article attempted to alert social workers to and prepare them to work with the problems that arise during wartime separations. Using case examples, the author explored the following areas: 1) the effect of family separation on child adjustment; 2) the effect of additional strain on already tenuous family relationships; 3) change in marital roles, such as the increase in the wife's economic independence; and 4) the need for daycare for children of working mothers. In some cases, improvement was seen in unstable relationships where the mother went to work after the husband departed. Problems appeared to be related to basic personality within the mother, exacerbated by the separation.


The stated purpose of this book was to provide the minister with knowledge and techniques which enable him to help the serviceman and his family to adjust to some of the vicissitudes of military life. Problem areas, such as the stresses of the military environment, separation and loss, alcoholism, financial problems, and readjustment to civilian life, were explored through case illustrations. Practical advice was given to assist a pastor or counselor in facilitating families to understand and resolve these problems.

Two heterogeneous groups of military wives with psychotic and borderline problems, who were participating in outpatient group psychotherapy, are described. Most of the 29 patients had a history of psychiatric hospitalization and were selected on the basis of the severity of their emotional disturbance rather than formal diagnosis. The reasons for group therapy, both practical and subjective, were discussed along with the therapy contract, medications, and characteristics of interaction between patient and therapist. Some of the problems unique to the military wife and significant for success or failure of treatment were: forced absences of the soldier from his family, producing a period of physical and social isolation for the wife and children; potential disruption of the marriage relationship when the military authorities were forced to coerce the husband into not obstructing the wife's treatment; and the stress placed on the husband's career by the wife's illness. The wives treated over a period of more than one and a half years were evaluated for improvement by observed clinical changes and social-marital alterations.


A study investigating the questions of how black families cope with adverse life situations, and what can be learned from such coping that may be significant to military families and families in general. The population for this study were 52 families living in the San Francisco Bay area which included 140 children. The study suggests that because of the black family's dynamics that the following points are significant: (1) the meaning of family to blacks, (2) family functioning and interpersonal relations, and (3) family function and value transmissions. The study found that blacks ease the burdens of an absent father by using the extended family (kin and non-kin) as a supplement to the family, a trait that can be used by military families to support the stresses of family separation.

The purpose of the report was to summarize the results of the symposium and to seek support for action on the part of the military to begin resolution of this serious problem. The incidence and present understanding of the cause, treatment, and prevention of child abuse and neglect, as it is related to the military population, were presented. Also pointed out was the inadequacy of the military command's response to the problems. The major recommendation was that the Department of Defense should convene a group of military and civilian experts in this area whose major task would be to make specific recommendations for the implementation of early identification, treatment, and prevention programs in all the military services, some which were given.


This book represents a search for the characteristics and processes which differentiate successful from unsuccessful families in adjusting to two war-related crises: war separation and reunion during and after World War II. In Part I the book deals with the family as a closed system. A number of generalizations were made based on a review of previous studies of family crises and adjustment. Part II described 135 Iowan families where the father was absent due to military commitments during World War II and described these families in terms of socioeconomic status, background factors, family roles, etc. Crisis was seen as a function of: (1) the hardships of the event, (2) the resources of the family, and (3) the family's definition of the event.

Hill, R. The returning father and his family. Marriage and Family Living, 1945, 7, 31-34.

Although the father's authority is gradually diminishing, according to this article written during World War II, he is viewed as an essential figure for the emotional, social security, and development of his family. The author stresses that the father's removal from the family unit is felt by, and has repercussions on, himself, the mother, and the children. According to the author, one way to minimize these deleterious effects and to sustain the pre-separation relationship is to establish a meaningful correspondence. Reunion is usually marked by a period of emotional intoxication, followed by anxieties. Some difficulties can be alleviated by the wife by seeking prompt and effective professional counseling.

The relationship of father absence to variables of IQ, verbal and quantitative ability, teacher ratings of classroom behavior, maternal dominance, parental identification, birth order, and number of older male or female siblings was examined in 126 sixth grade pupils attending a school for Marine Corps dependents. Results indicated that there were several differences between first and later-born boys with regard to the variables measured. Father absence was significantly related to an increase in quantitative ability and decreased IQ difference score, while more aggression, dependency and higher IQ scores were found in the later-born boys exposed to older sisters and more periods of father absence. Additional major findings were a positive correlation between father absence and decreased quantitative ability, and between maternal dominance in later-born boys and increased IQ, verbal and quantitative ability, and decreased aggression. Theories surrounding the behavior of first and later-borns in relations to different coping reactions during father absence are discussed.


This article summarized testimony, given to the President's Commission on Military Compensation, by representatives of 85,000 active duty Navy men and women, as well as 35,000 Marines, and emphasized improved pay, allowances, and benefits for military personnel and dependents. Recommendations made included the following: retain and improve the existing retirement system as an inducement to retain competent personnel; guarantee equal and just pay for single and married personnel; increase sea pay; institute a medical and dental insurance plan to replace the medical benefits now available; abolish commissary and exchange privileges but increase pay proportionately; increase housing allowances to keep up with rising housing costs; increase transfer allowances and available military housing; return to the G.I. Bill; and assure equal compensation for military widows whose spouses died before the existing survivor benefit plan was enacted. Specific testimony also pointed out the effects of family difficulties on retention rates, the impact of low income on families, and the possible deleterious effects of a reduction in retirement benefits.
Hoffer, C. The impact of war on the farm family. *Rural Sociology*, 1945, 10, 151-156.

This study of 275 farming families in rural Michigan showed that a high percentage of them were actively involved in war-related activities during World War II. A greater number of families accustomed to pre-war participation in community affairs tended to join in war-oriented activities than the more self-centered families. Internal family relationships were disrupted only by the removal of a member to military duty. An increase in family cooperation was noted, as well as a strengthening of community and neighborhood relationships. Many of the families refrained from major farm or domestic purchases, but exchange of labor and borrowing of agricultural implements increased. Farm families were found to be willing to help with the war effort in all possible ways.


This study examined the current status of all Navy women who had enlisted during the years 1973 through 1977, identifying trends in occupational assignments, rates of premature attrition, and reasons for hospitalizations. Data were obtained from medical inpatient and service history files maintained at the Naval Health Research Center in San Diego. Results indicate that in the occupational assignment category, the most significant trends were decreases in percentages of women in the clerical/administrative and miscellaneous categories and increases in the aviation mechanic group. Premature separations from the Navy tended to have little association with a specific specialty. The high percentages of reasons for separations involved pregnancy/parenthood, or unsuitability for service. Other comparisons showed that most hospitalizations occurred because of pregnancy-related conditions, respiratory diseases, and mental disorders.

The purpose of this study was to identify pregnancy-related conditions among Navy enlisted women who entered the service after 1972 and to determine the effects of such conditions upon their subsequent performance, retention, and hospitalizations. Participants for this study included all women who had enlisted in the Navy from 1973 through 1977 (N=27,503). The results indicated that pregnancy-related conditions accounted for approximately 21% of all enlisted women's hospitalizations and about 19% of all days lost from duty for inpatient medical care. The rate of pregnancy/parenthood separations across the five-year time period was 10.9%, which was second to separations for reasons of unsuitability. Other findings showed that significantly more active duty than discharged mothers were married while a higher percentage of non-whites stayed in the Navy. Rates of subsequent hospitalizations for active duty mothers were the lowest among three selected groups for those women who remained in the Navy. After childbirth, the roles of mother and sailor seemed to be quite compatible, which was reflected in part by the relatively high re-enlistment rate and low hospitalization rate.


The author reviewed the historical role of the ombudsman and her own position as official representative of the commanding officer. The ombudsman program was described as being far more than just a complaint mechanism for wives. It is viewed by the Navy as one of the most effective ways that the Navy, through individual commands, has of reaching out to dependents with information, support, and command concern. Training classes offered by the Ombudsman University, sponsored by COMNAVSURFPAC, San Diego, were explained in detail. The article presented the ombudsman program as open-ended in potential and limited only by the quality of the ombudsman selected to represent a command, and the commanding officer's use of it.

This publication is a report on the proceedings of a symposium at the 84th American Psychological Association Convention in Washington, D.C. in September 1976, entitled "Changing Families in a Changing Military System." The symposium focused on the various pressures and transitions which have been occurring from within and without the military system. The presentations involved discussion on how the two social systems, the military family and the military organization, impact each other, resulting in changes in expectations, services offered, and roles performed. The author pointed out that this symposium was the first one at APA devoted exclusively to the military family and was cited as evidence of the growing recognition of the importance of the military family within an all-volunteer force.


This article is a broad-brush overview of the five year longitudinal study of POW/MIA families of the Vietnam conflict. The article addressed the stresses of captivity upon the husband, the simultaneous stresses upon the family members who remained at home, and the process of readjustment of the POW families upon reunion. The author also examined the unfinished story of the MIA families, who, in many instances, even after more than a decade, still have no resolution to their grieving. The author concluded that these families are, in fact, "combat casualties who remained at home."


The results of this comparison study between returned Navy prisoners of war (RPW) families and a matched group of comparison families provided preliminary data on family adjustment at the fourth year after release from captivity. Significant differences were found between the two groups on family role performance, husband's career adjustment, and various aspects of family adjustment, with comparison families scoring higher on most measures. A comparison of divorce rates showed that 26.7% of the RPWs had been divorced since date of casualty; only 11.1% of the comparison subjects (based on 127 Navy RPWs and 126 matched controls) had experienced divorce within the same time-frame.

This article reviewed the highlights of the 1977 San Diego conference on current trends and directions in military family research. In attendance were representatives from all branches of the military service including participants involved in operations, research, and service delivery, as well as members of the academic community. Speakers emphasized the need for pragmatic studies on the needs of the changing military family and how to meet them. The impact of the family on military operations was also addressed. A major conclusion was that there is a greater need for research to: 1) delineate how the family can be made to function in support of the military organization; and 2) to understand the impact of the changing family on military operations. Recommendations included: 1) developing a better system for accessing reports of military research for people who can make practical use of them; 2) increasing liaisons between military and civilian communities and between researchers and caregivers; 3) improving dissemination of research findings through a tri-service military family research journal or newsletter; and 4) encouraging tri-service efforts in military family research to prevent duplication of efforts.


This article is a brief summary statement which was made at the First National Conference on Military Family Research, sponsored by the Office of Naval Research, at the Naval Health Research Center in San Diego, in September 1977. The author pointed out that the meeting had, perhaps, posed more questions that had been answered, such as: Which family support systems best meet families' needs? What new social or financial supports are perhaps required? When are interventions most effective? Does the need for social supports vary with time or life transitions? Are different supports needed at various points along the family's developmental life cycle? Which theories already developed in the field of family research can perhaps be applied to military family research? However, the author concluded that military family research was presented as a valuable and much needed tool and one with measurable payoffs, even though those payoffs are sometimes difficult to measure.

This presentation is a consolidation of a number of other papers written by the author giving an overview of the longitudinal studies carried out at the Center for Prisoner of War Studies in San Diego from 1972 through 1978. In addition to stating the organization of the Center and the major research goals, the author covered such topics as the captivity experience of the men and the process of adjustment of the families. The focus of the article is primarily on the family members, including preliminary findings on the children of the former POWs, as well as the initial findings concerning marital and family adjustment. The author pointed out that this in-depth longitudinal study of a small group of men and families who had experienced prolonged stress offered a unique opportunity to understand how families cope in very unique ways.


This investigation was part of a larger longitudinal study of former prisoners of war (POWs) who were returned from Southeast Asia in 1973. Findings were based upon the responses of 52 Navy and Marine Corps POWs to a self-report one year post-return. The purpose of this preliminary study was to explore family and captivity factors (e.g., family role structure, duration of captivity, harsh treatment, resistance posture during captivity) which might be related to personal, occupational, and family adjustment. Analyses showed that neither resistance stance nor harsh treatment in captivity were significantly related to perceived career adjustment. Results indicated that: 1) the firm resister tended to be more authoritarian, and his family was likely to be traditional rather than egalitarian; 2) harsh treatment was related to firmer resistance posture; and 3) larger spousal differences in responses as to who performed specific family roles, especially the role of disciplinarian, were found in those families where the husband had received harsher treatment. Better father-child adjustment was related to the more traditional family structure. Open communication was the variable most highly correlated with good marital adjustment one year subsequent to family reunion.

This paper discussed some of the changes which have taken place in the military family over the past few years. The primary thesis is that today the military family does indeed have power, and that just as manpower has become an important issue in military operations planning, so too is "familypower" an increasingly important factor which must be considered in military planning. The military services' recent efforts to understand the needs and impact of the military family through funded research, books, and conferences were outlined. The influence of the family on the serviceman's job satisfaction and retention were explored along with the importance of family identification with, and commitment to, the military. The author offered various suggestions for increasing family commitment, thereby increasing retention. The author concluded that in order to alleviate many of the stresses that the military family has, the top brass of the various services should become more aware of family needs and how to meet them. In a similar vein, family members should become more aware of military goals, the importance of the serviceman's job, the rationale behind assignments and absences, and the support programs in existence and available to the family.


This report was testimony given to the joint House-Senate subcommittee hearing of the Committee on Child Education and Human Development in planning for the 1980 White House Conference on the family. The article reported on the Conference on Military Family Research which was held in San Diego in September 1977, a conference which evidenced the growing interest of top planners and decision makers within the military services in the military family. It also evidenced their recognition that not only does the military organization have an impact on family members, but that the family also impacts the accomplishment of the military mission.

The purpose of this study of 52 former Navy and Marine Corps prisoners of war (RPWs) was to examine career and family adjustments one year subsequent to return from Vietnam in relation to resistance posture assumed during captivity and the degree of harsh treatment received from the captor. Results showed that although the resistance posture and harsh treatment variables were not significantly related to personal, career, or family adjustment, they were related to family role relationships which involved the children, specifically with respect to between-spouse differences on who usually performs the role of family disciplinarian.


In this presentation a few of the preliminary findings of the longitudinal studies of the 241 Army, Navy and Marine Corps prisoner of war veterans released from Southeast Asia in 1973 were presented. The findings indicated that incarceration by a foreign power has both immediate and long-term effects which may become manifested only after a latency period of several months or years. Both the events of the casualty and reunion were shown to have been stressful family crises for all family members.


This publication is the proceedings of a panel presented at the First National Conference on Military Family Research held in San Diego, California in September 1977, and funded by the Office of Naval Research. The publication gives a broad-brush overview of the longitudinal study of prisoners of war and their families being carried out at the Center for Prisoner of War Studies in San Diego. The articles contained in the panel discussion focused on the areas of the captivity experience, the positive and negative residuals (both physical and psychiatric) of prolonged stress, and the effects of the captivity experience on the family members.

This article reviewed the five-year longitudinal study of POW/MIAs from Vietnam which was carried out at the Center for Prisoner of War Studies in San Diego from 1972 through 1978. The author reviewed both the major questions posed by this study and the procedures which were used in carrying out the study. In concluding, the author mentioned that although the studies of the Center at times appeared to focus heavily on psychopathology, they also afforded new insights both into the way in which POWs coped with tremendous stresses and also the manner in which the ordeal of captivity served to strengthen them and build new resources both for them and their families.


In recent years war has not been popular; nor has the military as a career. There has been a steady erosion of the fringe benefits over the years -- the very things that make military lifestyle attractive. The personnel who make up the military have also changed. Military enlistee families are younger, more immature, more likely to be from ethnic minorities, and thus less able to cope with the stresses of military life. The officer family is also different today in the all volunteer force. There are more women in the military, and also more dual-career military families and more single parent families. No longer is the military assured of getting "two-for-the-price-of-one" if a serviceperson marries. To keep an effective fighting force which is capable of defending our nation in time of emergency, it would seem there are two options: either return to the draft, or come up with the proper wage/benefit ratio which will convince the married military serviceperson that he or she has a good thing going as part of the military organization.

This report presented a few of the preliminary findings, two years post-release, from the longitudinal studies of the 241 Army, Navy, and Marine Corps prisoners of war who returned from Southeast Asia in 1973. These studies, being carried out at the Center for Prisoner of War Studies in San Diego, California, had as their primary goal the achievement of a better understanding of the multi-dimensional impact of captivity upon both men and their families. The article gave a comprehensive overview of the immediate and long-term effects of captivity, including the POWs' captivity experience as well as the separation effects upon the POW family members. Highlighted were the areas of divorce, family reintegration, and preliminary findings on the adjustment of the children of former prisoners of war. The author also examined the post-captivity adjustment period, focusing on the psycho-social and physical evaluation of the former POWs carried out two years post-captivity.


This report covered general observations and conclusions drawn from the Center for Prisoner of War Studies separation and reunion studies in 1977. It also presented suggestions for improved morale and satisfaction with Navy life based upon these preliminary findings. The reported findings were based on a study of servicemen and their families who were experiencing a routine nine-month deployment aboard an aircraft carrier. The general conclusion drawn was that family separation is indeed a disruptive aspect of military life; however, the families also find the reunion period stressful, and the authors urged that family counseling be made available during both periods.

This publication is a report of the proceedings of the First National Conference on Military Family Research, which was held in San Diego, California in September 1977. Both civilian and military research personnel, service delivery personnel, and top level operational personnel discussed many topics dealing with military families. Vice Admiral James E. Watkins, Chief of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, pointed out that even though the military family is unique, very little formal research in this area has been conducted in the past, and much of what has been conducted has not reached the people who could put that research into practical application. Another top-ranking officer commented that the Army, Navy, and Air Force were spending millions of dollars in the area of drug abuse, alcohol abuse, and equal opportunity, and he suggested that perhaps we need to redistribute the money and emphasize the area of the family within the military. Only to the extent that we demonstrate cost-effectiveness in terms of increased retention, lowered sick rates, fewer days in the hospital, will we have more persuasive arguments for funding research activities, however.


This article was a progress report on a new, innovative, outreach support program for families of returned prisoners of war during Operation Homecoming in the Spring of 1973. The program was put into effect on a test basis at several Navy Regional Medical Centers during the initial period of family reunion. The authors reviewed some of the adjustment problems faced by the families following prolonged separation. The authors concluded that although it was impossible to evaluate adequately this program after only seven weeks duration, it was apparent that in-depth reaching out to families in an acceptable manner is required to combat the long established tradition within the military establishment of not sharing intimate personal family concerns with a professional. Resistance to accepting such help is particularly typical of the high-ranking military officer and his family since they tend to cover up problems, since to acknowledge them could adversely affect the man's flying status. A recommendation was made that a support program be developed for long-term separations as well as routine deployments. Although military men might not accept such a program initially, if it were an integral of the military plan they would accept it after a period of time.

The purpose of this study was to examine the role of religion in helping the families of servicemen missing in action (MIA) find answers to their questions and come to terms with their inner beliefs and feelings. The responses on pre and post questionnaires of 83 MIA wives and 65 MIA mothers who attended a religious-sponsored retreat were compared to determine whether or not religion had a differential value for the wife than for the mother. Statistically significant between-group differences were found for reasons given by the wives and mothers for their attendance at the retreat, their expectations as to what benefits might be derived from the retreat, their preferences as to type of activity participated in during the retreat, and their overall feelings about their experience at the retreat when it ended.


A comparison was made between 107 PW/MIA wives who had indicated during personal interviews held prior to their husbands' release that religion was a substantial source of help during prolonged husband/father absence and a second group of 44 PW/MIA wives who reported receiving no help from religion. Between-group differences were examined for age and background factors, choice of leisure activities, manifestation of emotional symptoms, the need for psychological help, present feelings about the marriage, and the frequency of adjustment and behavior problems reported for their children. The findings appeared to indicate that PW/MIA wives who found religion helpful in coping with husband/father absence presented a pattern of coping behaviors and demographic characteristics which differed significantly from those of the wives who indicated religion was of no value to them.


Although this article focused mainly on the history of women's roles in the active duty military services, it also touched on the problems unique to the female member of the military. It was noted that greater numbers of women are on active duty, and that problems such as family roles, family/organization interaction, dual-career families, and single-parent military families will undoubtedly continue to increase. Thus, this overview article gave an excellent basis for understanding women's roles within the military organization.

The chapters of this book were based upon papers presented at the First National Military Family Research Conference funded by the Office of Naval Research, which was held in San Diego in September 1977. The chapters examined the many issues related to children within the military; such as father absence, geographic mobility, racially mixed children, and support services for children.


This paper presents a demographic profile of the 241 Army, Navy and Marine Corps prisoner of war and missing in action population during the Vietnam War. This study details the percentage of returnees from the prisoner of war camps of Southeast Asia in terms of the number of returnees from each branch of military service, their length of captivity, the ratio of officers to enlisted who were in captivity, the marital status, religion, and race. This report also gives statistics on the number of wives and children affected by the prolonged father absence as a result of their being either a prisoner of war or missing in action.


Forty of the 43 Navy POW/MIA wives residing in the San Diego metropolitan area in July 1972 were interviewed to evaluate their adjustments during the period subsequent to their husbands' report of casualty. Data collected during the interviews also identified present problem areas for these families and pointed up potential areas of needed services both at the time of repatriation and during the post-repatriation period. Information supplied by the wives indicated that these families had experienced a variety of adjustmental problems, paramount among these being emotional and legal difficulties. Fifty-five percent of the wives and 22.8 percent of the children had experienced emotional problems severe enough to warrant treatment or to be recommended for such treatment. Forty-eight percent of the wives reported that they had encountered legal problems during the absence of their husbands, and many indicated that they foresaw complex legal issues arising in the future.

This article presents a broad-brush overview of the longitudinal studies of POWs and servicemen missing in action and their families which were ongoing at the Center for Prisoner of War Studies in San Diego from 1972 until 1978. The organization, major goals, and research procedures were examined briefly. Also, a rationale for the studies was given. Stated briefly, these studies were designed to determine how both the captive and his family coped with the extreme stress of incarceration and to examine the coping mechanisms used to do so. It was pointed out that results from these studies can perhaps have payoffs which extend far beyond the immediate accumulation of knowledge about the limited population being studied.


This report focused on recent societal changes and the growing recognition of those in military operations of the reciprocal impacts of the military family and the military organization, and how these two social systems often conflict at the work/family boundary. In the first of four parts, the impact of marriage and family on career progression of Naval officers was examined in relation to career life cycles. Part II looked at the effects of family dysfunction on military operations with a special focus on the mental health needs of families. The third section was devoted to effects of military families upon military operations, and Part IV discussed the military family/military organization interface. The conclusion drawn was that military commanders from the highest echelons to the lowest must become more aware of family needs and how to meet them. Moreover, family members must be made aware of military goals, have more information, and recognize the importance of the job the service member performs.

The effect of war separation on father-child relations is reported in five cases of children referred to the New York Bureau of Child Welfare during World War II, following fathers' enlistment in the service. Case histories are presented along with interpretations of the nature of the children's conflicts. In three of the cases cited, the children were referred to the clinic for undesirable behavior. The author suggests that although the children were superficially reacting to the father's departure, they were in actuality expressing an emotional response to the breakdown in family relationships since the father was the more stable parent and represented security to the children. The additional cases reported are those in which the mother exhibited a reaction to the father's absence, precipitating a breakdown in family organization and subsequent need for removal of the children from the home. The author emphasized that war separation represents a critical test of family strength, and the need for more social services to aid such families was emphasized.


This study presents a clinical psychiatric report based on 432 submariners' wives seen in a Naval Hospital outpatient clinic. A reactive depression, termed the Submariners' Wives Syndrome, with symptoms of dysphoria, uncontrollable weeping, irritability, sleep disturbance, appetite loss, and multiple somatic complaints, characterized 262 of these wives shortly before or after their husbands' return from patrol. The etiology of the depression appeared to be unacceptable rage over the desertion and a frustrated need to be cared for. The depression and sexual disturbances of the wife appeared to function in a retaliatory manner. A contributing factor to the depression was the wife's sudden loss, when the husband returns, of certain gratifications gained during the separation. Such gratifications included: resumption of parental dependency, the assumption of traditionally masculine and/or previously shared responsibilities, and avoidance of emotional and physical intimacy with the husband. The implications for psychotherapy with such patients were discussed and it was suggested that the wives' choices of sailors as husbands may relate to their desire for such extensive separations.

The aim of this presentation was to orient conference participants as to the types of problems families present at the local units of social development services, as well as the specific programs and roles that the social workers play in resolving the problems. The paper also presents the policy of the Canadian Forces as to the social and medical services available to military personnel and their dependents as well as to the personnel who provide them. Arrangements to be made and procedures followed necessary to obtain the services, as well as the goals of the local social service units, were explored.


The purpose of this study was to test the hypothesis that women (35-60 years of age) who receive modular instruction on midlife transition and coping will manifest a significant reduction in anxiety levels. Two groups, consisting of approximately 50 United States Air Force officers' wives in each group, were given the State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (Spielberger, 1970). The group from Air Force Base One received modular instruction on midlife transition, while the group from Air Force Base Two did not. The modular instruction encompassed many of the health and psychological issues such as breast cancer, hysterectomy, menopause, nutrition, assertiveness, and consciousness raising which confront the woman who is in midlife in the 1980's. The results of the testing revealed that anxiety was reduced following the instruction.

The leadership, organizational properties and the nature of professional life within the American military structure were described in their development over the last half century. The professional soldier has undergone various changes in his goals and lifestyle as a result of changes in the technology of warfare. The managerial leadership role becomes increasingly more important as the military establishment grows progressively dependent on complex technology. With the advent of organizational changes, social cohesion within the military style of life is affected as a result of more families living away from the military community and a lessening of professional solidarity with the increase in numbers and the diversity in social representation. Heightened family tension are experienced in relation to the disruptions of frequent moves and discontent felt on the part of the military wife concerning her role. The author traces the organizational realities of the military; the social origins, motivations and avenues of ascent in career patterns; identity, ideology, political behaviors and techniques in order to assess the professional soldier's position of power in contemporary American society.

Jeszenszky, A. Dilemma: when you're the CO's wife and you want to be yourself. Ladycom, November 1979, pp. 20-21.

This article was written by a military wife of 18 years who had always been content to raise a family and live the traditional role of an Army wife. In this article she had begun to question her former role once she became the commanding officer's wife with all of its problems. She feared the loss of her own identity, and explained how she had fallen victim to the "CO's wife syndrome," a problem related to the traditional notion that the commanding officer's wife puts her husband's career first at the expense of her own career. The author suggested that with today's inflation and acknowledgment of women's rights, the traditional view is changing, and presented the new, career-enhancing, educational improvement role sought by some commanding officers' wives.

This study explored the degree to which portions of the role transitions model postulated by Burr (1972) explain the married sailors' transition from a non-deployed status in which job requirements are relatively compatible with family roles to a deployed status in which job role demands preclude most aspects of the normal family role. A sample of 181 married sailors from four amphibious ships were administered paper and pencil questionnaires in the first month and again in the last month of deployment. Overall, the results indicated that the level of role strain experienced by the deploying sailor was positively related to the amount of incompatibility between job and family role demands; also, role strain was reduced when the demands of the new role were perceived as clear. Finally, less strain was present when the new role provided alternative forms of gratification or alternative rewards.


This article focused on the stresses involved in the separation and reunion of military couples, such as fear and anger resulting from unresolved conflicts, role changes within the family, and feelings of tension, alienation, and depression resulting from sexual and emotional loss. An on-going program consisting of "separation seminars" for Navy wives was described. Topics such as pain, loneliness, effects on children, improvement of long-distance communication, and coping with the time spent alone were highlighted, using participant testimony.
The effects of the Israeli Yom Kippur War on attitudes and values of adolescents were examined through a questionnaire survey of junior high students. Attitudes were sought in reference to specific questions: (1) what attitudes, in particular, were affected by the war; (2) were attitudes and values affected by the amount of fighting by a family member; and (3) were the war's effects different among adolescents as a result of internal versus external locus of control? The questionnaire asked for responses both prospectively and retrospectively, asking for their feelings after the war, and their retrospective feelings of how they felt before the war. In addition, an objective questionnaire of family member's war participation and a measure of locus of control were completed. The data indicated that students' political and social attitudes were affected by the war although relatives' participation in the war had no effect on attitudes. Differences in attitudes were also found among the students with respect to an internal versus external locus of control.


Major new mental health benefits were made available to dependents of members of the uniformed services upon enactment of Public Law 89-614, Military Medical Benefits Amendments of 1966. This article related the author's experience in diagnosing, assessing, and treating approximately 200 children at a residential treatment center in Texas. The issue of the conflict between the father's military duties and his child's developmental needs, as well as the impact of father absence on the mother's and child's behavior, were discussed through case studies. The conflict between family needs and professional advancement of the husband resulting in an avoidance of the problem was discussed in terms of its impact on family therapy. The author concluded that every effort must be made to counter the effects of an occupational environment that discourages reaching out for help.

Variables affecting children in a military community were examined. Specifically, comparisons were made between both military officer and enlisted families in relation to child adjustment and broken homes, and between military and civilian children in relation to intellectual functioning, emotional adjustment and juvenile delinquency. Two hundred and six children, ranging in ages from 10-15 years, and residing on a military base in Wiesbaden, Germany, were selected and diagnosed on an adjustment-maladjustment continuum by a board of three psychiatrists, and then further divided into groups of “normal adjustment,” “intermediate,” and “significant maladjustment.” Analysis indicated that father’s rank had no significant effect on the child’s adjustment. Comparisons between military and civilian children showed that military children surpassed their civilian counterparts in intellectual functioning, had fewer emotional disturbances and displayed less incidence of juvenile delinquency. Within the maladjusted group, military children were more often found to internalize their difficulties in the form of withdrawn behavior. Limitations to the study were both discussed and defended. The author proposed two factors, selection and education among military fathers, as reasons for military children scoring more positively than those in the civilian community.

Kimura, Y. War brides in Hawaii and their in-laws. American Journal of Sociology, 1957, 63, 70-76

This study investigates the concept of acculturation which suggests that people behave toward each other on the basis of their diverse cultural backgrounds. Specifically, it is assumed that people of similar cultures will establish relationships quickly and easily. In-law relations of 324 war brides in Hawaii were examined with regard to the above hypothesis. The brides were divided into four classes: European wives of Japanese husbands and of non-Japanese husbands; Japanese wives of non-Japanese husbands and of Japanese husbands. Each group was further divided according to the amount of perceived satisfaction in their marriage: good, fair, or poor. Japanese wives of non-Japanese were found to represent the happiest group while the least happy group was Japanese wives of Japanese. A discussion of the nature of the group interactions was provided in reference to cultural factors. In general, the data suggested that having the same cultural background restricts relationships and spontaneous interaction with in-laws because of unfulfilled role expectations. In cases where the cultural background was dissimilar, relations were improved because of a lack of defined roles and the perceived need of adjusting to each other.

In this paper the author surveyed readily available materials dealing with "quality of life" issues in the armed forces. The author intended for the paper to be only a research note and not an all-encompassing review of current literature and staff papers. The author acknowledged that the military family has emerged as an important focal point of research. Just as industry and business have acknowledged that a person does not separate work and family roles, the military now seeks means to alleviate family tensions, citing the Navy's new Family Program Branch in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. It was noted that large-scale samples and comparative tri-service studies are needed desperately to gain a better perspective on the military family. The author believes that quality of life is hampered by imperfect and incomplete data.


The fourfold purpose of this pilot study was: 1) to observe the grief pattern of widows, the onset and duration and effect of bereavement; 2) the comparison of the grief patterns of two groups of widows; 3) to observe the rehabilitation process of widows; and 4) to determine the effect of the mutual-help groups and individual therapy on widows. Thirty-six Six-Day War widows and 56 Yom Kippur War widows, homogeneous with respect to age, birthplace, education, and motherhood, were interviewed. Using wives' self-developed criteria for good and bad adjustment and Lindeman's "grief syndrome," a questionnaire was devised and answered by the widows during interviews.


Case reports were used to illustrate how the nursing staff in a U.S. military hospital handled their own feelings towards parents and children in cases of child abuse and neglect. Although the normal response of the staff was anger toward the parents and pity for the children, it was found necessary to recognize, discuss, and work through these feelings so that the ultimate outcome would benefit the child. Nurses who care for the abused child often have feelings of frustration because of the child's eventual return to his/her parents who were unchanged. The authors found that although the frustrations encountered in dealing with parents can cause a great feeling of helplessness for the nurse, the knowledge of success in even one case can serve to increase incentive to continue.

This is an article detailing one man's report of the effects of military life and his decision to separate from military service to pursue a civilian career, and the part his wife played in that decision. The report discussed the frustrations, humiliations, and rejections one man experienced while in military service due to the structure of the military system, factors which helped make the decision to get out. The report points out that more than increased benefits needs changing to draw and retain personnel in the military services.


A control group of 69 children living in inland Israel, not exposed to wartime stress, were compared to an experimental group of 66 children, living less than one kilometer from the Israel-Jordan ceasefire line, and who were exposed to shelling, bombardment, death, and other wartime stresses. The children initially answered two questionnaires, a measure of manifest anxiety and a measure of autonomy patterns, during a period of relative quiet, eighteen months after ceasefire. The two groups answered the same questionnaires again two or three months later after viewing a film depicting life on a border settlement with events leading up to an enemy attack. Comparisons between the two groups and their responses before and after the film were discussed. Two other stress measures taken were hydroxycorticosteroid levels in the urine, and bruxism (intense teeth grinding). Results were discussed in terms of the developmental impact of extended stress, the credibility of the latent anxiety theory, the validity of laboratory derived statements of psychological stress, and implications for field studies.

The purpose of this study was to examine adult age trends in the adjustment of military personnel. The sample was comprised of 8,702 enlisted Naval personnel preparing for embarkation, including 2,038 with overseas combat experience, 1,521 with overseas non-combat experience, and 5,143 with U.S. only military experience. Each subject completed both a demographic questionnaire and a 20-item forced choice neurotic inventory. Those individuals who revealed a number of nervous symptoms were then interviewed indepth. Findings indicated that those subjects with overseas combat experience manifested the most nervous symptoms; those with overseas non-combat experience were next; and the U.S. only group showed the fewest symptoms. Results also showed that older men in the overseas combat and non-combat groups experienced more nervous symptoms than younger men. Finally, married subjects experienced more nervous symptoms than their unmarried counterparts, regardless of presence or absence of children.


This paper reports an investigation of the psychological effects of frequent "migrations" on a group of 138 children (33 of whom were from military families) referred to the Child Guidance Clinic in the San Diego area in 1959-1960. The disorders observed fell into two groups: behavior disorders affecting 63.6 percent of the military children as opposed to 36.4 percent of the non-military children, and neurotic disorders affecting the children in the proportion of 59 percent to 41 percent. Special problems of the military family, such as frequent moves, absence of father, disruption of social and emotional continuity were credited for the high incidence of behavioral problems as compared with the neurotic disorders.


This article is a report on the results of Ladycom's recent reader survey. More than 9,600 military wives responded. The following topic areas were explored: 1) changing role of the military wife; 2) being called a dependent; 3) membership in wives' clubs; 4) influence on husband's career; 5) dual career families; 6) impact of the women's movement; 7) husband's participation in household; 8) sex and separation; 9) geographic mobility; 10) impact of military life on children; 11) the military as a career. The results indicated that many of the traditions synonymous with the military family and life in the military, as well as how they are viewed, are slowly changing.

In this article two Navy families explained why they loved their quaint old houses, and an Air Force wife told why she would think twice before deciding to buy an older home again. Some pros and cons for military families buying older homes were given within the article. The article clearly depicted why some people "swear by older homes and others swear at them."


This article is based on an interview with a POW wife and an MIA mother. It examined the changes which had occurred in these families. The preparations for repatriation and readjustment being made by the military and the families were discussed. The military's preparations included developing a POW/MIA Task Force (Egress Recap) to accumulate information about former POWs, briefing POW families on the possible medical and emotional status of the returning men, preparing the returnees for repatriation and readjustment, and debriefing the returnees on those still missing in action to better determine their fate. The POW families' preparations included the wives attending briefings and becoming ready to assist husbands and children with the changes which have occurred. The MIA families' preparations included accepting their men as being deceased as the most realistic alternative.


In this article submariners' wives talk about the unique pressures on their marriages, such as the frequency and length of separations, embargo on communications, and crises at home without the aid of the husband. The author shared some coping techniques used by submariners' wives during separation. The last part of the article addressed the unique problems accompanying the period of readjustment following the initial excitement of reunion. A number of practical suggestions on how to cope with reunion and readjustment following reunion were given.


This article gave partial results of an 85 multiple-choice questionnaire filled out by 4,600 military wives. This article was a compilation of survey comments on military marriages, and how they are affected by military life. Special attention was given to family separations because they were most frequently mentioned as a potential source of marital stress. Specific topics in this article included: infidelity, moving, job-related factors, children, and survival of the fittest.

This information pamphlet was prepared by the Department of Defense for families of prisoners of war and servicemen missing in action in Southeast Asia. Its purpose was to orient the families to the procedures to be followed and services given upon repatriation. The procedures and services described included overseas medical examinations and debriefings, care during transport, reunion of families, medical services and family assistance. Finally, answers to the most frequently asked questions about repatriation planning and procedures were listed.


This brief article recorded the author's dilemma of being a wife and mother of two small children as well as a career Marine who was faced with an unaccompanied tour to Okinawa. The author shared her ambivalence, agony, reluctance, and final resolve in dealing with this dilemma. The article pointed out the relatively new problem of the military family in which the wife is the careerist, and the husband is the military dependent.


This paper discussed the various conflicts between military personnel and their family responsibilities and mission readiness/performance. On the basis of personal experiences and with literature review, the author concluded that: 1) the services must be able to set guidelines in terms of the conflicts between mission and family responsibilities; 2) all men and women entering the services must consider their career potentials realistically; 3) all young military women who have children or plan to have children must accept the realities of their careers; 4) military women must make personal judgments and decisions about managing a marriage to a military member, children, and a military career herself; 5) finally, all women entering the services need to have a realistic concept of what their occupational responsibilities will be.

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This article examined the various aspects of spiritual preparation of the serviceman and his wife for deployment and successful adjustment to the deployment. The author, a Navy chaplain, identified a deployment cycle consisting of preparing for, and managing during the deployment, as well as adjusting upon reunion. The point was made that a better understanding of this cycle, as well as a commitment of faith between spouses and contact with the supportive services within the military community are necessary ingredients of successful adjustment.

Langtry, C. You earned that retirement check, too - a retiree's wife writes about her divorce - and things you should know about yours. *The Times Magazine*, March 1970, pp. 7-10.

This article examined the rights and benefits divorced military wives and their children are entitled to. It mainly dealt with the divorced wife's entitlement to a portion of the retirement pay. The article also indicated the responsibilities of her ex-husband in regards to payment, taxes and benefits. The author strongly encouraged women to be aware of the benefits they are entitled to. She advised that women do not take their ex-husbands' word regarding what they are entitled to, but to have legal representation and to have information and agreements in writing. The author emphasized that women should protect themselves with monetary preparation prior to separation, keeping good records, and having things in writing. She also indicated a concern that children be aware that they are not responsible for the differences between their parents. She urged that women not criticize their husbands to the children because of poor performance in support.
THE LITERATURE ON MILITARY FAMILIES, 1980: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOG--ETC(U)
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This study examined the differences and similarities between military parents and civilian parents who maltreat their children, as well as the reasons for these differences. Families who were identified by an Army Child Advocacy Program (ACAP) as abusive and/or grossly neglectful parents during a four-year period (N=225) were studied. The results indicated both similarities and differences. Military child abusers and their victims tended to be younger; military victims were more likely to suffer from abuse, rather than neglect. There was substantially no difference between the civilian and the military victim with respect to sex of child. Minority group families were slightly under-represented compared with the actual number in the military. Mobility did not seem to be a significant contributing factor in the military abusing family, and rank rather than income appeared to be a major factor. The study also reviewed the reporting procedures for child abuse, support systems, and how intervention and treatment processes functioned in the military community.


This article gave a portrait of an alcoholic woman based on interviews with one service wife and supplemented with information from other alcoholic wives. This story is not "typical" for there are no typical alcoholics. The military wives with whom the author spoke, as well as the subject of the article, hoped that this portrayal of a woman caught in the trap of alcoholism will help other alcoholics recognize themselves and get treatment for an illness that can be arrested.


Each year, according to this author, hundreds of military personnel are administratively discharged from the services for financial irresponsibility or chronic indebtedness. The military families who most often have severe financial problems are found to fall into two general categories. The first category is the young enlisted man or woman, E-1 to E-4, either single or married; usually their problem is simply mismanagement of a low salary. The second type is the mid-ranking NCO family which has over-extended its credit. The article offered a simple yet effective budget worksheet which can be used by any military person. The article concluded with recommendations from several financial management experts and budget counselors on how military families can better manage their money and avoid amassing debts they cannot afford.

This article focused on an angry MIA wife who was tired of waiting, tired of being told how brave she was, tired of the quick flashes of hope that quickly turned into disappointment, and tired of hearing that "some of the men just can't ever be accounted for." This article is an account of a wife who still waited one year after the cease fire in Vietnam had been signed, and 566 POWs came home. The article dramatically described why this MIA wife did not give up, in spite of rumors, governmental rhetoric, theories, falsifications, frustrations, and hidden information.

Lester, M. Military wives speak for themselves. The Times Magazine, 1976, 6-14; 32.

The author interviewed two dozen military wives to explore their roles in relation to the military. Common threads in all the conversations were suggested. One was the wives' perceptions that traditional wives' activities are outdated and unnecessary; in other words, the husband's advancement in rank relies upon his capabilities rather than his wife's activities. Another thread was that more wives are currently pursuing their own careers and the traditional role distinctions are blurring. Despite the freedom to choose new alternatives, however, many military wives are still following traditional paths, but it was their choice to feel part of their husbands' military career, rather than independent of it. The author emphasized that there is no "typical" military wife.


In this article on reunion and readjustment, the author focused on how to cope with children who are hurt and angry due to father separation. Problems associated with homecoming such as anger, loss of the child's special status, change in routine, discipline changes, insecurity, open hostility and fear are discussed. The article concluded with seven suggestions which may help minimize the emotional shock waves which rock so many military families when father comes home.

This study describes the volunteer efforts of Haifa University social work faculty members and practitioners from various family social agencies in helping bereaved families of the Israeli Yom Kippur War. Over 1,000 visits by 100 volunteers were carried out, usually during the first week of mourning. Relationships of the volunteer workers to their clients were characterized by an element of self-identification with the bereaved families (oftentimes resulting in self-revelation of the worker to the client), while the professional role transcended a therapeutic relationship and took on the qualities of social interaction. Feedback sessions were held at the Ministry offices in which volunteer consultants, psychiatrists, and other professionals participated, providing exchange of ideas from various disciplines. A social action group, designed to make policy changes within the Rehabilitation Service, was formed out of these meetings. The author emphasized the validity of the social work approach in dealing with crisis situations as evidenced by the quality of field work training and a sense of involvement of the workers.


The impact of war upon the family is described through demographic information and the awesome statistics of previous American wars with regard to casualties, ethnic selection, problems of military families including father absence, marriage and divorce, sex roles, bereavement, and resocialization of veterans. An overview of the Vietnam conflict emerges, characterized by socio-racial discrimination within the draft, poverty among low-echelon servicemen, an increasing caseload of disabled veterans resulting in need for more government expenditures, competition between the returning serviceman and his wife for family roles, an increasing divorce rate among military families, and ambivalence felt among veterans concerning the validity of the war along with their perceived lack of public and governmental support. The author warns against use of denial and "numbness" as a defense against human sacrifice in war because it results in a diminished ability to empathize, to feel grief, and, most importantly, to anticipate and prevent the losses that cause more grief.
Lieberman, E. War and the family: the psychology of antigrief. Modern Medicine, April 1971, pp. 179-183; 191.

This article presents personal impressions concerning the Vietnam War as a background to what the author believes has become a contemporary psychology of "anti-grief." Although over 250,000 Americans were bereaved by the death of an immediate family member in Vietnam, the war has been oddly characterized by an absence of public grief. On a psychological level, "anti-grief" has become the nation's mode of defense for dealing with the realities of modern day warfare. Under the prevailing ideal of stoic detachment, mourning is considered to be a loss of self-control, unmanly, and a threat to morale. The author emphasizes that grief is a necessary process by which any ambivalence concerning the relationship to the dead person must be "faced, worked through, and integrated." On an individual level, the war widow and disabled veteran must "first mourn that missing part of their lives, in order to reconstitute their lives on a meaningful basis." The author concluded that neglect of healthy grief, on a public level, will inhibit growth and change for society as well.


The short term effects of father-loss on 48 bereaved children of the Israeli Yom Kippur War were examined. By focusing on the nature of the mother's approach to the child, the unique system of family organization, and the child's degree of adjustment to life without his father, interviews with mothers and teachers and test results from the children indicated that: (1) Moshav and city boys showed more disorganization of behavior as a result of their father's deaths than Kibbutz children; (2) boys appeared to be more affected by the loss than girls; and (3) children who, according to a concrete-affective criterion, were perceived, and perceived themselves to be like one of their parents, displayed fewer problem behaviors. Various pressures put on the family unit as a result of observed differences in social systems, Kibbutz or Moshav and City, are described. Activities emphasizing a reorganization of self-perception and feelings of security for both the mother and child, in relation to their particular form of family social system were encouraged.

This study investigated how the family structure affects a child's cognitive structure (his level of differentiation and integration) and the degree of relationship between the social perceptual differentiation and cognitive interaction. Data furnished by the Rorschach and the Beri (Cognitive Complexity) tests were collected from 136 Israeli middle-class children (9 to 14 years old), one-fourth of whom had lost their father in the war. The results showed no significant differences between orphans and non-orphans in their degree of perceptual differentiation of their basic family unit. Non-orphans tended to show a direct relationship between the amount of their social differentiation and their degree of perceptual organization.


This study investigates the effects of a husband's duty with the Strategic Air Command upon his family life. A total of 52 women, 27 officer wives and 25 airman wives, whose husbands were on TDY in England for three months, were interviewed. In the first of two interviews, facts concerning family characteristics, husband's AF status, household composition, and other general demographic characteristics were obtained. The second interview sought specific answers to how the wife felt about her husband's status as SAC member affected herself and her family. Most women indicated that SAC requirements negatively affected their family life. The SAC routine fostered a stressful and demanding environment with regard to family organization and roles, husband-wife relationships, housing/living arrangements, financial planning, home management and child care, social and civic activities, planning for the children's future, and planning for retirement. Characteristics of well-adjusted SAC families were also presented.

Although once virtually ignored, the military family is becoming an increasingly significant element in both the military and civilian communities. The historical development of the changing status of the military family was examined from World War I to the present. Its current status was presented, and supporting evidence was given for the thesis that the military family is now considered an essential component in personnel policy and management. Also discussed was the influence on the family in the military community of the following factors: status-group affiliation of the father (officer or enlisted man), residence on- or off-base, and residence in a foreign station or in the United States. Common features of family life in the military, namely participation in an esoteric occupational culture, descriptions of family relationships, residential instability, and socialization in a segment of the life cycle were noted and their effect on family life evaluated. Finally, it was predicted that the military family would have an increasing impact on the civilian community, largely through the development of CHAMPUS and the influx of retired military personnel into the civilian community and labor force.


This article described some of the problems experienced by wives upon overseas deployment of their military husbands, as well as those experienced by mental health professionals giving therapy to the family. Unresolved anger, resentment, and guilt resulting from the wife's feeling that her welfare is second to the husband's career can lead to hypomanic activity, extra-marital sexual activity, "resentment-based fantasy," scapegoating, child neglect, and/or psychosomatic complaints. The therapist can be threatened by the wife's covert attempts to ally him with her desire to seek a divorce.

The purpose of this study was to determine how closely the concerns of junior officers were reflected in the goals outlined in the Army's master plan for the modern volunteer Army, to see if the official plans actually addressed the perceived needs of junior officers, and to see what attitudes differentiated those officers willing to make the military a career from those anxious to leave at the conclusion of their commitment. The sample population consisted of 121 junior commissioned officers and warrant officers. The findings indicated that life-style problems were reported less important in retention decisions than those of professionalism and leadership. Officer skill development training was considered to be inadequate in preparation for the challenge of company level duties. Dissatisfaction with administrative and personnel practices was frequently stated. Other findings indicated that there were significant differences existing in attitudes between officers that planned to stay and those who planned to leave. Finally, it was found that officers' wives played a significant role in the career decision, and her needs have not been addressed by the Army.


This article stressed the need for each married Naval officer to remind himself of his continuing responsibility to provide for his family's financial protection. The author discussed in detail such financial needs as cash, life insurance, term insurance, estate planning, and stock market investments. The article underscored the importance of the contributions that are made to social security and how social security offers financial protection for the military man and his family.

Based on efforts to supply psychological services to children in a military elementary school, the authors provide a description of military dependents as a stable population. The notion that frequent father absences and family moves are detrimental to military children is qualified by observations that frequent father absentism is often compensated for by the father's authoritarian role, and the military child is conditioned to accept mobility as a commonplace occurrence within the family and community. Military children are also relatively homogeneous as a group because of such influences as little income differential among servicemen (except for the officer-enlisted dichotomy) and similar average intelligence levels. Additional factors which enhance the security of military children are a close family circle and either a working father or step-father living at home with the mother.


Sixty-three military wives experiencing psychiatric symptoms precipitated by separation from their husbands because of military duties were compared to a control group of 113 women displaying symptoms without the aggravation of separation. Statistical comparisons indicated that separated wives were significantly younger, less educated, more apt to be Army rather than Air Force wives, and enlisted rather than officer's wives. Thirty percent of the wives in the separated group requested that their husbands be given a new assignment in order that they could be together, but this request was significantly less if the husband was serving in a war zone. The author emphasized need for available psychiatric treatment for separated military wives but discouraged the practice of requesting the return of the serviceman as a means of alleviating the wife's stress. Such an action would encourage "regression," and adopting a "sick role," while "denying the social reality of being a military wife."

Marr, C. We were passed over: in the Army, it's not just the officer who suffers when he's not promoted. His wife does too. *Ladycom*, 1979, 11, 18; 48-50.

This report describes the emotional and psychological stresses experienced by military families when the husband/father is passed over for a promotion. The article also examines the problems encountered when faced with the decision of remaining on active duty or getting out as a result of being passed over, and then having to deal with the problem of getting out when forced out as a result of being passed over the second time.

This is an open letter from a Navy wife of nine years to her husband regarding the increasing pain of continued separation. She discussed the changes and the growth that had taken place during their nine years of marriage and also the separations which occurred during the marriage. She vividly described the pain of prolonged farewells and tears at the pier and described in detail the forms of communication that they had available to them to share growing experiences that were being missed during separation. She concluded the article with a list of marital and family assets which help her during these separations.


This particular study investigated the effects of father presence and absence on the mother's maternal attitudes and examined possible mediating sources of father presence and absence upon personality development of the child. The subjects were 34 wives of enlisted nuclear submarine personnel who were all on rotation of three months of home and sea duty. The results of this experiment indicated that the father presence and absence affects the maternal attitudes of mothers. Four of the significant subscales - breaking the will, strictness, intrusiveness, and acceleration of development - reflected themes of maternal domination and control; the remaining three subscales - martyrdom, marital conflict, and rejection of the homemaking role - suggested themes of marital dissatisfaction and discord. It was noted that several interpretations of these results are possible. The results of the current study has implications for child adjustment, but more research is needed to understand how alterations in attitude affect child behavior.


The purposes of the study were: (1) to obtain an objective description of hardships endured by families while leaving one community and settling into another, (2) to devise practical implications to use in planning for newcomers, and (3) to gather data to support policies which will meet the needs of families while in transition. Two questionnaires, one given upon arrival, one given two months later, were administered to 205 men whose families moved into a Northeastern Army post during a three-month time period. Results indicated that the most often scored family disruption items were: moving costs being greater than the Army's payable allowances for moving, families' need to borrow money for additional moving costs, delay in monthly pay due to loss of finance records during transferral, and separation of family during moving. Family characteristics, namely size, children's ages, and resources, were the major determinants of family disruption. It was concluded that because the military family is highly mobile, the family's economic security is undermined.
Marsh, R. Mobility in the military: its effect upon the family system.

This exploratory and descriptive study was designed to assess the problems and hardships encountered by military families as a result of enforced geographical mobility. An evaluation of the attitudes of the family towards moving, the degree of neighboring and the extent to which the family settles in the community. The study was conducted at an isolated Army post located about 50 miles from a major Northeastern city. Two pre-tests and a self-administered questionnaire were given to every enlisted family arriving at the post over a three-month period. This study found that among all the other problems associated with moving, the separation of the family for lower pay grades as a result of a move or reassignment and the lack of available housing are the most significant factors involved in family hardships as a result of enforced geographical family location.


This article examined how the Vietnam War widow reacted to the news of her husband's death, how she coped with the military funeral, and then how she began the difficult job of adjusting to her new role as widow. Eight Vietnam widows were interviewed in-depth. Dr. L. Zunin, founder of Operation Second Life, did most of the interviewing for the article.


The purpose of this study was to identify coping patterns associated with adjustment to separation and family reintegration. Eighty-two wives and families of Navy aviators and support personnel scheduled for an eight-month deployment were used in this study. They were randomly selected from the total population of married officer and enlisted personnel assigned to the same aircraft carrier. This study identified and isolated six independent patterns of response to separation and was unique in that it offered an identification of patterns of behavior which wives saw as positive and valuable, and which appeared to influence family reunion and the process of family reintegration. Several conclusions were drawn from this study: 1) coping factors which proved functional and adaptive during separation often placed additional strain on reintegration (at least initially); 2) coping patterns aimed at strengthening and stabilizing the family and enhancing personal and psychological stability may facilitate changes in the family unit; and 3) at least one pattern of coping behavior served a dual function of managing the strains of separation and enhancing husband-wife reintegration. The author suggested that families would benefit from counseling that emphasizes the importance of coping patterns.

This paper identified, measured and defined coping behaviors utilized by military families in response to the dual stressors of separation and reunion. Subjects were 82 wives and families of Navy aviators (pilots and navigators) and aviator support personnel (flight and maintenance crew) scheduled for a nine-month family separation with husbands deployed into the western Pacific aboard a U.S. Navy carrier. Wives were administered the Coping with Separation Inventory (CSI) 4-6 months into the separation period. A subscale of the Family Environment Scale (FES) was administered to wives at the time of the family reunion interviews. The CSI identified 12 coping patterns: 1) developing interpersonal relationships; 2) involvement in religious-community activities; 3) developing support through activities with wives in similar stress situations; 4) maintaining extended family ties; 5) maintaining father's role; 6) doing things together as a family unit; 7) developing self-reliance; 8) developing self-esteem; 9) adapting to demands of husband's profession; 10) tension management; 11) maintaining personal health; and 12) utilizing medical-chemical support.

The FES identified two coping patterns which the author believed explained how families are best able to manage family separations and facilitate family reintegration: 1) doing things together to strengthen family bonds; and 2) maintaining father's role and family stability.


Research on the military family has tended to underscore the deleterious effects of family separation, particularly in terms of family dysfunction and child adjustment problems. Little, if any, attention has been given to those intra-family and military community factors which may enhance the family's ability to cope with and endure the repeated demands of family separations in the armed services. The research underscores the value of military family studies. Specifically, the presentation focused on family and child adjustment to stress, with an emphasis upon identifying those family and community factors which may make a family "invulnerable to stress." The research findings were based on a prospective study of families coping with the preparations for separation, adjustment to separation, and adjustment to reunions. Data on sex roles, child adjustment, community support, and family coping behaviors were presented. Implications for family policy in the armed services were discussed.
McCubbin, H. I. Integrating coping behavior in family stress theory. 
Journal of Marriage and the Family, 1979, 41, 237-244.

An analysis of three prior studies of coping and adaptation to family separation revealed that the family was called upon both to react to and to actively employ coping behaviors within the family system and in relationship to the community. The analysis also revealed specific coping behaviors which varied according to the severity of the stress on the family unit, and underscored the value of viewing coping behavior as an integral part of De. Reuben Hill's B Factor in family stress theory. Five propositions were offered and discussed. Of particular importance to the research reviewed was the basic value of the community in the management of family stress. The community provides the context in which families may unite in a collective effort to deal directly with the stressor event. Through interaction between the family unit and the community, via coping behaviors, the family is better able to manage stress.


This article reviewed the research efforts of the Center for Prisoner of War Studies on both reunited and non-reunited families. Findings suggested that families' adjustment to separation was marked by emotional and legal difficulties, as well as insufficient support services. Six major coping patterns were identified: 1) seeking resolution; 2) maintaining family integrity; 3) establishing autonomy and maintaining family ties; 4) reducing anxiety; 5) establishing independence through self-development; and 6) maintaining the past and dependence on religion. Findings related to families' adjustment to reunion suggested that the returnees and their wives all experienced difficulties to some degree. Returnees' personality characteristics found related to successful reunion were aggressiveness, mental alertness, controlling behavior, education adaptability, and resistance posture in captivity. The studies on family reintegration indicated that the divorce rate was over 30% for all three services. Wives' emotional adjustment was a critical factor in successful reintegration. The most critical factors involved in family reintegration were length of marriage, quality of marriage at time of casualty and the wives' emotional dysfunction during separation. The adjustment of RPW and MIA children was generally below the norms for social and personal adjustment.

This paper was a critique of the various reports presented at the symposium on "Changing Families in a Changing Military System" at the 1976 American Psychological Association convention. General themes revolved around the impact of the women's movement and the changing role of women in society in relation to military wives and servicewomen. The author addressed the strengths and weaknesses of each of the papers in terms of their sample representativeness, thoroughness, and the salience of the findings. He then made some general comments on military family research which has examined the impact of the seemingly oppressive aspects of military life and comments on the wives' overall liberated viewpoint, the families' ability to adapt, and to cope, and the wives' willingness to support the traditional role of the military wife. Two alternative hypotheses were used to explain this: 1) the military provides a complete socialization process for wives and families that cultivates and develops coping behaviors necessary for family adaptation; and 2) the military has always had a quasi-feminist movement, where the demands of military life and its mission call for wives to assume tremendous family and community responsibilities, and the military also provides the resources for wives to fulfill those responsibilities.

In this presentation at the Military Family Research Conference in San Diego, September 1977, the author reported on the Family Stress in the Armed Services Project, originally entitled the "Aviator Project." This project studied families before deployment occurred, during deployment, and again after the men returned. This particular project revealed that most of the problems of the wives were in terms of psychosomatic illness. The data also showed that there was a high relationship between prior stresses which had occurred seven to twelve months before the deployment occurred. The author believed that much of this stress could be prevented by focusing on three pre-separation variables such as: 1) preparation through the sharing of information by way of family communication; 2) increasing social integration to make the military wife feel that she is a viable and contributing member to the military community; and 3) enhancing social acceptance within the community.


The purpose of this study was to identify the coping behaviors and strategies utilized by military wives to manage the stress generated by family separation. Subjects were 82 wives of Navy aviators (pilots and navigators) and aviator support personnel (flight and maintenance crew personnel) who were officers and enlisted personnel scheduled for a nine-month separation aboard a U.S. Navy carrier. The wives were administered the Coping with Separation Inventory (CSI) which was designed to examine the wives' view of separation, the coping behaviors employed, and their usefulness. The results identified five coping patterns. Coping Pattern I was composed of behaviors which centered around maintaining family integration and stability. Pattern II focused upon wives' relationship with friends and other social relations. Pattern III involved several behaviors employed to manage personal tensions and psycho-social hardships of separation. Pattern IV focused on behaviors of psychological resignation to and acceptance of the stressful situation. Pattern V focused upon active self-development and growth behaviors employed to enhance self-reliance and self-esteem.


Variability in personal and social adjustment among children of missing servicemen is often attributed to father absence, sex of the child, and age of the child at the time of father's absence. One of the purposes of this study was to examine the three major groups of predictors delineated by previous research with other populations: 1) father's experience in captivity; 2) mother's adjustment to separation; and 3) the family environment. Subjects for the investigation consisted of two samples: the first sample was 55 Navy families of returned American prisoners of the Vietnam War, and the second sample was 91 children of Navy, Army, and Marine Corps servicemen whose status remained unconfirmed following the return of the American prisoners in February 1973. Results indicated that certain social and psychological variables pertaining to the mother and the family unit may exist which explain more adequately the results attributable to the effects of father absence. The conceptualization regarding family adjustment to war-induced separations and the psychological literature regarding the effects of father-absence hold promise for arriving at an integrated theoretical framework for explaining and predicting children's response to father absence.

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This paper, presented at the Department of Defense Conference on the Adjustment of Prisoners of War in November 1974, focused on the adjustment of families of returned Prisoners of War, and was intended to inform the Conference of the activities, findings and plans of the Center for Prisoners of War Studies. Although the difficulties involved with the reintegration of a family unit after several years of father absence and separation have been documented, the crucial factors related to success or failure of family readjustment are not known. The authors emphasized four points: 1) the importance of examining the family and assessing its adaptation; 2) the importance of total follow-up programs and services; 3) the role of the family in the adjustment of the returned prisoner of war; and finally, 4) the importance of a longitudinal assessment of the children's adjustment within the family unit.


This presentation identified the importance of a longitudinal study of returned prisoners of war families, described and discussed findings from data previously collected, examined family adjustment—specifically divorce and separation—and enumerated the lessons learned concerning services to PW/MIA and RPW families. Data presented covered adjustment at time of reunion, divorce and separation, and family adjustment 10 months following repatriation. The major factors predictive of successful adjustment to reunion and those predictive of divorce were discussed. Family adjustment was assessed in terms of three scales: marital reintegration, father-child reintegration, and family reintegration. The important predictor variables for each of these scales were presented. It was concluded that family preparation for reunion, family services, and preparation of the husband for his return may be important factors for successful family adjustment.

This paper describes a three phase longitudinal study designed to investigate the effects of prolonged family separation in the military, primarily as a result of the Vietnam conflict. The study was concerned with emotional and mental attitudes, as well as the effect of prolonged absence of the father on the family, the wife, and the children. This study addressed issues such as changes in society, changed family patterns, the wife's reluctance to give up newly found independence, etc., which are often involved in the decisions of separated couples either to remain married or to divorce upon husbands' return from prolonged captivity as prisoners of war.


This paper focused on the role and the contributions of sociologists in the field of research on the military family. Actual comparisons were made between the contributions of the social sciences and the behavioral sciences to such major groupings of research as the effects of mobility, child adjustment and development, family adjustment to separation, loss of a family member, reunion and reintegration, and services to families under stress. Findings indicated that sociologists had significantly fewer publications. It was concluded that, in contrast to the applied professions of social work, psychiatry and psychology, which have established occupational roles within the military system, family sociology has not as yet been identified as an applied profession and does not have an established position.

The authors predict that the families of servicemen missing in action and families of returned prisoners of war will have a high incidence of problems of readjustment which are amenable to preventive mental health intervention. Within a community mental health framework, prevention occurs at three levels. Primary prevention entails lessening or eliminating adverse psychological and environmental influences; secondary prevention means early and effective treatment; and tertiary prevention refers to the rehabilitation of individuals or family systems. All three levels of mental health services are recommended for the Vietnam POW/MIA families.


This study focused on the children of the missing fathers who were still prisoners of war and how these children are affected by fathers' absence. Ninety-one children comprised the sample for this study. It was found that children who made positive personal and social adjustments had mothers who appeared to have overcome problems of self-esteem and had adjusted to a life pattern that was totally different from the one previously known. The effects of father absence upon the children appeared to be mediated by mothers' definition of the situation, attitude towards life, and social and family role adjustment. Multiple regression analyses revealed four predictors which best explain the children's personal, social and total adjustment as measured by the California Test of Personality: 1) mother's independence; 2) mother's ability to manage the home; 3) mother's involvement in social activities; and 4) closeness in the father-child relationship before the separation. For those professionals counseling or working with these families, it should be noted that the focus of treatment should be placed upon the family system and interaction, with particular attention given to mother's reaction to father's absence, her definition of father's absence, her management of the family, and her personal feelings of self-worth and how these affect and are, in turn, affected by the children.

In this book, the editors have collected a sampling of previously unpublished work relating to the military family. Included in the subjects covered were characteristics of various family members, prolonged family separation, effects of geographical mobility, divorce and retirement, and the use of mental health resources. The volume concluded with a thorough overview of research. In addition to the valuable topics and rich research recorded in this book, the book has two features which add to its value. The first is the foreword by Reuben Hill which gives the reader an excellent overview of the material to follow and raises invaluable questions for further research. The second feature consists of the two concluding chapters which summarize in capsular form a large body of related articles. Also included is an annotated bibliography of 153 references on military families.


This article overviews the book's previous 10 chapters and related research findings and offers some potential studies for future family research in the area of military families. It identifies some of the needs and services that can be provided to facilitate military families in preparing for prolonged military enforced separations. The article lists resources that provide help for the wife and children in adjusting to the loss of the father's presence. It also highlights some of the problems associated with fathers leaving the home, returning home, and their reintegration into the family. The authors emphasize that although the various studies indicate a myriad of problems associated with military families, their correlation with the military life and policies is unclear.

In this study, the investigators examined the adjustment of 47 families of servicemen missing in action in the Vietnam conflict in order to delineate specific coping patterns which wives employ to cope with prolonged separations. A Q-sort inventory (Coping with Separation Inventory - CSI) was developed and used to obtain wives' perceptions of the coping behaviors they found valuable in adjusting to separation. A factor analysis of the 46-item inventory revealed six coping behavior patterns. Independent predictors, background, attitudinal and situation variables, obtained in 1972 and 1975, were analyzed in relation to each of the coping patterns. Multiple regression analyses revealed unique predictors which corroborated Reuben Hill's thesis of the critical value of the husband's and wife's background, the history of the marriage, the development of the family, and the stresses of separation in determining the family's response to separation.


This paper focused on some of the initial findings related to the family's pre-deployment experiences and their relation to stresses which aviators and aircrewmen and their families experienced during the initial days of an eight-month deployment. The 82 families in this study were randomly selected from the total population of pilots and aircrew assigned to fighter squadrons and attack squadrons. The findings indicated that pre-deployment factors were important for understanding the serviceman's perception of family stresses while at sea. Specifically, seven key factors emerged: 1) family and individual background variables; 2) distrust of family programs; 3) intra-family factors such as expressiveness and strengths; 4) wife's awareness of both informal and formal family support programs; 5) additional family stresses, specifically, family relocations, in addition to husband's deployment; 6) strength of wife's role in the family; and 7) family preparation for separation.


This investigation examined data collected longitudinally on 48 families of returned prisoners of war and attempted to identify the best combination of factors which may be used to explain the degree of reintegration of the returned prisoner of war into his family system. Four sets of data were considered in the development of the regression equation: 1) background characteristics of both the husband and wife; 2) indices of family preparedness for separation and reunion; 3) reports by the returnees on their prison experience and of their psychiatric status at the time of repatriation; and 4) measures of family adjustment during the separation period. The findings pointed to the importance of the evolution of a stable family unit over time and the development of a family system which could endure the hardships and stresses of separation.


The purpose of this study was to examine longitudinally whether the residuals of a parent's traumatic experiences are linked to the parent-child relationship. Specifically, this study was limited to an examination of the relationship between the POWs' perception of internment stresses, which were recorded immediately after release from captivity and their assessment of their relationships with their children, 12-16 months following family reunion. The subjects for this study consisted of 42 Navy families of returned prisoners of war of the Vietnam War. Father-child reintegration was the criterion. Results indicated that there was a significant relationship between the stresses of captivity and subsequent father-child relations. Two factors were found to be uniquely related to father-child reintegration: 1) father's perceived abuse in captivity; and 2) the steps taken by the father pre-casualty to prepare the family for separation. Finally, father-child relations were not a function of either sex or age of the children. The authors concluded that the more severe the treatment in captivity, both physically and psychologically, the more difficult it was for the father to establish close and satisfying relationships with his children post-release.

This volume is concerned with the process of adapting; the ways in which former prisoners of war had responded to the stresses of war and captivity; the ways in which the family unit adapted itself to the prolonged and seemingly indeterminate absence of a father; how the returnee and his wife and children reintegrate their family unit after the long separation; and how a family copes with and prepares itself for a future without the father and husband. Essentially the volume covers three major periods. First, the waiting period, from the early 1960's to February of 1973, during which time the families experienced the loss of their fathers, husbands, and sons and waited in anticipation and with hope of his return. Second, the repatriation period, from February 1973 to April 1973, during which time American prisoners of war in Southeast Asia returned to the United States and to their families. Third, the readjustment and reintegration period, from April 1973 to the present, in which some families whose men returned have been working together toward a successful reintegration and stability while others have felt it necessary to choose independent and separate lives.


This paper is an overview of a study which examined the nature and extent of adjustment problems experienced by families of servicemen missing action or prisoners of war during the Vietnam Conflict. A total of 215 Army, Navy, and Marine Corps PW/MIA families were interviewed approximately one year prior to the release of the prisoners. Through personal in-depth interviews, data were collected on demographic factors, as well as psychological, social and medical factors which are conceivable related to family and individual adjustment. The results indicated that: (a) the normal patterns of coping with father/husband absence were disturbed by the unprecedented and indeterminate length of his absence, and (b) that much of the social acceptance, stability, and continuity which is taken for granted in the intact family was lacking or severely taxed in the PW/MIA family. Health care service to these families was also discussed.

Analysis of 215 structured interviews with Army, Navy, and Marine POW/MIA families located throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and Europe indicated the difficulties experienced by these families. Conclusions were that prior to the POWs release in 1973: 1) basic patterns of adjusting to the absence of husband/father are compounded by the unprecedented length and indeterminate nature of the POW/MIA situation; 2) POW/MIA wives are likely to pursue a wide range of individual and social activities to enhance self-esteem and contribute to the stabilization of the family; 3) the probability of modification in the wives' assessments of their marriages was high; 4) the emotional difficulties experienced by the wives and children strongly reflect the complexity and the difficulty of coping with the POW/MIA situation; 5) there was expressed a need for a more effective approach to extending services to POW/MIA families; and 6) the family's adjustment over the years and their apprehension about repatriation must be considered important factors in the formula for the successful reunion and readjustment of each returned prisoner of war.


The reactions of children to the prolonged absence of a father missing in action or a prisoner of war were investigated. Group discussions with the children were conducted and feelings about their fathers' absence or recent return, their own personal and emotional adjustment, and their perceptions of mothers' adjustment were examined. The children of returned prisoners of war were found to be in their initial stages of reunion with their fathers and expressing some feelings of guilt over having had their fathers return while the other MIA children were still waiting. The children whose fathers had not returned indicated several difficult areas of adjustment due to social as well as family responsibilities, conflicts with other children in the school setting, and frustrations over coping with prolonged absence. These children saw their mothers as needing their support and protection. The prospects of starting a new life without father, the probability of mother dating, and the lessening of hope for father's return were discussed with extreme ambivalence. Advanced maturity and greater sensitivity to other people were perceived by all the children as benefits of their situation.


Research on the military family has tended to underscore the deleterious effects of family separation, particularly in terms of family dysfunction and child adjustment problems. Little, if any, attention has been given to those intra-family and military community factors which may enhance the family's ability to cope with and endure the repeated demands of family separations in the armed services. The research underscores the value of military family studies. Specifically, the presentation focused on family and child adjustment to stress, with an emphasis upon identifying those family and community factors which may make a family "invulnerable to stress." The research findings were based on a prospective study of families coping with the preparations for separation, adjustment to separation, and adjustment to reunions. Data on sex roles, child adjustment, community support, and family coping behaviors were presented. Implications for family policy in the armed services were discussed.


The need for a re-evaluation of, and change in, family policy in the armed forces was examined within the context of the changing structure of the military, a change from an institutional format to an occupational model. In the occupational model, the role and needs of the employees' families are viewed as impacting on job performance and satisfaction. Consequently, any policy emanating from this model should take into account these needs. The authors reviewed the military's assumptions underlying family policy which view the family and its needs as being subordinate to the serviceman and his mission. They then proposed revised assumptions regarding family policy. Justification for this re-evaluation was based on the impact of the following factors on the military mission: 1) the changing role of women in society and the military; 2) the changing role of the military family; and 3) the impact of existing policies on family life regarding relocation, family separation and reunion, and war and family life.


This article discussed recent changes in the military family and social policy in the military organization. The authors pointed out that no systematic, comprehensive effort has been made to study the host of assumptions, issues, and policies of the military system which impinge significantly on the lives of service members and their families. The authors emphasized that such an effort must be made in light of increasing evidence that the family does influence the well-being and performance of the service member, and thus, the overall functioning of the military system. The basic underlying assumptions on which military policy is based were reviewed, and the impact upon military families of existing policies discussed. The authors concluded that military family stresses are substantial; that they influence the well-being and performance of military service members; and, thus, they warrant careful examination by policy makers.

The observations presented in this paper were based on a study conducted at a religious retreat for families of returned POWs and of servicemen missing in action during the Vietnam conflict. A total of 79 parents participated in a series of group discussions which focused upon parents’ feelings and their adjustment to the seemingly irreconcilable and personally threatening MIA situation. The authors made observations in the following areas: 1) understanding the loss; 2) recalling the past; 3) the nature of their relationship with the government; 4) regaining control of the situation; 5) problem resolution; and 6) the future. The authors discussed the unique dilemma facing the parents of MIAs, a dilemma which disrupted the normal grieving process.


This article gave an overview of the current status of various family dysfunctions of military personnel which the author believes impact upon the efficacy and combat readiness of the armed forces of this nation. The problems of child abuse and neglect, spousal abuse, and alcoholism were explored as to their incidences, interrelationships and ramifications.


This article examined the adjustment problems experienced by World War II military families during separation and reunion. The primary areas of difficulty were identified as: 1) conflict between the desire of the single serviceman to get married while needing to provide financial support for his family of orientation; 2) assimilation of foreign wives into the American culture; and 3) changes in attitudes, personalities, and status of family members. The areas were explored through the discussion of actual case studies.

This article reports on a study of the social-vocational role perceptions and self-concepts of adolescents from career military families compared to adolescents from non-military families. The population consisted of 69 adolescents from military families and 48 adolescents from non-military families. All were sophomores in high school. Findings from the study showed that, contrary to prior reports, male military dependents appeared more influenced by their family status and more positively family-oriented, but more negative about social-vocational components of their environment than their civilian counterparts.


This study was an investigation of the relationships among pathology, alienation, and geographical mobility as applied to the military family. A questionnaire was mailed to 200 enlisted Army families randomly selected from those who had recently moved. The questionnaire was followed by an interview with 29 of the 80 respondent wives. The study sought to determine whether there was significant correlation between stressful family problems and alienation as a result of the family relocation into a new and unfamiliar community. The interviews indicated that sociostructural features which tend toward alienation have the potential of exacerbating feelings of alienation and associated family problems in those individuals who are characteristically anomic. The survey revealed that the greatest increase of family problems associated with moving occurred when the family lived off the military post, while marital tension was greater among families living on the military post.

The effects of geographical mobility were examined in relation to alienation and intra and interpersonal family problems within the Army. The wives' lack of identification with the military, the military community, and family problems were used as a measure of alienation. Twenty-nine interviews comprised the data for the study. Those interviewed were selected randomly from 200 respondents who completed mailed questionnaires. Results indicated that the alienated wife experiences many personal, marital and child-related problems and also views moving as a negative situation for the family. The low-alienated wife is able to integrate herself in the new community more easily and perceives the move more positively. The utilization of informal contacts, or sponsors within the neighborhood, was suggested as one means of helping a new family adjust to and become oriented within a new community.

McLellan, M. The voice of a Vietnam veteran - angry, anguished, determined to get a better deal for all Viet vets. Voices, October/November 1974, pp. 10-13; 73-75; 78-81.

This article was transcribed from a tape made by a Vietnam veteran who briefly shared the story of his life prior to Vietnam and then, in detail, related his feelings, reactions, musings, and conclusions about American involvement in Vietnam. As he recounted his reunion and re-adjustment to civilian life, marred by a divorce due to unresolved feelings about Vietnam, he sought to uncover the plight of the Vietnam veteran in regards to receiving help and assistance in readjusting. He was determined to make every senator, congressman, and state legislator aware of the needs of the Vietnam veteran.

Based on the large number of career military personnel retiring each month, this study represented an attempt to investigate the degree of preparation and successful adjustment of former military officers to retirement. A unique feature of this retired group was that they were considerably younger (age range from 37-55 years) than the average civilian retired person. Forty-six retired married officers residing in Southern California were interviewed for 1-1/2 to 2 hours. The majority of officers had completed college, had two or more dependent children, and had retired voluntarily. Most officers felt some anxiety associated with retiring and had delayed actively preparing for retirement until a few months before the event. Eight-seven percent of the officers had chosen a second career and were working after their retirement from military life. All officers experienced some degree of role confusion for the first few months following their retirement. The officers largely felt that the Air Force should have provided services; e.g., counseling or help in securing civilian employment, to aid them in preparation for retirement. Nevertheless, a satisfactory civilian adjustment was made by the majority of officers.


This paper focused on the impact of military retirement on the retiree and his family. Some attention was also given to the effect of retirement on society. The author identified military retirement as lying on a continuum that begins with the pre-retirement stage and extends through a period of role confusion to a period of adjustment or mal-adjustment. Individuals approaching retirement may respond in an individualized fashion which may be either active or passive. Family and individual problems related to military retirement revolve around: 1) unemployment and the age restriction on commencing civilian jobs; 2) a shrinking of benefits and services available to the retiree and his family because of the increasing number of retirees; and 3) the loss of status associated with the military. The author noted that although most retirees make a good adjustment to civilian life, to determine the extent of successful adjustment one needs to examine such factors as: 1) post-retirement job satisfaction; 2) satisfaction with retirement residence; 3) maintenance of accustomed standard of living; and 4) happiness of the family concerning father's retirement.

This paper describes the problems unique to retirement from the military service and presents several case examples. Because the military operates on a length of service, rather than age criterion, most servicemen retire at a relatively young age and still have a wife and several dependent children to support. Changing from a secure and closed social system where roles and status positions are clearly defined to the civilian labor market is typically anxiety-producing. Three states of the retirement syndrome are identified: (a) the two- or three-year period prior to actual retirement during which the individual may experience anxiety, depression, somatic complaints and unresolved psychic conflict; (b) a period of role confusion soon after retirement in which the retiree suffers from a loss of identity; and (c) failure to assimilate the transitional role confusion period successfully. A preventative treatment approach to the retirement problem was suggested through realistic preretirement planning and emphasizing the inescapable, yet transitional quality of the role confusion period in order to bolster the retiree's confidence and self-esteem.


Military retirement was described in terms of phases, beginning with retirement preparation to eventual adjustment or maladjustment to civilian life. Because of their relatively young age and family responsibilities, retirement for career military men usually represents a change in careers, rather than a time of leisure. Preparation for retirement was suggested in the areas of retirement activity, residence, finances, and appraisal of health. Constructive channeling of the anxiety was suggested by preparing actively for retirement. The role confusion phase, immediately following retirement, is the result of loss of security and status provided by a rigidly defined social system, and entering an unfamiliar civilian job in which the retiree must confront a number of problems, including again working up a hierarchal ladder, encountering civilian prejudice against military retirees, and dealing with lack of transferability of skills and a lower pay scale.

Various social issues related to large-scale military retirement, its impact on the man and his family in an already shrinking labor market, and costs to the public were described. Without the security of specific role expectations that the military provides, the retiree may experience role confusion and loss of both status and self-esteem. If the retiree enters the civilian labor market to supplement his retirement income, he encounters competition for jobs with younger, more qualified men, a lack of transferability of military skills, civilian prejudices, and potential exploitation by employers. If the retiree accepts a salary below the prevailing wage scale, it may then affect wage scale rates in those areas where military retirees tend to cluster, usually near military installations.


This article reviews a program designed to deal with the Vietnam veteran era population. These specific techniques of extensive community and family involvement may also serve as a model of an outreach program to help the returned prisoner of war to adjust socially during the re-entry period.


This paper reviewed the longitudinal study of returned prisoners of war (RPW) families who were interviewed just prior to the 1973 homecoming and again in 1974 and 1975. A comparison of family members' adjustment for 1974 and 1975 based on interviewer's ratings, was reported in this paper. The major findings indicated that: 1) the divorce rate (31.4%) had not reached the prediction which was made prior to Homecoming (75%); 2) husbands' adjustment had not significantly changed between 1974 and 1975; 3) nor had wives' adjustment significantly changed between 1974 and 1975, although there was a trend toward recommending fewer wives for professional counseling in 1975; 4) child adjustment between 1974 and 1975 had not changed significantly; and 5) the number of major family problems areas had decreased between 1974 and 1975.

The study examined the adjustment of the returned POW (RPW), as well as his wife's adjustment, two years subsequent to return, to see if a delayed stress syndrome, in terms of family adjustment, was present at that point in time. A sample of 45 RPW presently intact families who had participated in a larger five-year longitudinal investigation were used. The findings did not show the presence of a delayed stress syndrome in this particular group of RPW families at that point in time, using measures of husband/wife adjustment as indicators.


This paper addressed some of the problems of former prisoners of war (POWs) in the readjustment period and the possible roles to be played in the readjustment process by their families. The paper also dealt with the use of the principles of logotherapy to aid in finding the will to meaning in the lives of the POWs and their families. The author examined the research concerning the problems of POWs and concentration camp prisoners under Germany and Japan in World War II and POWs from Korea. The author concluded by showing how the will to meaning is a necessity for POW wives at the present time, as well as when their husbands return, as a tool of both personal understanding and therapeutic assistance.
Informal interviews with 26 recently returned prisoners of war (RPWs) and 21 of their wives who were participating in a religious retreat, yielded impressions concerning initial reintegration experiences and plans for the future. In supportive group discussions, the returnees and their wives admitted extensive adjustment problems. Topics discussed in these sessions centered on themes of ambivalence towards public versus family commitments, difficulties with role adjustments, concerns for their children's adjustment as a result of the father's lengthy absence, as well as disapproval of some of the children's acquired behaviors during his absence. In addition, many returnees suffered from feelings of "survivor guilt" and discomfort in dealing with families of men still classified as missing in action. In general, the majority of the families felt that the separation had brought them closer together. Although many returnees expressed feelings of uncertainty and lack of confidence concerning their future careers, the majority expressed the desire to pursue educational training that would enable them to update themselves professionally, as well as rid themselves of the "ex-POW" label. The beneficial effects of the group process afforded these men and their families were emphasized.


Metres, P. J., Jr., Robertson, M. L., & Lester, G. R. The change in returned prisoner of war family adjustment during two successive years following reunion. Paper presented at the Inter-University Seminar of the Armed Forces and Society, Regional Meeting, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, February 1976.

This study sought to answer two major questions: 1) Were there significant statistical differences in the adjustment of the returned prisoner of war husband or his wife over the two-year period following reunion? And 2) What demographic, captivity, and separation factors accounted for the variability in family functioning in RPW families over a one-year period? A sample of 45 RPW families (36 Navy, 6 Army, and 3 Marine Corps) who participated in a five-year longitudinal investigation were chosen for this particular study. This investigation found adjustment for both the husbands and wives was the same in 1975 as it was in 1974. Analyses of the data have revealed that the impact of separation was still being felt in the husband's functioning, although not in the wife's functioning. The adjustment of the children and the number of children seem to be the most important indicators of the wife's functioning.


This report presents a comparative study of the level of anxiety during peacetime and wartime in fifth and sixth graders before and after the Yom Kippur War. Results from questionnaires and various psychological tests indicated that the wartime anxiety level nearly doubled and that the children with the lowest prewar level of anxiety were the ones with the highest level of postwar anxiety. Moreover, this high anxiety level seemed related more to sex (higher in boys) and to socio-economic status (higher for the upper-middle class children) than to war stress or personality parameters. Rise in school-related anxiety followed the same pattern. These findings were quite unexpected.
Emotional maladjustments in Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers facing retirement from the service were described clinically and statistically. Based on a combination of psychotherapeutic approaches (i.e., individual, group, family, and con-joint sessions), the case examples reveal individual and family disorganization and neurotic problems precipitated by the stress of retirement. In light of the historical nature of the men's adjustment (each had had a major crisis in his early life and a chaotic adolescence), the choice of the service as a career was interpreted as a "pseudomoratorium" providing a sense of personal identification and temporary escape from "unconsciously determined individual conflicts." Retirement was seen as a crisis situation which robs the Chief of his "stable self-concepts engendered by service roles." The author suggested that the retiree's upheavals may trigger concomitant neurotic responses in other family members at a time when he most needs emotional support from them.


It was the purpose of this thesis to examine one aspect of domestic relations law, divorce law for the serviceman. An overview of the problems encountered when a serviceman is a party to divorce proceedings was given. Also, a discussion of the jurisdiction of foreign and domestic courts to entertain divorce actions and the recognition of such judgments was presented. Since domicile is the basis for divorce jurisdiction, divorce presents special problems to the serviceman. The migratory nature of military service affects the soldier in his attempt to obtain a divorce and later to secure recognition of the decree in other jurisdictions. Until there is considerable withdrawal of the United States from overseas bases, the legal assistance officer will be faced with numerous problems concerning divorces in foreign countries.


This study addressed the problem-solving experiences of 55 career Army families due to the father's separation from the family as a result of military assignment. The question was raised as to whether the husband's absence from the home was more significant in explaining the problems encountered by family than was the family's relocation into a new community, accompanied by failure to utilize the resources available to aid in reducing problems and frustrations resulting from the father's absence. It was show that the wives' emotional and mental attitudes towards the separation was a major contributing factor to family functioning.

This booklet authored by a chaplain's wife deals with many of the separation and reunion problems faced by military families. The author shared her own experiences as well as discussing those of other military wives and families. Topics included: 1) developing the right attitude toward separation; 2) keeping the lines of communication open between family members; 3) helping children of varying age levels deal with father absence; 4) suggestions on how the wife can meet her own needs for companionship; 5) methods for keeping the father before the children as head of the family; 6) advice on how to ease some of the special homecoming problems. The author believed that separations were not something just to go through but something to grow through, which, if handled in the right manner, could make a good marriage better. The author dealt with separation and reunion from both a spiritual and practical aspect.

Morrison, S. From payday to payday. Woman's Day, March 13, 1979, pp. 96-97; 162; 164.

The author depicted how a Navy wife and mother faced each day's problems alone. Coping with the crises and fighting loneliness were difficult in the best of times, but when money was short, only faith and determination could pull her through. The article illustrated the necessity of frugality on the part of a Navy family if they were to survive financially in the Navy. The article clearly depicted the need for improved pay for military families.


The author addressed the impact of various aspects of military life on the development of children. Three psychologists, representing optimistic, pessimistic, and neutral viewpoints, discussed issues such as: 1) the military as a minority; 2) benefits and services available to the family; 3) geographical mobility; 4) overseas assignments and culture shock; 5) father absence; and 6) early military retirement. Each expert offered opinions on the effects of each on the child.

Through personal observations and interviews of American servicemen stationed in Germany, Korea, the Dominican Republic, and Vietnam, the author presents an overview of the enlisted culture. Strains between single term and career soldiers, the cleavage between higher and lower educated enlisted men, and the juxtaposition of both authoritarian and egalitarian standards, are described as common elements underlying enlisted culture, along with an overview of military family life characterized by the inconvenience of family moves and family separations. It is suggested that the new all-volunteer military will reflect a membership more acquiescent to established procedures and organizational goals since it will lack a broadly based civilian representation and the "leavening effect of the recalcitrant serviceman serving under a form of duress."


The organization and operations of 50 Army Community Service Program Centers (ACS) were examined in relation to such factors as type and frequency of social welfare problems, social welfare services, the manner in which specific tasks are assigned to social welfare personnel, and the competency and skills of those assigned to deal with them. In addition, various community resources (i.e., Army and civilian health and welfare agencies) were identified and the nature of their interaction with ACS described. An historical description of the ACS program derived from content analysis of Army documents is presented, together with data obtained through questionnaires from selected ACS personnel. Of the three types of available personnel (professional, subprofessional, and nonprofessional) found to be involved in providing services within ACS, nonprofessionals were found to constitute the largest group offering services. Twenty-one social welfare problems were identified as the most frequently occurring problems for active duty Army enlisted men and their dependents. Seventy-four Army and civilian community resources were identified as available to provide informal assistance to ACS staff.


This booklet consists of the guidelines that are offered for the role that is played by the wives of commanding and executive officers in maintaining the morale of wives of enlisted personnel. The social customs to be followed by the commanding and executive officers' wives as well as their relationship with the wives of officers and enlisted men were given. Their essential role in maintaining the morale of the wives during deployment as well as some helpful hints were presented.

The purpose of this booklet was to provide a formal vehicle with which all Navy wives who wish to meet together can do so. An outline for a formal organization, including how to get it started, responsibilities of officers and committee chairpersons, as well as a sample for a constitution, by-laws, and standing rules, were given. Suggestions for charitable projects, fund raisers, and program activities were discussed.


The purpose of this booklet was to introduce the new Naval officer's wife to various social customs and practices of the Navy. In addition, the booklet covered everyday matters of social life, such as introductions and entertaining in today's Navy. Specific social customs, such as calls, receptions, hail and farewells, happy hours, dining in, wetting down, and all hands parties were discussed in detail. Ceremonies such as changes of command and those regarding ships were carefully explained. Suggestions were given on how to conduct oneself aboard ship while just visiting, on a Dependent's Cruise, dining in the wardroom, and on-board visiting with children.


Sea Legs is a handbook designed to provide assistance and general information for Navy families. It is designed to serve as a first source of information as well as a direction to other sources. It discusses the history of the Navy, the Navy in general, officer and enlisted personnel, sea duty and the Navy family, assistance for Navy families, medical benefits, Navy references, and Naval terms, acronyms and abbreviation.

Because of its unprecedented duration, the Vietnam War exposed statutory deficiencies in the legal system. This article describes some of the legal problems encountered by PW/MIA families during the war. Based on correspondence submitted to headquarters from 42 Marine Corps wives, legal problems were found to set severe restrictions on available courses of action for the wives, even in the most mundane of daily routines. Some of these problems related to determination of the husband's status and declarations of death; the purchase, sale and disposition of property (i.e., questions regarding powers of attorney, difficulty in purchasing or selling a home); domestic problems (i.e., divorce proceedings in husband's absence, propriety of remarriage, and adoption attempts); availability of federal benefits and disposition of serviceman's pay; and finally, estate administration problems. Federal provisions which were initially intended to protect the civil rights of the fighting man during his absence have since proven detrimental to the rights of dependents when the absences became indeterminant.


This article reported on the results of an independent nationwide survey of military daycare facilities in the continental United States. Questionnaires were mailed to the directors of the 150 centers operating as non-appropriated fund instrumentalities. Based upon the 20% of the centers who responded, it was found that: 1) nearly 80% operated six or more days per week; 2) weekly operating hours averaged about 76 hours with the longest hours being on Friday (15 hours or more); 3) the characteristics of the children were fairly well distributed in terms of age and ethnicity, and the children were almost always military dependents; and 4) few of the staff had special training and salaries were generally low. Two major reasons appeared to account for the difficulty of maintaining adequate quality daycare programs on military facilities: 1) the day-to-day transience of the child population which made it difficult to maintain curriculum continuity; and 2) the non-appropriated fund status which makes it necessary for centers to be self-sustaining or profit-making. Resultant problems are high costs to parents, low wages for staff, non-nutritious snacks, and lack of appropriate equipment.

Although it is assumed that the military father will often be absent from the home, such separations create crisis situations within the family. During periods of paternal deprivation, it has been suggested that the mother-child relationship hinders appropriate child personality development. This study was designed to examine androgyny in the military wife in relation to the social and personal adjustment of her children during periods of routine father absence. The sample population was 36 Navy aviator and support personnel families experiencing separations due to an eight month deployment into the Western Pacific. The sample included families of 12 officers and 24 enlisted men. The author concluded that the study was too broad and the sample population too small to make accurate assessments. However, results suggested that personality adjustment of children increased in terms of social and personal adjustment during the father's deployment.


The purpose of this study was to replicate the research conducted by Dahl and McCubbin (1975) on the effects of war-induced father absence on children. The sample consisted of 32 Navy families of returned prisoners of war (RPWs), 27 of which were in the earlier study, 9 Army RPW families, and 2 Marine Corps RPW families. Only the Navy families could be matched with control families. Participant children in both the RPW group and the comparator families were administered the appropriate level of the California Test of Personality (CTP), Form AA, according to the children's grade level. The results indicated that there were no significant differences between the RPW children and the control group children on any of the CTP scales. Dahl and McCubbin had found their PPW children to fall significantly below the norms on the CTP. The author expressed concern about the current validity of the CTP, and in particular, about the meaningfulness of dated normative comparisons. Thus, a re-evaluation of the previous conclusion of Dahl and McCubbin, that children of former prisoners of war show poorer adjustment, is in order.

This report examined the increasing volume of literature which indicates that family and other social supports are important environmental factors in the prevention of physical illness. The author related this relationship to the adverse impact of organizationally-imposed separations which impact family equilibrium in the military and may contribute to increased need for medical interventions during family disruptions. The purpose, design, and implications of a current ongoing investigation of the effects of separation on navy dependents were also discussed.


This paper discussed the background and evolution of the Family Studies Program at the Center for Prisoner of War Studies (CPWS), a general rationale for the pursuit of family studies, and an overview of the methodology, as well as the findings from fifth-year follow-up data. As the result of a series of interviews conducted in 1972 with 215 Army, Navy, and Marine Corps POW/MIA wives, prior to the return of the POWs, a program was implemented to meet the families' need for services. The author addressed the answers to two specific questions: Why were research considerations given to this sample of families? And, why are families in general a legitimate population on which to conduct research? The author argued that it is the researcher's responsibility to pursue knowledge as a scientist, that family research is important from the perspective of operational readiness, and that the family is also important from a medical standpoint. In summary, it was felt that although family research considerations were initially pursued at CPWS in order to more accurately document the POW experience, their studies established potential linkages with other situations unique to military families generally.

This review of cross cultural literature addressed a number of issues germane to the adjustment of military families overseas. Many of these issues involve the strains related to culture shock, language deficiency, relocation, financial difficulties, social isolation, and health problems. The first conclusion of this review was that adjustment to a cross cultural environment is generally demanding and that the personal and financial cost of failure is high. The second conclusion was that administrative initiatives should be invoked to improve screening, orientation, and in-country support for families overseas.


The purpose of this study was to examine depression in Navy wives immediately prior to an extended separation period and to assess the potentially ameliorative effect of prior separation experience on depression associated with Naval deployment. Results showed the mean depression score for 59 wives of Naval personnel aboard two ships preparing for extended overseas deployment to be significantly higher than the mean for a comparison group of 29 wives of Naval personnel aboard another ship scheduled to remain in port. Experience derived from previous separation did not appear to significantly affect wives' depression scores. Preventive measures and treatment implications related to the onset of depressed mood prior to separation were discussed.


A two-phase study of marital stability, perceptions of marital adjustment, and family environment was carried out among Navy repatriated prisoners of war (RPWs) and a Navy comparison group. In Study I a group of 101 married Naval aviators and 100 married controls were studied in 1973 in terms of marital stability, as measured by the annual incidence of divorce. The findings indicated that the overall incidence of divorce among RPW families was significantly higher than among the comparison families. In Study II a subset of 29 RPW families and 38 comparison families participated in a more extensive follow-up assessment of marital adjustment and family environment. The Dyadic Adjustment Scale and Family Environment Scale, Form R, were administered to the two groups in 1978. The findings indicated there were no significant differences between the two groups on any of the subscores of either instrument.

The author pointed out that it is very clear that military organizations have a major impact on military families, but military families also have a major impact on military organizations. However, it is very difficult to obtain good statistics that adequately document these effects. The author also focused on the lack of good communication between military leaders and family service workers and the consequent unawareness of how their actions affect each other. Military leaders and family specialists have different priorities, and reconciling these conflicting priorities is not easy, especially when essential resources such as money and personnel are in very short supply. In conclusion, the author emphasized the need for workable procedures for dealing with family concerns and for integrating family issues into the broader concerns of military operations and military management.


This paper discussed problems involved in supporting Army families during periods when their sponsors are away, particularly during extensive unit maneuvers or overseas deployment. The problems of supporting Army families during the absence of their sponsors, however, cannot be considered adequately without considering the support which Army families receive during normal periods of peacetime. Trends evident in Army families were discussed, such as: 1) increasing numbers of married low-ranking personnel existing on low incomes; 2) dual military career families; 3) single-parent families; and 4) families with working civilian spouses. The special problems affecting these Army families include: 1) the family's low priority status in the Army operations in terms of support and service availability; 2) family service redundancy and fragmentation due to bureaucratic mismanagement; 3) a general inaccessibility of information regarding relevant services; 4) a lack of funds for necessary services; and 5) the inherently stressful aspects of Army operational requirements. The author concluded that because of these problems there are serious deficiencies in the services available to Army families.

This paper examined the effects of mobility on the military family by comparing it with the results of research done on mobility in corporate families. Effects, such as depression, isolation and an increase in general stress level, were touched upon. The impact of the women's movement on the validity of prior studies, along with the subsequent genesis of role conflict, guilt, and anxiety in the wives, were also explored briefly.

Nida, P. C. What you should know about child care centers. Ladycom, April 1980, pp. 18; 22; 42-44; 46.

The author, a consultant on military families, discussed child care centers on military posts and bases. She emphasized that if parents are to have stimulating, high quality child care centers, they must become informed patrons of such centers. A child care checklist was provided for all potential patrons of child care centers. Federal programs designed to help finance quality child care centers were listed and evaluated. One of the continuing points of contention in both military and civilian day care is whether or not it is possible to provide top quality care for children. Some suggestions on how to remain in the black financially without compromising services rendered were suggested. The article concluded with directions on where to look for help in improving military day care centers.


This is an overview of submariner family problems during family separation. The author points out that when families find camaraderie and concerned assistance in time of crisis, separation brings less trauma. Depending on age, educational experience, and family background, each wife copes with departure and reunion in her own way. Numerous practical coping suggestions for pre-deployment, deployment and subsequent reunion were presented. The recommendation was made that the waiting wife cultivate commitments to the local community in order to gain a sense of belonging and stability.

This study was undertaken at the request of the Chief of Naval Personnel because of objections to the optional discharge and leave provision of the Navy's pregnancy policy. The study was conducted to determine the impact of pregnancy upon Navy absenteeism, attrition, and workgroup productivity and morale. Results showed that abolishment of the present discharge option would increase the number of days lost by women, lower women's attrition rates, and increase the impact of pregnancy on workgroup productivity and morale. Further, if mandatory discharge for pregnancy were reinstated, it would decrease female absenteeism, increase female attrition, and increase workgroup efficiency, although not improving morale of male Navy members, since interview results showed that most men were not aware of the policies. It was recommended that the present pregnancy policy be retained in its entirety, that Navy members of all ranks be made aware of the policy's leave provisions, and that information regarding pregnancy's impact of the Navy be widely disseminated.


This study explored the ramifications of single parenthood for men on active duty and the impact of this situation on the military community. The study focused on military policies which would increase concern for the personal needs of its members and make the military more attractive in an all-volunteer service force. This study revealed there are approximately 16,000 divorced or separated men in the Air Force, of whom 487 are rearing dependent children. The authors emphasized that the military must take notice of the single-parent father and do something about regulations which can affect these men detrimentally, such as type of work assignment, work schedules and extended hours, availability of on-base housing, subsistence allowances, and permanent and temporary change of duty stations.
The author of this article is a military wife who experienced two remote tour separations from her husband. She explained that her husband's remote tour turned a waiting wife into a social outcast. During separation she felt very alone, since her former friends shunned her. With painful accuracy she pointed out how the military wife is not officially detached by either divorce or death and therefore she cannot fit into either the singles or the married community. Former male friends were depicted as exhibiting a lack of ease when meeting the waiting wife. The article concluded by recommending that the waiting wife be treated as a friend and not just as a wife in need of social security.


Due to the large number of war deaths and the multi-ethnic Israeli population, a systematic analysis of bereavement as a psycho-cultural phenomenon in Israel was believed warranted. The study described a theoretical and research approach which dealt with the functions and relativity of mourning customs in Israel. The effect of acculturation on traditional mourning customs was assessed through a discussion of five such customs: the form and display of grief, the status of the young widow, the role and function of the ceremonial meal during the mourning period, visits to the grave, and activation of magical beliefs. Differential reactions to war deaths by various family types, the isolated family among the post-war holocaust survivors, the traditional Muslim family, and the Ashkenazi old-established families, were presented. The father's reaction to the death of a son was discussed. Also, children's reactions to the death of a father or brother were presented in terms of the relationship between developmental stages in children and reactions to death, i.e., fantasies, fears, expressions of anger, and sense of abandonment.

The purpose of this study was to determine whether the prisoner of war (POW) wife's expectations of problems her husband would have at repatriation was related to their marital satisfaction after actual reunion. The hypothesis being examined was that the unpleasant affect resulting from the nonconfirmation of the wife's expectancies will be manifested in diminished levels of marital satisfaction for both spouses. Thirty-six families were interviewed during the separation period while their husbands were still in captivity (1972) and again in 1974 approximately one year after POW husbands' return. As hypothesized, expectancy disconfirmation was found to make little or no difference when the experience itself (perceived problem) was undesirable. In addition, the study suggested that when the favorability of an outcome is determined subjectively by the involved individual, the expectation often influences the outcome.

Patterson, R. *Neurotic reactions in wives of servicemen*. *Diseases of the Nervous System*, 1945, 6, 50-52.

Clinical descriptions of three case studies of servicemen's wives experiencing various neurotic reactions were cited. Case studies I and II depicted women whose anxiety reactions were manifestations of repressed feelings of guilt and depression directly related to their husbands' inductions. Case study III described a dependent, immature wife whose level of adjustment grossly decompensated when the security and support her husband normally gave her was withdrawn due to his induction. The behavior of the dependent, immature wife was ascribed to be the most serious and common reaction found in inductees' wives. It is this group of wives that mental health professionals are most concerned about and find most difficult to deal with. It was hypothesized that the benefit the Army derives from husband inductions does not outweigh the harm brought to the civilian population from the break-up of marriages.


In this report the author described types of reactions to periodic separations of 485 married psychiatric outpatients who were wives of submariners. The data support Bowlby's hypothesis that the separation reaction is a psychobiological development of the individual. Criteria for successful adjustment to separation were described, and a therapeutic method to aid the development of separation tolerance was outlined. The nature and resolution of marital problems arising from separation were also discussed.

This journal article discusses psychotherapy for military families due to father-absence. The paper describes the impact of defense department regulation changes concerning military dependents on service families, and emphasizes the unique characteristics and distinctive problems of the father-absent military family. In addition to explicit features of military families in general, the dynamics of father-absence were discussed. A psychotherapy strategy was presented which has been shown to be of value in promoting continued growth in the father-absent military family.


Father absence was examined in relation to emotional disturbance in two groups of male children ranging in age from 11-15 years from military families. The "disturbed" group included 27 children referred for treatment for exhibiting a variety of emotional problems; the "normal" group was composed of 30 children with no history of socially disruptive behavior. The amount of father absence occurring during three developmental stages of the child (early childhood, oedipal period, and middle childhood) was examined in relation to occurrence of emotional disturbances. Although the amount of father absence did not significantly differ between disturbed versus the normal group, within the emotionally disturbed group the amount of father absence was found to be predictive of emotional disturbance, as measured by a personality adjustment scale. This relationship was not found to be specific to any stage of development in either group. Mothers of the disturbed group were found to be significantly more disturbed than those in the normal group; no difference was found for fathers. Findings were interpreted as an interaction between father absence and maternal pathology with the child's degree of disturbance.

This study examined the effects of geographical mobility on military children. The hypothesis presented was that emotionally disturbed children would show a greater number of moves, accompanied by a difficult period of adaptation. Contrary to predictions, the comparative histories of 27 disturbed children from the Child Psychiatry Service, Walter Reed General Hospital, and 30 normal children, did not show any significant differences. However, parental attitudes differed significantly for the two groups concerning: (1) the acceptability of mobility and (2) identification with the military. Mothers of normal children scored higher on both variables than mothers of disturbed children. In general, maternal attitudes toward mobility were found to be more important than the moves per se in relating to the adjustment of the children.

Pence, C. Easy does it: how to cope with living alone while your husband's overseas or TDY. *The Times Magazine*, August 23, 1976, pp. 18-19.

This magazine article offered practical suggestions on how the military wife and children can cope with separation of a husband and father who has gone overseas. The author strongly recommended the drawing up of lists of activities a few months prior to the husband's departure to be completed prior to separation. This list should include such matters as car registration, auto insurance, life insurance, property taxes, checking of wills, and finally, but not least, a list of household repairs that need to be done. Methods of communication during separation were also discussed, and the importance of frequently sending pictures to the husband was emphasized. Practical suggestions on how the wife and children can constructively pass the time of separation concluded the article.

This study investigated the impact of residential and school changes on ninth and tenth graders in the following areas: (1) selected standardized achievement tests; (2) grade point averages; (3) personal adjustment problems. Based on 200 high school students from a highly impacted military and civilian defense oriented suburb of Connecticut, three mobility groups were differentiated at each grade level: military mobile, non-military mobile, and civilian non-mobile. A fourth group from another high school, with non-mobile students, was used as a control group. No significant relationships were found between the number of residential and school changes and the scores on standardized verbal achievement tests. A significant correlation was found between the number of geographical changes and scores on standardized mathematics achievement tests. No significant relationships were found between number of moves and frequency of personal adjustment problems.


This article features a Navy wife's own story of the many frustrations, emotional problems, stresses, and psychological problems that she encountered as a result of her husband's drinking. The article discussed how the wife, after many months of trying to live with the problem and feeling sorry for herself, finally sought help within the military community for herself and her husband. The help that she received prevented their marriage and family from falling apart.


This study was conducted with 52 children from the families of military (Air Force) personnel stationed at Clark Air Force Base in the Phillipine Islands to determine the significance of the Rorschach "T" response as it relates to extreme affective impoverishment early in life as a result of an absent parent. The study concluded that the low "T" responses of the children indicated dependency needs and that these children's protocols showed much more anxiety and/or helplessness than is age appropriate. The study also indicated that having a parent absent during the critical years from birth to seven years of age hindered later development and increased dependency needs.

This paper lists some of the findings generated by research conducted by the Canadian Forces Personnel Applied Research Unit. Generally, the socio-demographic research pointed to a shrinking in the quantity and quality of military age population which has had a major, negative impact on the manpower stability of the forces. Most of the recruits are unskilled males who hold traditional values and have young wives who may have conflicting role expectations and value orientations. Competition with civilian standards of living which tend to be higher, has undermined the status of the armed forces as employment. The armed forces still demand a high degree of member commitment, requiring members to put "service before self" which often leads to family friction and dissatisfaction.


This report summarized the proceedings of the Regional Social Work Conference on the Canadian Military Family. It contains an editorial forward, the Conference agenda, a reprint of the papers presented, case materials, and a Conference summation. Specialists in the field of family adjustment (from within the Canadian Forces as well as a number of civilian agencies) discussed the impact of social transformation in society upon the military family. Although the problems of the military family were found to reflect those of the non-military Canadian family, it was evident from discussions that some sources of stress upon the family unit are more prevalent in the military environment. The discussions also suggested a need for a greater appreciation of the contribution made by well-adjusted families to the overall effectiveness of the Canadian Forces. The Conference concluded in favor of a systematic study of a number of problematic areas and the continued exchange of information and ideas through future conferences.

This paper presents findings on a longitudinal study of the health of 135 American returned Navy prisoners of war (RPW) from Vietnam and the adjustment of their families. One-hundred thirty-eight non-POW Navy pilots who had flown missions over Vietnam during the same period as the POWs were used as a matched control group. Results showed the divorce rate for the RPWs was two to three times higher than that of the matched comparison group. Approximately 30 percent of those who were married at the time of captivity experienced marital dissolution within the first year after return. The wife's background, as well as that of her husband, her perceived quality of the marriage, and the stresses she experienced during separation, appeared to be related to the manner in which she coped during her husband's absence. Family reunions were stressful and much of the readjustment success was related to how the father viewed his captivity experience. Those fathers who saw captivity as minimally stressful had less difficulty in re-establishing close and satisfying father-child relationships.


This paper assessed the status of the Center for Prisoner of War studies, a review of the major findings it had generated, and a speculative prognosis concerning the problems returned prisoners of war (RPW) may encounter in the future. One major finding was that the medical status of the RPWs at homecoming was far better than expected, with 20 to 25 percent manifesting severe pathology. Research also showed that the adjustments of POW/MIA families during the husband/father separations were extremely difficult because of the length of absence. The impact of father absence on children appeared to depend on the mother's attitude toward the separation, her satisfaction with the marriage prior to separation, and her ability to cope with the separation period. Captivity experiences of the father, such as the duration of captivity, treatment by the captor, etc., did not seem to be related to marital adjustment after his return, although they did seem to be related to father-child adjustment. Comparison subjects were manifesting psychiatric problems in nearly equal numbers as the RPW group. Although some evidence pointed to more pulmonary function pathology in RPWs, comparison subjects were showing more evidence of cardiovascular problems.

The author outlined the mission and study plans of the long-term follow-up and medical evaluation of returned prisoners of war and their families and the families of men missing in action. The plan envisions a follow-up program extending over a period of several decades in which health care services would be rendered to the families. In conjunction with the systematic collection of standardized health and adjustment data on the former POWs, a comparable control group of military men and their families would be designated. Specific research goals of CPWs include: (1) description of significant trends and changes in the health and adjustment of the subject population over time; (2) assessment of whether the health and adjustment of repatriates and the families of POW/MIAs will manifest more physical and emotional pathology than a comparable group not exposed to the POW/MIA experience; and (3) the collection of data for generating hypotheses related to social and interpersonal processes involved in readjustment and reintegration.


A self-administered questionnaire was used to investigate how recent military retirees (Army) perceive their retirement or adjustment to a second career. The main focus of the study was to determine if a significant difference existed in the levels of psychological well-being and/or marital adjustment among the three social mobility groups (upward, horizontal, or downward). The study suggests that the perceived social mobility is a very significant issue psychologically in the adjustment of military men, moreso than for their wives. It further suggests that a significant difference exists in the marital adjustment between unemployed officer retirees and the downwardly mobile retired officers. The study revealed that the wives of Army retirees are less influenced by social mobility than their retired husbands, which could be a result of the husband completing a first career and taking on a second career in midlife.

This pamphlet was designed by the Army to provide important information in limited detail directly to the next of kin of missing and captured Army personnel in order to promote a better understanding of the Army's policies and procedures. Included were a general orientation as to important abbreviations to know, definition of next of kin, the role of the Family Services and Assistance Officer, and the procedures for release of personal belongings of the soldier. The Army's procedures for determination of the status of the soldier, the finances available to the next of kin and other entitlements available to dependents and nondependents were explained. The various forms of communication concerning POWs were also clarified.


A brief historical background of the development of counseling services for the families of Americans captured or reported missing in action during the Vietnam conflict is presented. The National League of Families of American Prisoners of War and Missing in Action in Southeast Asia was established in 1970. The purpose of the League was to obtain humanitarian treatment for prisoners, stimulate concern about the men's families, improve communication and information, and obtain release of the prisoners. In 1970, a Committee on Repatriation, Rehabilitation and Readjustment, commonly known as the Triple R Committee, was created to coordinate the efforts of the League and take the necessary steps to meet the needs of the men and their families. Several meetings of the Triple R Committee pointed out the necessity of insuring expert personal and family counseling as well as long-range planning.


This pamphlet was designed by the Army for use by a Survivor Assistance Officer (SAO) or Family Services and Assistance Officer (FSAO) in the performance of his duties as he assisted the next-of-kin of deceased or missing/captured active duty Army personnel. The duties, responsibilities, as well as the nature of the contact, were outlined and described.

A non-random sample of 32 wives of men missing in action in Vietnam were interviewed as to their attitudes toward their husbands' being either alive or dead, in relation to 11 selective variables. Variables indicating significant relationships to the wife's attitude that her husband was "alive" or "dead" were length of time the husband had been missing, number and age of children, education and employment, future plans, attitudes towards her marriage, living arrangements, friends, reunion with her husband. In general, wives who believed their husbands to be dead had lived with the MIA classification for a greater length of time, were more educated and active in the labor force, felt less "married," did not include the husband in future plans, had changed residence more often, reported closer relationships with friends, and indicated greater anxiety at the prospect of reunion with the husband. The author suggests that the wife's ability to assimilate the situation and go on with her life enabled the family to adapt to the crisis situation.


This article listed some of the major justifications and objections regarding the policy of the American armed forces of permitting men in overseas service to have their families with them in the theater they served, wherever possible. The justifications for keeping families intact revolved around the maintainance of family stability. In general, these justifications were: 1) to promote civilian and military morale; 2) to promote high personal morals in regards to sexual behavior, alcohol intake, and family centered values; and 3) to allow married men the right to serve their country as well as play their rightful and essential roles in the family. The objections and obstacles to keeping families intact included: 1) the tremendous cost of providing the necessary services, facilities, housing, and transportation to maintain families overseas on a rotational basis; 2) the threat of physical danger to families and the concomitant need to furnish protection; and 3) a possible reduction in the number of able-bodied persons necessary to participate in the labor force if the need arose.

An exploratory study of the factors that shape the language learnings of dependent children of internationally mobile American military families. The research population was limited to individuals who were undergraduate students in an accredited college or university in the United States who had spent at least one teen year overseas. This study revealed that dependent children living overseas choose to learn French first, German second, and Spanish third. This is in contrast to United States high school students who choose Spanish first, French second, and German third. The study concluded that the Third Culture influenced proficiency in speaking foreign languages by having teenaged dependents of overseas sponsors answer phones, conduct public relations for school principals; obtain food, lodging and directions on family vacations; and other such means of learning.

Reeves, G. The new family in the postwar world. Marriage and Family Living, 1946, 7, 73-76; 89; 94-95.

In this article, the problems, patterns and potentials of the post World War II family were examined and evaluated. The family as an institution was hard hit by the war. Its chief bread-winner had been inducted either into the army of workers or warriors. The wife and the mother often times was forced into industry to become a producer of goods and yet still expected to be a cohesive force for the family. The children were cared for in Day Care Centers and Nursery Schools and the teenagers without direction. Postwar goals of maximum health for everyone, economic security, agreeable personalities, good management, trust and faith in one another, and love and mutual respect were also explored. In concluding, the article examined the relatively new role of community responsibility for meeting the needs of the postwar family.

Ribbel, A. Army wives of the old west sacrificed comfort for love. San Diego Tribune, May 4, 1980.

This newspaper article was a salute to all military wives who have suffered and endured the hardships and indignities involved in being with or without their husbands during active duty. Through examples and descriptions, loss, separation, deprivation, and humiliation were portrayed as the common experiences of the wives of soldiers in the old west as well as those of servicemen in our modern era.

Although each family's means of coping with stresses attributable to an absent parent, whether due to desertion, institutionalization, occupational commitments, or wartime mobilization, is unique to that family, by studying the effects of male absenteeism in the military family, the phenomenon of male absenteeism in a subcultural environment can be examined. This study found that the internal organization of the military family was affected by the separation of the father/husband. It was further found that the presence of children, number of children, sex of the oldest child, rank and status of husband, career intent of the husband, and married service time all influenced the relationship between separations and female centeredness.


This study was part of a larger on-going longitudinal study of POW/MIA families. The sample for this study comprised 65 children of returned prisoners of war and servicemen missing in action. It involved a total of 33 POW/MIA families. The major focus of the study was to examine the relationship between parental attitudes expressed in communication and children's adjustment, especially the effect of inconsistent parental attitude on child adjustment, as measured by rated discrepancies between the tonal and content components of communicated messages. Inconsistent parental attitude was not related to child adjustment. However, positive and negative parental attitudes as expressed in the content component of a maternal message and the tonal component of a paternal message were significantly related to children's personal adjustment. Factors other than parental communication appeared to influence a child's adjustment. In POW families the degree to which the family environment was highly organized had a direct effect on POWs' children's personal and overall total adjustment as measured by the California Test of Personality. In MIA families the degree to which the MIA mother was still strongly attached to her missing husband had a direct effect on MIA children's personal and overall total adjustment.

The purpose of this preliminary study was to determine the relationship between recent life changes in a sample of 36 returned prisoners of war (RPW) families and level of family functioning from both the RPWs' and their wives' perspectives. Based on existing information, the authors predicted there would be a significant relationship between: 1) an RPW's recent life changes as measured by the Schedule of Recent Life Events (Holmes and Rahe, 1967); and 2) family functioning as measured by the Family Functioning Index (Pless and Satterwhite, 1973) and the Family Environment Scale (Moos, 1974). The major contribution of this study was its confirmation that life change per se may not be the most appropriate measure of stress.

Rogers, C. Counseling the serviceman and his wife. Marriage and Family Living, 1945, 7, 82-84.

This article discussed the author's view on the counselor's role in counseling the returned World War II serviceman and his wife who were experiencing adjustment problems upon reunion. The use of client-centered principles were advocated, such as non-directiveness, acceptance, empathy, active listening, and authenticity in creating a warmly permissive atmosphere in which the client feels free to express all attitudes related to the problem. Even though a conjoint session was initially used, individual therapy for each marital partner was advocated whenever possible to help each to clarify their individual positions in regard to the problem.

Rogers, C. War challenges family relationships. Marriage and Family Living, 1943, 5, 86-87.

The article discussed some of the challenges that marriage and family relationships faced after World War II. Adjustment to separation and loss, role changes, economic changes, changes in sexual attitudes, and the changing needs of children were examined through clinical examples. The author viewed the war as a test of the stability and resilience of family relationships and suggested the support of community resources to facilitate successful adjustment.
Rogers, C. Wartime issues in family counseling. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 1944, pp. 68-69; 84.

The author discusses the validity of client-centered therapy as opposed to directive counseling, in dealing with the family adjustments and problems expected to occur in the postwar period following World War II. Directive counseling, with its functions of diagnosis, interpretation of data, advice and problem-solving on the part of the therapist is described as being "undemocratic," in the sense that it robs the individual of the right to guide his own actions. The author supports the aims of client-centered therapy because it "respects the integrity and personal autonomy of the individual, his enormous capacity for readjustment, and his drive toward maturity and positive health." Strength within the individual, rather than the counselor, is also emphasized. Techniques of client-centered therapy are described. Advantages of client-centered therapy are discussed in relation to marital and family relationships, in terms of safety, and in being consistent with democratic ideals.


This article explored some of the emotional responses of family members to wartime separations. Normal aspects of the grieving process such as depression, denial, and anger which were seen in the Cocoanut Grove disaster paralleled those involved in family separations during World War II. Illustrations of several cases of military separation were given which involved depression, needs to prove masculinity, anxiety feelings of the children, anger toward absent father, and financial considerations.

This study defined the needs and stresses of Israeli seamen and their families during separation and reunion. The wives and children of ten deployed seamen were interviewed while the seamen were interviewed on board ship during the same period. Another 15 women were interviewed on board ship while accompanying their husbands. In addition, 80 seamen were interviewed in the course of several journeys on board five ships. The results indicated that many of the wives' problems and conflicts centered around their assumption of the sole responsibility for the physical, emotional and social maintenance of the house and family; child rearing; coping with loneliness; the assumption of the husbands' unfamiliar roles; and maintaining fidelity. The seamen's difficulties centered around worry, guilt and shame about leaving the family; the disruption of primary relationships; double standards on fidelity; and the carry-over into the home of the aggressiveness and brashness manifested on board ship. Fathers' absence created, in the children, behavior problems, difficulties in school, nervousness, lack of restraint, feelings of badness and depression, and fears about the father's safety at sea.


The primary goal of this study was to better understand some of the problems of enlisted Army personnel and to see what patterns developed from the data in regards to marital status, prevalence of outside employment, the type and cost of housing, the age and rank of the sample populations, their years of service, and the size of their families. A sample of 1002 enlisted Army personnel, representing approximately 60% of the entire enlisted population was used. The results indicated that married soldiers: 1) comprised 54% of the sample; 2) had higher career motivation; 3) were in the service longer, were of higher rank, and greater accumulated skills; 4) were more likely to supplement their income through outside employment; 5) found the cost of providing for their dependents and housing to be significant factors in their ability to meet their economic needs, and often supplemented their income to meet those needs.

This article acknowledged that family separation is a fact of military life that no one likes and yet must go through. The author pointed out that the tension of homecoming might not be immediately apparent but can appear once the reunited couple and family settle into everyday routines. The initial days of emotional vulnerability were discussed along with the wife's feelings of greater independence following separation and reunion. This short article discussed other topics, such as: children's reactions to fathers' homecoming, questions regarding marital fidelity; and the expectations of both spouses.


This article examined the principles of rehabilitation of the neuropsychiatric veteran subsequent to World War II. The lessons learned from a similar situation following World War I were reviewed. The author pointed out precipitating factors of neuropsychiatric disorders occurring while in the military service and called attention to ethnic, cultural, religious, social, and economic variables that modify the character of the environment to which the veteran returned. The article presented five conclusions: 1) rehabilitation requires the restoration of the neuropsychiatric disabled veteran to as nearly normal function as possible; 2) all known scientific methods must be utilized in the rehabilitation process; 3) the combined efforts of the psychiatrists, psychologists, and psychiatric social service workers must be employed; 4) adequate hospital out-patient facilities must be provided and maintained in large communities; and 5) environmental factors must be manipulated to suit the needs of the veteran.

This report examined the impact of war bereavement on families in the United States and Israel. The investigator interviewed 20 American families of soldiers who had died in the Vietnam conflict and 30 Israeli families who had experienced the Yom Kippur War. In the American families, there were wide variations in their reactions to the loss of a husband or a son, from stoicism to great pain, depending on whether they felt the war was justified. There was little hostility expressed toward the enemy and minor interest in finding out the details of the death. In Israel, the effect of a loss of a son as well as the families' attitudes toward war and life were shaped by a war based on survival of the country. Since the war occurred in the proximity of Israel, the expression of grief was open and spontaneous.

Sanua, V. The psychological effects of the Yom Kippur War. Unpublished manuscript, City College-The City University of New York, 1974.

This article combines three articles that appeared in The New York State Psychologist (December 1973, June 1974, August 1974), and deals with the author's experience and findings as a research psychologist in Israel during the Yom Kippur War. A large number of "combat fatigue" cases were found. The process by which a select team was chosen to inform a family of a soldier's death is described. The Ministry of Defense also sent a team of volunteer professionals and laymen to the homes to help the bereaved families. Long-range effects of bereavement, including feelings of isolation, husband-wife relationship problems, and a retreat to spiritualism, i.e., seances, were detailed. Some of the benefits from the Ministry of Defense for the bereaved parents and widows are noted. The specific reactions of two families to their bereavement were examined. Lastly, the unique manner in which Israeli parents perpetuate their son's memory through displays, pictures, and commemorative books, was examined and theorized as a possible innovative research avenue.
Sanua, V. War, stress, and bereavement: a report of psychological and social services in Israel during the Yom Kippur War. Paper presented at the 83rd American Psychological Association Convention, Chicago, IL, September 1975.

This paper reviewed the emergency psychological treatment necessitated by the Yom Kippur War, and findings were based on interviews with mental health workers, volunteers, and bereaved families. Based on all of his experiences, the author found that: 1) extreme care and attention was taken in the announcement of the death of a soldier; 2) reactions to the death of loved ones ranged from highly charged grief to stoicism; 3) parents had an overwhelming need to know how and where death had occurred; 4) the large number of servicemen missing in action prolonged the mourning of families; 5) despite a culture which advocates the simplest of burial ceremonies, the bereaved exhibited an extreme desire to memorialize the fallen; 6) there was little expression of despondency regarding the overall conflict, despite the heavy losses; and 7) the war demonstrated that in a crisis persons will arise to lend assistance to those in need.


Studies of mental disorders using an ecological approach reveal a greater prevalence of mental disorder among poor, disorganized communities with either transient populations or socially isolated populations. Personality types most prone to abuse include the psychotic, the pervasively angry, and the depressive passive-aggressive parent, and the parent with financial or marital stresses. It appears that such personalities tend to be found in poor, transient neighborhoods. Thus, this study tested two hypotheses: (a) abusive parents reside in specific types of areas of the city, i.e., poor transient neighborhoods and (b) abusive parents for the most part live in different residential areas than non-abusing parents. Thirty-nine abuse cases of military children obtained from the Infant Child Protection Council records comprised the experimental group. The control group of 57 cases was a random sample of military parents using a hospital outpatient clinic. It was found that 29 of 39 (75%) abusive families lived within an area of the city considered to be one of the poorest, most transient neighborhoods; only 26 of 57 (45%) control families lived in the same area. Thus, there was significant support for both hypotheses. Financial and other environmental stresses, in combination with certain personality types, may explain the incidence of child abuse in such neighborhoods.

This study revealed that poverty does exist within the Army, and that such poverty was more a function of Army inadequacies than of personal negligence on the part of the families or soldiers. Poverty had its greatest effect on soldiers with large families, those convicted of disciplinary offenses, and those from low income or minority backgrounds. Major factors responsible for an increase in poverty included a meager and confusing system of compensation, a forced draft of married men, and the Army's irresponsibility in discharging men under the hardship policy.

A variety of recommendations were made to ameliorate the problem of poverty. First, the Army had to admit that poverty exists and take responsibility for its existence. Second, a deferment or exemption of men with families from the draft could greatly reduce the level of poverty in the Army. Third, the compensation system should provide higher rates and be more responsive to family needs. Fourth, earlier identification of hardship families and greater availability of hardship discharges, when necessary, could be of service to such families. A final suggestion was the encouragement of litigation to determine whether social welfare services could legally be made available to Army families.


This article examined the lifestyle of several local POWs after their three-year repatriation and readjustment period, focusing on their present occupations, health, marital status, family lifestyle, and current attitudes toward their POW experiences. The author concluded that these POWs had blended back into society and, for the most part, had not made a career of being ex-POWs.

The author examined the stressful results for most military families living in stairwell environments; these are vertical structures with a clustered grouping of dependent families living in foreign countries. The article indicated that the military views this type of living as most efficient, but for increasing numbers of dependent families, the USAREUR stairwell living survey indicated a higher incidence of problems among stairwell inhabitants than among duplex residents. These problems included: dissatisfaction, unhappiness, alcohol and drug abuse, marital difficulties, child abuse, theft, boredom, and isolation. The author expressed concern that beyond the mental and community health being damaged, was the impairment of combat readiness and effectiveness. Suggested alternatives for the home-bound dependents included having cultural contact and becoming more integrated into the community. At this time favorable alternative housing was suggested as highly unlikely because of the high cost and the long time it would take to replace the stairwells.


The purpose of the study was to determine the Navy wife's perception of herself, her role as a Navy wife, her role in influencing her husband's career choices, as well as her attitudes toward an increasingly sexually integrated Navy. To collect data, the Navy Wife's Information From Experience (WIFE) Questionnaire was developed and distributed to a selected population consisting of 425 Navy wives located in San Diego, California; Hawaii, Guam; Philippines; Okinawa; and Japan. The results indicated that 69% of the wives felt positively about the Navy; 82% believed that they were successful Navy wives; 69% felt that their role as a Navy wife contributed to their feelings of pride and self-worth; 80% thought they could influence their husband's decision to stay in the Navy; an almost equal number felt that they did (44%) or did not (50%) use their perceived influence; and 70% reported they would not encourage their husbands to leave the service if women were allowed to serve at sea.
A survey conducted by Project Care (Child Advocacy Resources Expansion) to provide information regarding the reported rate of child abuse/neglect among the San Antonio military population, and other related factors of child abuse/neglect. The survey found that, during a seven month study period, of 195 military families reported to civilian and military child protection personnel, one-third were invalidated and the remainder were suspected or potential abuse/neglect cases. The study indicated child abuse/neglect in the military is symptomatic of broader problems involving dysfunctional, ineffective parents and families - the same as for civilian life.


This paper analyzes the word "home" in terms of its physical, philosophical, and sociological connotations. For the man at home, life at home means living in actual or potential primary groups with whom one shares a common section of space and time, common objects and interests, and in which one experiences each group member as a unique personality. This perception changes completely for the man away from home. New experiences alter him; however, because his memories of home are stagnant, he tends to pseudotype his home and its members. Likewise, people at home remember him as he was in the past, and thus engage in a similar pseudotypification of the man away from home. This pseudotypification by both home members and the man away from home are significant obstacles to an adaptive homecoming. Such obstacles are intensified for the returning soldier who suddenly finds the safety in the structure and authority of Army life wanton in civilian life. The practical conclusion drawn is that much preparation for homecoming (i.e., through realistic portrayals by the press, radio, and television) should be given not only for the sake of the returning veteran, but for the home group to which he will be returning as well.

This paper discussed the changes that have taken place within the modern armed forces. The transition from service personnel who are bachelors to those who are married was noted. Also touched upon was the legitimization of the military as an institution apart from the civilian sector, but also similar in terms of employment opportunities and benefits. The impact of military policies on the family and retention was also briefly addressed. Parallels were drawn between the status of the military family in the United Kingdom, Australia, and the United States.


This article examined trends in the structure of Army families. The percentage of married enlisted men increased between 1952 and 1972 from 29.7 to 52.6. There was a smaller increase for officers. By 1973, 84.7 percent of all men were married. Among both enlisted personnel and officers, percentage of married personnel increases with paygrade. Of the 1.4 million Army dependents, 33 percent were wives, 56 percent were children, and 11 percent were other dependents. In age, the Army is younger than the employed civilian work force due to large number of personnel who do not make the Army a career and the earlier retirement age. The proportion of working wives decreases with increasing rank. As one goes up in rank, the motivation for working shifts from the necessity to meet basic living expenses to non-financial reasons. There is a shortage of military housing which resulted in 70% of military families living off-post in 1974, although frequently using on-post facilities. Living off-post has provided an increase in the interchange between the military and civilian sectors.

The author gave a review of the literature bearing directly on the question of long term physical and psychological effects of imprisonment. This review yields two striking conclusions. First, there is a relevantly small amount of study of POWs in comparison to the large amount of public attention that returning POWs receive. Secondly, the studies which do exist are primarily focused on the behavior and health of survivors of the concentration camp experience in Europe during World War II. Those studies which do appear are typically without control groups and focus only on specific symptoms rather than on overall health status. Most existing studies deal with clinical samples rather than as part of an overall research and evaluation plan.


Various theoretical and research issues concerning the effects of paternal absence were described, specifically in reference to the family adjustment of men returning from captivity. General family processes affected by a father's absence were identified, such as sexual access between adult members, provision for the reproduction of children, caring for and socialization of children, satisfaction of economic needs, and the father's particular role in the socialization of children. Focusing on the literature dealing with families disrupted by death, divorce, abandonment, and particularly, involuntary father separation due to demands of military service, many theoretical interpretations were surveyed which appeared to account for the high incidence of delinquency within father absent homes. Other commonly reported symptoms of anxiety, tension, and poor academic performance in father absent children were also touched upon. The effects of father absence unique to a military setting were described, emphasizing factors in intermittent father separations based on a cycle of absence and return, the unique aspects of a "military" father and his absences, and problems related to developmental stages and age of the child.

This article provided recommendations concerning the speed and manner of the return of American POWs from Vietnam. Physical and psychological factors such as the ability of the POWs to cope with various new stimuli after long periods of isolation, the expression of pent-up anger and guilt, the necessity for POW group interaction, the need for social reorientation and information, protection from immediate immersion in post-repatriation stresses, the value of physical and psychological support as well as the prisoner's self-image, and his reintegration into his family group, were taken into consideration. It was suggested that the return process should provide a period during which physical and psychological rehabilitation procedures could be started in a sheltered environment. Such a protective buffer against rapid immersion in a changed world would appear to be an important therapeutic tool for successful adjustment. The author suggested that such a buffer would be more beneficial if maintained outside Continental United States and that a return voyage by ship might prove helpful for the POWs.


The purpose of this article was to provide an overview of the major themes derived from the numerous surveys made during the past years of the physical, psychological and social consequences of captivity. The underlying hypothesis was that captivity makes an impact of health and behavior which is relatively constant across nations and cultures, that the physical, psychological and social costs of incarceration experiences are to some extent predictable, no matter who finds himself in the role of captor and captive. The authors underscored the consistency with which captivity effects appear across time and across widely divergent settings and populations of POWs. The authors also emphasized that future research studies should focus not only on the vulnerability and deficits of universal stress, but also on universal traits and characteristics which render man invulnerable to even extreme prolonged stress.

Two children from each of 43 families were selected to determine the effect on the child's later development of father's absence from the home as a result of military duties. One child from each family was included in the experimental group, the other child in the control group. In the experimental group, the father had been away from home during the child's formative years, while in the control group, the father had been at home during that time. Although birth order of the two children was not studied as a differentiating factor in itself, children in the experimental group were considerably older (average eight years one month) than children in the control group (average age four years). All children had similar ethnic backgrounds and went to the same school. From interviews with the mothers, it was determined that children in the experimental group were more disturbed, showed signs of oedipal upheaval, displayed behavior problems, had closer relationship with the mother than did control group children, and boys had more problems than did girls.


This chapter gives the reader an overview of the developmental process of children raised by career military families that is unique only to this population. The article pointed out that in addition to the normal process of developing, military children go through an additional stress of developing due to geographic mobility, transcultural experiences, transient father absences, and early military retirement.

In this article, the author viewed the Army as a sub-system of the larger society and developed a descriptive model to highlight aspects of the macro-system which impact on operations. This model focused on the inter-relationships of personnel policies and operations, and the author noted that changes in any one area can be traced to changes in other areas. Changing priorities within the organization pose a conflict between personal and organizational needs which may result in: 1) injury to the organization's ability to perform its mission; and 2) loss of commitment to the organizational goals by soldiers and their families. The author reviewed the major changes which have taken place within the Army over the past few years and concluded that the Army of the future and the future of the Army depend upon the application of sound management, meaningful research, evaluation, and application of the principles of social science and communication to maintain a ready fighting force. Finally, the author emphasized that the Army family members must know about the efforts that the institution is making on their behalf, and they must understand the dedication expected in return for the Army's commitment to its people.


Studies of children whose parents were survivors of the Nazi persecution revealed behavior problems of the children in latency (8-13) and mid-adolescence. Questions left unanswered by these studies, such as differential effects of sex of child, and sex of surviving parent(s) and the interaction of cultural/ethnic background, were raised in the present study of families of Canadian Army survivors of the Japanese concentration camps during World War II. This study yields clinical impressions acquired during interviews of families who were second-or-more generation Canadians, largely not Jewish, and where the father only was a survivor of the Japanese concentration camps. The similarities and differences between the physical and psychological experiences of the Nazi persecution survivors and the Japanese camp survivors were discussed. It appears that, in the latter group, the effect of the experiences on the children was likely to be on the oldest female child, who tended to be depressed, withdrawn, dependent, and unassertive, due to identification with a depressed mother. The mother, in turn, appeared depressed by the effects of the camp experience on her husband. Hypotheses were given as to why the first male child and other subsequent children were not affected.

During January 1945, a hospital granted furloughs to 150 open ward neuropsychiatric military patients. A questionnaire was administered to this sample to ascertain their impressions of the nature and quality of the visits. Major findings were that: 1) the majority of patients expressed a strong desire to get home while on patient status; 2) almost 40% stated that getting home did not result in a change for the better in their condition; 3) approximately 30% experienced difficulties in making a readjustment to their families; 4) 40% found it difficult to readjust to friends; 5) approximately 50% experienced special problems of one kind or another in their stay at home; 6) 30% to 50% of the patients found the process of readjustment to a civilian setting a difficult one. These findings illustrate the adjustment problems psychiatric discharges face.


Israeli children have a greater likelihood to be directly exposed to death than children in other countries due to much political unrest and war as well as other factors unique to Israel, e.g., high cohesiveness, smaller population. The intent of the study was to determine differential diagnoses which would aid in understanding and aiding children in the bereavement process. Children's conceptualizations of death were examined by interviewing children ages 4-10 years, using a specially designed instrument. Variables examined included: age, sex, intelligence, personal experience, socioeconomic background, exposure to death in the family or neighborhood, and life in military camps and religious families. The five aspects of death scrutinized were finality, causality, irreversibility, unavoidability, and age. The report discusses the results and their utility in helping children through the bereavement process.


This newspaper article reports on a panel discussion between six military couples regarding the drawbacks and advantages of military marriage. The drawbacks touched upon included the stresses generated by: 1) geographical mobility; 2) separations from relatives; and 3) the difficulty in establishing dual careers. The advantages centered around the concept of freedom from parental constraints and work monotony, as well as dependable economic security.

Psychosomatic disorders constitute the largest single group of complaints encountered in the general medicine outpatient clinic of a military hospital. They are especially prevalent in female dependents reacting to stress associated with military life. This author studied 45 female patients exhibiting a variety of emotional complaints. All were dependents of active or retired military personnel. Emotional distress, notably anxiety, was the common denominator. Rather than focus attention on diagnostic labels, it was decided to evaluate the drug through its effect on target symptoms. The main conclusions drawn after trial use of thioridazine were that: 1) the drug was extremely effective in relieving the anxiety associated with a variety of psychosomatic disorders; 2) it was well-tolerated; and 3) it was advantageous in not predisposing to the habituation encountered with other pharmacological agents.


This paper described some of the roles and the effect these roles have upon the submariner's wife while her husband is at sea. Role conflict, role ambiguity, and role shifts are discussed, as well as the strategies the wives use to cope and reduce the effects of these problems. The paper suggested that the submariner's wife who is bimorphic, both in the husband's presence and in his absence, would experience less difficulty in making the shift from single wife to a cohabiting wife. Those wives who developed a willingness to try new approaches to problem resolution, assumed a guise of effectiveness, and utilized the more senior, experienced person as a source of positive support, handled ambiguity, conflict and shifting of roles successfully.


This report is based upon an anthropological field research conducted between 1976-1977 among the submarine community located on Oahu, Hawaii. The study concluded that practically all submariners' wives between the ages of 30 and 37 experience midlife crises which occur prior to the impending retirement of husbands. The author suggests that the following reasons attribute to the midlife crisis of the submarine wife: 1) ambivalence on the part of the wife towards her husband's success and status, 2) increased leisure time due to family size, and 3) increased responsibilities as a result of perceived traditional roles the wife is supposed to assume in the life-style context. The study revealed that the midlife crisis was not due to family separation, but due to the wife needing to redefine self.

This was a pilot study which investigated the relationship between submariners' wives' illnesses and their husbands' cyclic separation and re-entry into the home. The study sample was comprised of 48 submariners' wives. The hypothesis that separation of spouse was perceived as a stressful life event by these women was supported. A second hypothesis that physical illness was associated with separation was also supported. The wives developed considerably more illnesses and received more medical checks during the time the husbands were at sea than when they were at home. The author concluded that there appeared to be a causal relationship between husband absence and physical illness, and that the repetition of the stressful event increased the impact of husband absence.


This bibliography included published materials, papers, presentations, and unpublished manuscripts on the topic of the impact of sea-to-shore rotation upon the family, and primarily upon the wife. Available resource materials covered not only the American Navy and other military families, but also described aspects of other cultures and societies as applicable. Theoretical issues, methodological approaches to the study of the family, case materials, and clinical data, where applicable, were included, under the assumption that all provided insight into the features of adequate functioning. Although some articles dealt directly with children or with the man, emphasis was on the woman/wife/mother.

A paper depicting the mid-life crisis for the wife of the career-oriented senior submariner. The specific question addressed by this study was: how does the submariner's wife face and transit through the stocktaking period which marks her acceptance of herself as no longer young. The sample populations consisted of over 120 submariner wives. The study points out that even though submariners' wives cope well with this stressful lifestyle, there are two periods of non-coping behavior: 1) the new wife who has not been socialized into her role as a submariner's wife, and 2) the mid-life transition. Officer and enlisted wives reported that they experienced the mid-life transition, and that it occurs and is resolved just prior to the husband's retirement. The paper concludes that the characteristics of this transition occur as a result of the ambivalence towards the husband's need to spend more hours at work; completed family size, and associated leisure time; and dissatisfaction with the increased responsibilities which the husband's senior position implies for her.


This report is an overview of the effects of alcohol on the woman drinker, with emphasis on the military wife. The report offers some of the factors that influence the military wife to become labelled an alcoholic. The case histories of three military wives are presented in the hopes of making other military wives aware of the problems and detection of alcoholism before it has progressed too far. The many available treatment plans are also discussed.


This article discussed the social welfare needs of military personnel and their dependents during World War II. Interdependency between soldier morale, the nature of his activities, and the security of his family was emphasized. A major portion of the article examined the social services offered to the soldier through the Special Services Division, USO, Chaplain Corps, and the Red Cross. Results of surveys conducted by the Special Services Division showed that: 1) almost 60% suggested that closer contact with the family should be facilitated; and 2) nearly 50% expressed anxiety over the financial security of the family during his absence.

This report contained the proceedings of the Third Annual Joint Medical Meeting Concerning POW/MIA Matters which was held 19-20 November 1975, and hosted by the Center for Prisoner of War Studies, Naval Health Research Center, San Diego, California. The purpose of the meeting was to facilitate the exchange of information between military departments regarding the health and adjustment of the POWs, their families, and the families of those servicemen listed as missing in action during the Vietnam conflict, and the discussion of policies for guaranteeing similar clinical services by all of the military departments.


This study was an investigation of the extent to which military families are aware of, and utilize, agencies or professional groups in the military community to help resolve problems in child guidance and marital problems. The population of 655 career Army families varied from field grade officers to E-4 enlisted personnel. The major findings revealed that a great deal of anxiety prevailed among lower ranking enlisted group towards utilizing help resources for fear of punitive actions by their superiors if parent-child or marital problems were detected. Higher-ranking personnel had a greater knowledge of available resources in the community; lower-ranking personnel were more likely to be aware of those resources traditionally associated with military operations and the military community. Although most of the respondents did not believe that serious marital difficulties would be detrimental to their careers, some felt that they might be. The most consistent sex difference found was that women were more likely than men to be aware of clinically oriented resources and were less likely to evaluate the social cost of using military community resources as being high.

This paper examined family separation problems related to remote assignments. A survey was conducted among those officers and wives of the Air Command and Staff College class of 1975 who had experienced a remote tour within the past five years. Problems related to remote tours were described and potential solutions discussed. About 29 percent stated they had some important problem areas which included child discipline, strained marital relationships, and changed dependence patterns and personal planning. It was recommended that: 1) more extensive studies be conducted; 2) remote assignments get additional attention from the Personnel community; 3) base housing practices be made more flexible; and 4) revised policies be adopted with regard to transportation and communication problems.


This study portrays the grieving process and its components faced by wives of servicemen missing in action. Shock is usually the first part of the grief cycle, followed by an emotional release. Emotional states of anxiety and depression, and a number of physical symptoms of distress often accompany grieving. Guilt feelings; identification with the husband and his role; substitution of another image, project, or person for the lost husband; and hostile and angry interpersonal relationships are all common elements in the grief cycle. Special attention was focused on the problems resulting from the process of anticipatory grief, whereby the wife has worked through most of the grief cycle prior to any finalization of her husband's death. It was emphasized that although each wife experiences grief in her own, unique way, the grieving process is a normal, universal and necessary occurrence. Other factors influencing the grief reaction include the wife's personality, values, social factors involved, and assessed importance of the husband. The grieving process is completed when the wife has readjusted to reality and plans a future life of social normality.

According to the author, the morale of Navy people relates, in large part, to compensation, starting with pay but also including fringe benefits and such intangibles as service pride and job satisfaction. The value that the servicemen and his dependents place on these benefits is largely a reflection of the way in which "personnel services" are made available. The author believes that if the individual serviceman and his dependents are to get maximum benefit from the money and energy the Navy puts into providing such services, there must be a certain degree of unity or standardization in the administration of these matters and some centralization where these services are made available. Using as an example a fictitious Second Class Petty Officer's wife called Susie, he illustrates how unity and centralization of these services do not exist today. The article also sets forth the advantages and methods of establishing a Personnel Services Department and a Personnel Services Center.


This is a report on the outcome of a decision by a husband and wife to live separately, yet together, so that each of them could pursue their personal goals. The report tells how each family member came to make this decision. The husband was due for another move, one which would enhance his career, and the wife decided that after 19 moves it was time she did something for herself. This story depicts a very revealing account of role reversals as a result of this family separation; that is, how the returned wife felt as though she was an outsider in her own house, and how the husband felt as though he was being invaded by the return of the wife. The story concluded that these types of arrangements can be made to work successfully if both partners share in the planning and both appear to be gaining something in spite of the loneliness and other emotional problems encountered.

This paper examined the family treatment of drug addicted veterans and their families in a clinical research program. The initial sections discussed the family factors involved in a soldier's addiction and the Department of Defense's policy towards drug addicted veterans. The patients and their families, as well as the outpatient-oriented family treatment program which treated them, were examined focusing on: 1) the amount of contact between the veteran and his family of origin; 2) the function of the symptom in the family system; 3) problems associated with engaging families in treatment; and 4) treatment outcome. The major findings indicated that the majority of heroin addicts were intimately and regularly involved with their families of origin. The addicted member was serving to keep the family, and particularly the parents, together with any improvement becoming a threat to family stability. It was extremely difficult to engage families in treatment requiring great expenditures of time and energy. The rate of engagement was two to three times greater than most reports in the literature. Treatment outcome in terms of length of contact, number of addict deaths during treatment, and subsequent drug use in the family treatment approach was superior when compared to other methods.


This report describes a program designed for drug-addicted veterans and it highlights family factors in the addiction process, and family involvement in the treatment plan. The primary focus of this study was on clinical findings and the treatment techniques which emerged from the development of new therapy techniques and testing the efficacy of family therapy with VA drug patients. The study population, half black and half white, were 45 VA patients between the ages of 23 and 35 who were addicted to heroin for at least two years. The research findings reports that the family structure of these patients were consistent with those of families of drug addicts as revealed in other literature, such as: 1) usually a very close dependent mother-son relationship, 2) father was distant and excluded, and 3) over half the fathers had drinking problems. The research findings further suggest that the addicted member was serving to keep the family -- especially the parents -- together, and the family system served to maintain the addiction.

This paper examined the impact of the military on the military family and proposed ways in which the military family could meet some of its particular needs. Some of the topics briefly explored included: 1) the effects of societal trends on the military family; 2) the civil-military interface; 3) the effects of family mobility; 4) family separations and disruptions; and 5) the effect of retirement on the family. The policy changes and programs proposed were designed to treat the family as the basic unit in the military as opposed to the serviceperson alone. The author suggested that a family agency be developed within the department of Defense (DOD) through which the input of family issues could reach the highest levels of DOD policy making. The reduction of family separations and family health outreach programs aimed at the various problem areas were seen as appropriate steps to be taken.


This chapter dealt with the enlisted Army person and gave a broad-brush overview of some of the unique problems of the married soldier. Topics addressed included frequent separations from home, economic constrictions, lack of security, and the stress arising from unpredictable reassignments, interruption of school, etc. The author pointed out that approximately 15 to 20 percent of the enlisted men's time is spent separated from home and family, and that such separations have deleterious effects on families, especially those with unresolved problems prior to separation. It was also noted that separation is even more prevalent among certain subgroups, such as Navy ship board personnel and those who have served one-year tours of duty in Vietnam.

The chapter presented information about the Vietnam veteran and was designed to help the family-oriented therapist work with Vietnam veterans and their families. Guidelines for marital and family treatment were suggested whenever prior service in Vietnam became an issue for veteran clients. Treatment was viewed from a family systems approach which takes into account that stress reactions occur within an interpersonal context, and that the family system has potential for both maintaining and eliminating the disorder. The tasks of the therapist are to assess the severity of the disorder and how it is maintained or complicated by the interpersonal network, and to develop an effective treatment plan that deals with the disorder and the system dysfunction. Family treatment was discussed from the standpoint of the veteran's place in his family of orientation and/or procreation.


As a consultant to the Center for POW Studies, the author points out the negative public attitude towards governmental institutions' handling of the returning prisoners of war from previous wars. Depending upon how well or how poorly the government handles the returning Vietnam prisoners of war, the author predicts that public confidence in governmental institutions will be restored or the lack of confidence in governmental institutions further corroborated.

During the Yom Kippur in Israel the Ministry of Defense recruited 50 volunteer psychologists and social workers to aid families in coping with the loss of a missing-in-action or deceased family member, and to act as mediators between families and the Ministry. While the professional helps the family work through its mourning by helping each family member to understand his intense emotional reactions, e.g., pain, separation anxiety, anger, and withdrawal, and by helping him to express these feelings, the volunteer acts as a target for hostility by the family toward the State. The volunteer was not to interfere with the mourning process nor take responsibility for family matters. It was found that, unlike professional volunteers, untrained volunteers tended to identify with the guilt feelings of family members and, thus, ignored the needs of the family. It was concluded that families under stress require a competent, reliable professional who will not become frightened or guilt-laden by the families' reactions.


This article surveyed the legal problems associated with the POW/MIA situation. Legal problems experienced included: 1) expiration or absence of a power of attorney; 2) difficulties transferring real or personal property; 3) property transfers; 4) divorce/remarriage which required death declarations through court action; 5) proceedings related to presumptive findings of death with accompanying implications for accrual of life insurance benefits; and 6) death benefits. The issue of automatic re-enlistments and promotions of MIA/POWs were discussed, as well as the benefits available to POWs upon return and the pending legislation dealing with other MIA/POW matters.

This paper focused on husband-wife stresses and officer-wife role pressures as a result of structural and functional changes within the military organization. The author suggested that the changing style of the military officer family from traditional professional soldiers who married women from military families to ROTC or OCS officers who married uncommitted wives, as being the major thrust to the stress and role differentiation experienced by these couples.


The aim of this research was to clarify the role of the Army officer's wife and to show the changes occurring within it. Particular emphasis was placed on the role stresses which are experienced by the Army officer's wife and their relationship to the various stages of her officer husband's career. The data were obtained through focused interviews with 50 wives of cadre officers. Also, a dozen officers were interviewed in-depth concerning their perceptions of their wives' role stresses. The military rank of the husbands ranged from warrant officer to colonel. Results indicated that rank greatly affected the type of role stresses experienced by the wives. Officers still "on the move upward" experienced more stress, while the younger officers who were not yet committed to a military career and the older officers who were contemplating retirement were less likely to be caught up in the stresses and strains of conformity. Warrant officers' wives whose husbands were eligible only for in-grade promotions never approached the stress levels of other officers' wives. Throughout the length of military service there were found to be different stages where stress becomes more apparent. These stages correspond with the husband's promotional aspirations.

This article focused on the effects of war on the developing personalities of children, with special consideration given to the development of anxiety and aggression in infancy, early childhood, school age, and adolescence. The impact of war on the child was explored as he experienced it through personal perceptions, changes within the family, i.e., disruption, separation, and loss; and his personality dimensions such as age, sex, developmental level, personal integration, and ego integrity. Anxiety in the mother created anxiety in the infant. In early childhood, the child only has a limited understanding of war and it becomes a concern when it intrudes into the family. Father absence impacted upon psychosexual development in young children. The expression of aggression was displayed interpersonally and through play. School age children tended to be more resilient to and realistic about war. Discernable problems developed with the occurrence of loss or injury to the parent. Adolescents, although continuing to experience normal adjustments to peer pressure and sexual development, tended to want to become involved in the community war effort.

Stolz, L. Father relations of war-born children: the effects of postwar adjustment of fathers on the behavior and personality of first children born while fathers were at war. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, 1954.

The purpose of this study was to assess the developmental effects on the personality of the children due to the fathers' war-induced separation from their first-born child for at least the first year of the child's life. It was hypothesized that the father would have adjustment difficulties with this first-born child, and that his behavior and attitudes would adversely affect the child's development. A small sample of 19 families, with 19 first-born and 16 second-born children, was designated the war-separated family. In the matched control group, the fathers were not separated from their children. Findings indicated that war-separated fathers were concerned about many aspects of their first-born's behavior: obedience, eating, elimination, interpersonal relations, and thumb sucking. Mothers had fewer concerns. Both parents perceived the mother to be closer to the first-born child; the war-separated father had a high self-rejection score and perceived both himself and his first-born as predominantly passive. The first-born war-separated child had poorer relations with peers, and had more behavioral and psychological problems, i.e., eating, sleeping, anxiety, dependency, feelings of hostility, and was more demanding of adults and teachers.

This article examined the stresses of separation and relocation experienced by military wives. When professional help is sought, complaints of depression, anxiety, excessive drinking and eating, and/or a low tolerance for children are often expressed. The author presented other methods for military wives to cope with these stresses: improving communication networks, seeking independent activities outside the home, and/or learning about and exploring a relocation area prior to a move.

Stone, B. D. Sex and separations. Ladycom, October 6, 1979, pp. 27-29; 45-46.

This article discussed sexual expression during military deployment and focused on marital and sexual counseling with military couples. The author asserted that most couples believed that there were only two options open for them -- either extra-marital intercourse or denial of feelings. The author recommended that couples become aware of other options available during separation: encouraging increased knowledge about emotional attitudes; object choice and identity; intimacy and sensuality; and the use of this information to understand sexual needs. The advantages and disadvantages of masturbation, open marriage, and intimacy without sex were discussed, with an emphasis on the role of communication in sorting through expectations of the separated couple.


The author, the wife of a former POW released in 1973 from Southeast Asia, based on her personal experience, described the stages which both the men and their families went through in adjusting to the trauma of captivity and separation. She focused on the stages of adjusting to dying previously postulated by Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, such as denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance.

This research project was designed to study the relationship of housing and the perceived quality of life and career motivation among military families. The sample population consisted of military families from all four branches of the armed services. The survey used two different questionnaire forms, one for the military member and one for the spouse of the military family. The study revealed that most military personnel and their spouses prefer single-family housing, whether in government quarters or in personally owned homes, that there was no strong relationship between paygrade and satisfaction with various aspects of housing and neighborhoods. However, spouses were more dissatisfied than the military respondents with availability of playgrounds, but military respondents were more dissatisfied than their spouses with the amount of housing allowance; that both the military respondents and their spouses indicated a strong positive response to being satisfied with the quality of military life.


The purpose of the study was to determine differences between two-career and one-career/one-job couples in attitudes and behavior concerning the families' career intentions, career satisfaction, and family service needs. In an initial survey, a random sample of 459 married Naval officers was studied. Major findings indicated that: 1) the couples were likely to have children; 2) more two-career families were junior officers; 3) nurses and medical officers had more two-career families, restricted line officers and other staff officers had the highest proportion of one-career/one-job and single income families; and 4) the male members' career took priority over the females' career/job in almost all double-income families. The results of a second follow-up survey indicated that: 1) transfers were the most often stated problem by both military members and civilian spouses; 2) both the military members and their spouses showed a high level of frustration managing a two-career lifestyle; 3) child care was the second most frequently mentioned problem for military members and third by civilian spouses; 4) conflicts over careers and money was a frequent problem; and 5) long hours and family separations were a significant problem. It would appear that current transfer policies should address the needs and desires of the more non-traditional career/family lifestyles.
Taubeneck, A. Assignment: Germany. Ladycom, April 1978, pp. 1-62.

This magazine article is a special report explicating different perceptions of military duty in Germany under such articles and titles as: "An Army Wife's German Feast," "An Army Family in Rural Haimhof," "How to Survive Culture Shock," and "Many Holidays: Thirteen Ideas." The report discussed the advantages as well as the disadvantages of being stationed in Germany. Even though lower rank enlisted personnel cannot be command sponsored, and cannot obtain military living accommodation, the problems of living on the local economy can be rewarding and eventful if both partners work together. This report is a good reference for those military personnel planning a tour of duty in Germany.

Teichman, Y. The stress of coping with the unknown regarding a significant family member. Paper presented at the International Conference on Adjustment to Stress and Anxiety in Time of War and Peace, Tel Aviv, Israel, January 1975.

This paper presented observations accumulated while working with Israeli families whose father, son, or husband was missing in action during the October 1973 Middle-East War. The emotional reactions and the behavioral patterns which emerged due to this unique stress situation were observed by two-person teams consisting of non-professionals, psychology students, and junior level psychologists assigned to each family to help them cope with the crisis. Patterns of interaction among generations and between the family and outsiders were observed. The general patterns were: 1) defensive resignation; 2) defensive optimism or denial; and 3) search for objective information. Parents manifested three main modes of reaction: 1) personal grief; 2) heroism; and 3) bitterness. The latter two patterns could also be identified in wives, but less frequently and in a milder form. Unique modes of reaction which were identified only in wives were: 1) compulsive preoccupation with practical problems; and 2) dependency. As expected, children in the homes of soldiers missing in action reacted to the general stress atmosphere at home rather than to the specific loss.
Thirty-two volunteers reported on their work with families of servicemen missing in action after the October 1973 Middle East War. Volunteers had been selected by the Israel Psychologists Association to intervene in family crisis situations. A team of persons consisting of either junior psychologists, social workers, students, and/or non-professionals, was supervised by twenty senior psychologists as they met and interacted with these families. After the completion of these meeting, volunteers answered a questionnaire concerning how the families coped with the situation and reacted to help, and how the volunteers themselves reacted to their work and their motivations for becoming engaged in such work. The more socially involved the family, the more ready it was to accept help and talk on emotional themes. Families typically exhibited two reactions to stress: (a) a craving for objective information, and (b) a depressed mood manifested by the parents. Compliance with social expectations was the volunteers' paramount motivation. Common volunteer reactions included ambivalence, distress, and conflict. Volunteers successfully offered help to 85 percent of families, largely in terms of help with formalities and in giving them psychological support.

This article related the various readjustment problems experienced by the veteran and his family upon discharge from the military service during or after World War II. The presenting problems of 40 veterans were grouped into the following categories: 1) marital difficulties; 2) disabling physical illness; 3) housing needs; 4) financial needs; 5) problems of individual adjustment; and 6) child care. Emotional reactions of veterans upon discharge included: resentment from being pulled from family and occupational positions and thrust into the military; scorn for those who didn't go; alienation from other civilians; hostility towards civilians and the military; resentment from receiving a psychiatric discharge; disillusionment from the clash between the fantasies about the family and the realities upon return; and a strong desire to catch up for the time missed. The author suggested three modes of community action: 1) assist the families in securing financial aid beyond that provided by the G.I. Bill of Rights; 2) assist families in receiving medical care from veterans' hospitals as well as from public and private facilities; and 3) effect better coordination of military and civilian services.

This research was designed to investigate such questions as: What are Navy wives' perceptions of military women and how accurate are these perceptions? Do wives see themselves as contemporary or traditional in their role affiliation as women? What values, motivations and role affiliation do active Navy women hold, and how different are they from Navy wives? The sample population consisted of 163 wives who were attending a Navy wives' information school or meetings of Navy wives' clubs in the San Diego area, and 81 active duty Navy women stationed in the San Diego area. This study found little difference between the female role concepts of military wives and those of women in the military. Both groups saw themselves as being more contemporary than perhaps they really were. The Navy women sampled favored women serving on ships and going into combat even though half of them did not want to go to sea themselves. Most of the Navy wives favored their husbands' serving on an integrated ship.


The purposes of this study were to investigate Navy wives' acceptance of social obligations associated with a military career, to measure their attitudes toward the increased utilization of Navy women, and to determine whether they hold traditional or contemporary beliefs about the role of women.

A questionnaire was administered to 463 wives who were associated with aviation commands throughout the Pacific. Items dealing with women's roles were also administered to a sample of 482 Navy active duty women. Comparisons were made between the responses of officers' wives (OW) and enlisted men's wives (EW), and between responses of Navy wives and active duty Navy women. Responses of OW and EW to items measuring attitudes toward social life and military commitment were very similar. Only four of the 28 questions yielded significant differences. The feminine role orientation of the two groups of wives was similar, half subscribing to a contemporary role, 40 percent choosing a traditional role, and 10 percent undecided. Less than 10 percent of OW and EW felt strongly negative about women being on their husbands' ships.

The author of this article personally focused on the trauma of being passed over twice within the military chaplaincy and having to re-enter civilian life. He dealt with the various wounds of frustration felt by those facing this traumatic change. He explained how denominational representatives graciously responded to requests for information and help during this period, offering both financial as well as counseling assistance. The article indicated that chaplains also have a personal responsibility in preparing for the effects of their involuntary release, resignation, or retirement. The article concluded with the author suggesting a few insights in regards to the changes that would take place during re-entry into the civilian ministry.


The effects of father absence on the development of the child were reviewed through selected studies. Demographic information from various surveys indicate the growing numbers of children affected by the experience of the absent father. Results of studies with select groups such as families separated by war, military families, and Norwegian fishing families, indicate that even transient father absence can seriously affect the normal psychological development of the child. Psychoanalytic case studies were cited relating father absence to the psychological difficulties in the child or adult, to the nature of transference exhibited during analysis, and as a motivating factor for behavior functioning to make restitution for the missing father. Social anthropological studies of primitive and contemporary cultures indicate that father absence is related to a decrease in masculinity and an increase in immaturity and aggressivity in the child. Various types of absent father such as the "out of town" businessman, the alcoholic, or the neurotic were pointed out as additional contributors to the "paternal deprivation syndrome."

This report gave a brief picture of the status and social adjustment of a representative sample of Army returned prisoners of war (RPW) five years post-release. Since no control group was available, the data were viewed as merely descriptive in nature. Nonetheless, the following findings should be considered in planning for services to this group: 52% of the original marriages had ended in divorce; 25% reported financial problems; 55% were experiencing job dissatisfaction; 50% reported feelings of loneliness, health worry, frustration, and depression; 30% reported sleep problems, difficulty with concentration, apathy, and headaches; and 15% reported thoughts of suicide during the past year.


This study examined the adequacy of existing support systems designed to assist the specialized needs of military families, especially those families involved in routine separations. This study also focused on relationships between selected demographic variables and use of services by military wives: 1) awareness of services; 2) estimated helpfulness of existing services; 3) reluctance to utilize services should the need arise. A sample of 82 Navy families about to undergo a routine military separation comprised the sample. Findings suggested that there exists a serious deficit in the awareness and the knowledge of available services. This deficit could have considerable impact on a family's ability to manage distresses of separation. The authors concluded that the provision of more services would not in itself solve the problem of reaching high-risk families. It appeared that efforts might be better directed toward the provision of information systems which would increase the awareness and acceptability of existing services.

The purpose of this report was two-fold: first, to compare the personality traits of a group of 64 Army returned prisoners of war (RPW) with the traits of the 84 Navy RPWs on whom personality scores were available; and secondly, to look at the specific personality traits of the Army group in relation to other measures of the Army RPWs' personal, family, and career adjustment two to three years following release. The authors used the Personality Research Form (Jackson 1967) to measure 14 personality traits for each Army RPW and the Moos Family Environment Scales to measure personal and family adjustment. Four major conclusions were drawn: 1) the man who seemed to be adjusting well personally and with his family, also appeared to be doing well in his career or occupation two to three years following repatriation; 2) captivity factors and personality variables were associated with Father/Child Relationships, but not with Personal, Marital, or Career Adjustment; 3) personality traits on which the Navy and Army RPWs showed the largest differences were Achievement, Affiliation, Aggression, Harm Avoidance, and Social Recognition; and 4) since Achievement and Harm Avoidance were also significantly correlated with age and/or rank, perhaps only Social Recognition, Aggression, and Affiliation could be considered as valid differences between the Army and Navy RPW populations.


This paper provided background information on the establishment of an innovative family counseling program within the Navy for POW/MIA families and the problems that were experienced by social workers in implementing it. Invaluable services had been provided by these civilian social workers not only to the POWs and POW/MIA/KIA families, but also to their respective medical centers and to the military communities in which they served. The authors recommended that the Navy should continue and augment the social work services provided through this program, as well as standardizing and institutionalizing the program, making it available at all Naval medical facilities.

This article chronicled the growth of interest by the Department of Defense in the areas of family research and services. The recent establishment of the Navy Family Program Office in Washington, D.C. and its activities were highlighted as they relate to the implementation, coordination, and dissemination of information and services for Navy families. Also discussed were the Navy's efforts to coordinate family research projects and utilize already completed research to further understand the needs of the Navy family.


This study outlined a program that provides emergency and group treatment for military (primarily) parents who abuse or neglect their children. This study concludes that the Project for Coordinating Delivery of Social Services to Children at Fort Campbell is a success in that it helps to eliminate the feelings by the parents of being socially isolated. This assistance is accomplished by helping the mother establish ties within and external to the group setting. The group also provides the mother with advice on budgeting, child care and discipline, courting and marriage and in decision-making matters.

This study of 37 unremarried wives of servicemen missing in action (MIA) showed that androgyny was significantly correlated with two family environment variables, family Conflict and Independence. The more androgynous wives reported that open expression of anger and conflict between family members were relatively uncharacteristic behaviors for their families. They also were more likely to report that family members were encouraged to be assertive and self-sufficient, to make their own decisions, and to think independently than was the case for wives who were less androgynous. When seven measures of family environment, together with the androgyny measure, were entered into a multiple regression analysis, androgyny was the only variable found to be uniquely related to adjustment, with the more androgynous wives showing better adjustment. These findings support earlier studies which contended that highly androgynous persons are more capable and better adjusted because they are able to behave effectively in any situation, irrespective of whether stereotypically masculine or feminine behaviors are required.


This paper focuses on the many questions and problems that arise as a result of the anticipated as well as the actual return of the Vietnam Prisoner of War and his reunion into the family. The sample population consisted of 28 intact marital couples where the husband was a returned prisoner of war. The findings indicated that the returned fathers/spouses initially experienced feelings of being unneeded in the family or unimportant as fathers/husbands. It was also found that the wives had difficulty relinquishing the control of the family they had during the father/husband's absence. After about a year, the families in this study appeared to have resolved their basic conflicts of reunion and the returned husband/father had become a viable member of the family.

The author pointed out that the services still follow a centuries old military custom that forbids officer-enlisted fraternization outside the line of duty. Fraternizing couples, even when they are married, face social pressures which place an extra burden on their relationship. The author believes that fraternization could still be a court-martial offense in 1979. Although the taboo against sex fraternization has been softened, it was the author's opinion that it was unlikely for this deeply ingrained, centuries old military custom to disappear entirely.

Wendt, J. Getting out: what every wife should know about retirement. The Times Magazine, February 6, 1978, pp. 5-8; 10.

The author pointed out that retirement for the active duty military man may be more difficult for him than anticipated. During the transition from military to civilian he may find that he experiences many symptoms of anxiety. Suggestions were offered to the spouse of the retiring military man to give her a better understanding of the husband's response, her needs, the children's reactions, and potential employers' positions regarding the retired military person who is now entering the job market. The author suggested that the spouse of the potential retiree can contribute much to the success of a smooth transition to civilian life.

On the basis of interviews with returnees and their families, reports by the mass media and research studies, consultations with informed professionals, and pastoral work by chaplains in contact with these families, this manual was developed to assist the U.S. Navy chaplain in his ministry to the returned prisoner of war and his family. The reactions and interactions of the chaplain, returnee, and the family, are discussed, and emphasis placed on the chaplain's evaluation of himself in such a context. A comparison of the organization and community life of a POW camp with the organization and community life to which the POW returns was made. The return and reintegration of the POW with his family may be a problem situation due to the family's completion of anticipatory "grief work" and to the changes in his family. A number of family counseling techniques were suggested for use by the chaplain or other qualified professionals. The article identified the POW's great faith and religious commitment which sustained him both during captivity and in coping with reintegration into family life.


This study investigates the components and benefits of the Model Re-entry Educational Program (REP)/Child Development Center (CDC) which could be established by the Department of Defense on armed forces sites. It also examines demonstrated qualities of child development centers for meeting the needs of adults and children who are members of military families, and a documentation of the capabilities of REP/CDC for replication and adaptation in various settings to provide educational opportunities for family members. The information and data for this study were supplied from public documents, interviews with principal participants and on-site observations. The study indicated that the components of the REP/CDC are useful to military families in that they help the military family make viable adjustments within the community, between persons, and within the family.

The types of disorders which occur in children and adolescents evaluated and/or treated at a military outpatient child psychiatry clinic were presented. The kinds of information obtained from family members was reported, along with assessment of treatment results. It was concluded that frequent family transfers and the frequent absence of the fathers often interfere with treating patients within a military clinic.


The author pointed out that the YMCA was seeking to meet, in an ever-increasing fashion, the needs of military families with innovative programs. The YMCA was making an all-out effort to prevent many of the psycho-social problems that can be inherent in military family life and to support positive family development. The rest of the article gave a list of the various YMCA centers and their satellites and the family programs offered by each.


This article discussed the obligations of the federal government and its efforts to compensate veterans and their dependents for their participation in the armed forces during WWII and to facilitate speedy and successful readjustment upon discharge. The selective service system, the conscientious objector status, and the induction process were described. Also, benefits available to veterans and their dependents were outlined, such as: 1) obligatory family allowances paid to families with children, and to dependent parents, brothers and sisters; 2) allowances for maternity care; 3) allowances upon death of the serviceman; and 4) allowances for families of servicemen missing in action. Supplementary family benefits also were available through the Red Cross; Public Welfare Departments; Army and Navy Relief funds; and the Traveler's Aid Society. Additionally, there were various types of welfare services such as: 1) personal affairs assistance for personal, financing, and family problems; 2) recreational and educational activities supervised by the Special Services section of the Army; 3) Chaplain's services; and 4) the USO. Additional benefits included: civil rights protection, rights protection during captivity, services and allowances to ease readjustment into civilian life, and service-connected disabilities.

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Mental health professionals studied the reactions of families of soldiers missing-in-action in the Yom Kippur War and found parallel reactions in mothers and children. In accordance with psychoanalytic literature, the children although outwardly acknowledging death, denied its reality by not grieving and by developing fantasies of the father's return. Additional symptoms in the children included regression, somatization, and sleep disturbance. Mothers reacted to the loss in the form of denial, depression, repression, rage, and inability to care for themselves or the home. Consequently, the children were abandoned emotionally by the mother as well as by the father, and would purposely try to recapture their mother's involvement with them through regressive, entertaining, or protective behaviors. A parallel was evidenced in the children's verbal discussion of father's death and their mother's tolerance for such talk. Children related to the mental health professional with the same pattern of verbally accepting their father's death while simultaneously fantasizing his return.

A comparison was made between divorce rates of United States Air Force officers and the United States population as a whole during the time period 1958-1970. Divorce rates in the United States were noted to be high and increasing rapidly in the U.S. generally, compared to only a one percent divorce rate among Air Force officers. Higher ranking officers, higher educated officers, officers who do not fly, Catholic and Jewish officers, and officers who have not served in Southeast Asia, had lower divorce rates. Reserve officers, Tactical Air Command and Military Airlift officers, female officers, officers without a college degree, officers with a Southeast Asia duty tour, had somewhat higher divorce rates. No significant differences were found in the divorce rates between Negro and white officers, although rates for Negro officers were lower than for the Negro population in the United States generally. Explanations put forth to account for the low divorce rate among officers were: strong group cohesiveness, group attractiveness, marriage visibility, good income and security, sharing of reference group by the couple, separation from in-laws, high education of officers, internal supports by the Air Force, the couples' involvement in external networks and interests, and the carryover from loyalty to the Air Force to loyalty to one's wife.


This was an exploratory study of the many obstacles dual-career military families are confronted with and what each of the three military services are doing to support these families. The author interviewed a portion of these families to get their personal views regarding dual-careers. The study found the couples appeared adamant about the following issues: (1) they did not want children; (2) they needed enough money to meet the demands of society; (3) they experienced increased anxiety as the time for new duty assignments approached; (4) they were familiar with the service regulations regarding their options; (5) although most couples wanted to be assigned together, they would sacrifice the assignment to allow upward mobility for the other spouse; and (6) most couples shared household duties equally. The study concluded that most of the couples highly recommended dual-career lifestyles for military families.

This study sought to determine if forced mobility has a negative impact on couples in their early 30s who are assumed to be facing a strong need to establish community and familial ties. The subjects for the study consisted of 20 couples in the military (mobile) and 20 couples living a non-mobile lifestyle with each having at least one child. The Personal Orientation Inventory (POI), Semantical Differential, Life Evaluation Chart Marriage Problem Checklist, and a Satisfaction Scale were administered to four groups consisting of mobile and non-mobile males and females. The results indicated that all four groups reported satisfaction in all areas investigated and scored at a normal level of actualization. On the Semantical Differential, non-mobile groups were significantly more satisfied than mobile groups with own friends, child's friends, and owning a home. Non-mobile groups scored significantly higher than mobile groups on feeling reactivity and capacity for intimacy on the POI. Marriage Problem Checklist indicated a few problem areas which centered on communication and relating to children. Both the mobile and non-mobile couples were found to be experiencing satisfaction in the lifestyles they were pursuing.


This paper provided a preliminary examination of the effect family life has on a soldier's job performance, job satisfaction, and intention to remain in the Army. The sample for this study was 281 married soldiers selected randomly from four U.S. Army installations. The main finding was that family life was more critical to the job performance and job satisfaction of women soldiers than men soldiers, at least among the enlisted ranks. It was recommended that the Army should attempt to understand the nature of the family life of its members and take whatever steps it can to promote family harmony, if it wants to facilitate maximum performance on the part of married women soldiers.

One hundred and sixteen Army personnel were interviewed to establish their responses to the following: a) problems or advantages the Army held for them in terms of their relationships with their spouses and in terms of raising their children; b) those aspects of Army life suggested from previous literature, which are believed to be disruptive or beneficial, such as, PCS moves, recreational facilities, medical and dental care, and financial benefits; and c) having the respondents list the three most detrimental and three most beneficial aspects of Army life as they relate to their relationship with their spouses and children. The study concluded that the investigators' original thought that marital satisfaction would be related to job satisfaction and retention was unsupported by the results of this study. However, the implication was made that further research is needed in this area to measure how spouses' perceptions of the military experience differed from those of their spouses.


The purpose of this paper was to discuss the social readjustment of all groups of veterans, not only those who were returning for neuropsychiatric reasons. The author emphasized the adjustments which groups of veterans returning at that time had to make, rather than to project what future adjustment would be needed. The degree of social adjustment which these men made depended on the understanding they found among civilians and on the way in which the people at home treated them. The author then listed some attitudes and actions that would prove helpful to the veterans in readjusting to family life, civilian employment, further education, and the total community.

This paper was the result of three months intermittent work in a Navy housing area where the author used the traditional anthropological methodology of participant-observation, which in turn, yielded certain themes and patterns. These themes, based upon the perception of enlisted Navy members' dependents, led to a number of concrete suggestions about Naval Bureau personnel policies. An important perception of the dependents concerned the lack of legitimacy accorded dependents by the Navy Department, and the behavioral repercussions stemming from that perception. The majority of the women interviewed repeatedly expressed the perception that they were caught up in a system characterized by inconsistency, ambiguity, and arbitrary decisions. The author then listed a series of suggestions and comments which were designed to change the perception of Navy families that they are an unwelcome by-product of active duty participation in the Navy.


This paper focuses on the issues of role confusion and marital reuniting of the husband/wife after a prolonged separation and how treatment may assist to stabilize the marriage. This study suggests that the Women's Liberation Movement has caused problems for the military family by advocating equality of the sexes. This is because some wives enjoy the acquired responsibilities and independence obtained as a result of the absent husband and become resentful when they have to give up this position. Because neither spouse may be aware of the etiology of their conflicts, therapeutic intervention may be necessary to help the spouses clarify their positions.

This paper described the psychological aspects of adjustment of the repatriated United States Army prisoners of war (POW). The data were obtained over a five year period by repeated individual clinical interviews and selected psychological tests. The sample for this report consisted of 43 Army POWs, last seen in 1978. The data collected indicated that the POWs could be placed into one of three groups according to the clinical evaluation of their adjustment. The largest group consisted of those who successfully coped with the demands of life placed upon them. The next group constituted a borderline category in that they were not clearly defined as grossly maladjusted, yet they were not considered to be coping successfully. The smallest group was clinically evaluated as encountering definite adjustment difficulties. Results suggested that only nine percent of this group was experiencing moderate to severe adjustment difficulties.


This paper examined the problem of the discharge of pregnant women and women who acquire children by legal means while in the service. Executive order 10240 issued by President Truman in 1951 prescribed permissible ground for the discharge of any woman who is a parent, by birth or adoption, of a child under a certain age or has, while serving in the military, given birth to a living child. Moreover, if a woman had personal custody of a child under such minimum age or was the step-parent of a child under such minimum age and the child was within her household for a period of more than thirty days a year, she was subject to discharge. Finally, if a servicewoman was pregnant, she could be separated from the service with an administrative discharge. Case studies involving servicewomen who had contested the discharges in court were presented to illuminate the current implications of the order. The author then speculated about the impact of the Equal Rights Amendment, if passed, on the harshness of sanctions against pregnancy and dependent-related discharges.

This study depicted the legal plight of military women to gain the same rights and privileges as military men to be married and have a family while still on active duty. The study pointed out that the legal fights engaged in by pregnant service women were arduous due to the reluctance of federal courts to review military decisions and having to prove that military readiness needs were not adversely affected by pregnant women. The study implies that because of the current issues and trends in court decisions regarding equal rights for women to procreate and enjoy due process and equal protection on the job, the Department of Defense changed its policies to allow women to make the decision to either remain on active duty or be discharged as a result of pregnancy. If she desires to remain on active duty, she must ensure that suitable arrangements have been made for the care of her infant, something that is not required of her male counterparts.

Zitello, A. K. The impact of the war on family life. II. Mother-son relationships. The Family, 1942, 23, 257-263.

This article examined war problems that revolved about mother and son, and noted that, to date, no relevant way had been developed to cope with the kind of situations war precipitates in the family group. The enlistment or induction of sons was the event that upset mothers to the extent that either they, or others affected by them, brought their predicament to a social agency. A few case examples were presented in this article. Although the author could draw no definite conclusions from the examination of the various situations offered, suggestions on how to cope, gleaned from group participation, were offered at the end of the article.

This report integrates six separate studies involving 2,640 children of kibbutzim and urban areas in Israel. Children's cognitive, emotional, and social reactions to war were investigated through measurements of these reactions in both individual and group administrations. Wishes for peace by children increased in stressful periods while they decreased greatly in quiet periods. Anxiety levels did not differ significantly between bombarded kibbutzim children and non-bombarded kibbutzim children. However, children under bombardment had significantly higher anxiety levels than a control group. An explanation for the findings was the kibbutz children may receive more psychological support under stress. Lower socio-economic background children evidenced significant increases in manifest anxiety levels after the war, as compared to before the war. Children in bombardment conditions did not have greater negative attitudes toward the Arabs, contrary to the frustration-aggression hypothesis. Finally, group cohesion and local patriotism were stronger in bombarded groups than in control groups.


This article describes the experience of a psychotherapist in establishing and implementing the program "Operation Second Life," designed to assist the wives of servicemen killed in action in Vietnam. This discussion group, conducted in Camp Pendleton, along the Gestalt psychotherapy lines, and mainly composed of officers' wives between 25 and 35 years of age, met once a week for two hours on a voluntary basis. Such issues as "saying good-bye" to the dead husband, early phases of grief, adjustment to new responsibilities, planning for the future, dating, and problems with the children were discussed. Four crucial periods exacerbating the grief were common for these widows: the time for R and R (Rest and Relaxation) had the husband survived; when the husband's remains arrived (sometimes long after death occurred); the time of the husband's scheduled return; and the times of the return of American POWs. It was found that most women of the group were very patriotic, had strong religious feelings, idealized their marriages and did not indulge in self-pity. The program helped them to accept their loss and their own reactions to it, to face their problems squarely as "singles," and to begin a second life without bitterness.
Zunin, L. Why did our husbands have to die? *Coronet*, October 1969, pp. 32-38.

This article was a moving story of young Vietnam War widows. Describing where they stood on Vietnam, how they faced the loneliness of the present, and what they hoped for in the future, this article described how these wives and their children met together in groups to help each other through the tragedy of death.


In this article, prepared especially for this publication, two Navy psychiatrists discussed an experimental group therapy program for widows of servicemen killed in Vietnam. It was a voluntary group program entitled, "Operation Second Life," and was limited to the wives of servicemen who had died while serving in Vietnam. The orientation and image of this group was viewed in the framework of health and normalcy rather than as group therapy for the resolution of deep-rooted conflicts or neurotic frailties. The primary aim of the program was to assist the women in adapting to their new life situation as widows.


This article explored the impact of World War II on wartime marriages and love affairs through examination of several case studies. All cases demonstrated the importance of early life adjustments in determining future relationship adjustments. The stresses of being drafted/enlisted, inducted, and deployed were shown clearly to be the exacerbating features of both premeditated and unplanned but hastily conceived relationships and marriages fraught with multiple and insidious problems.