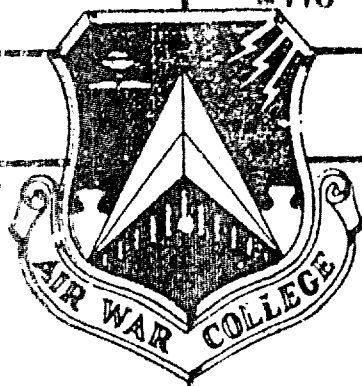


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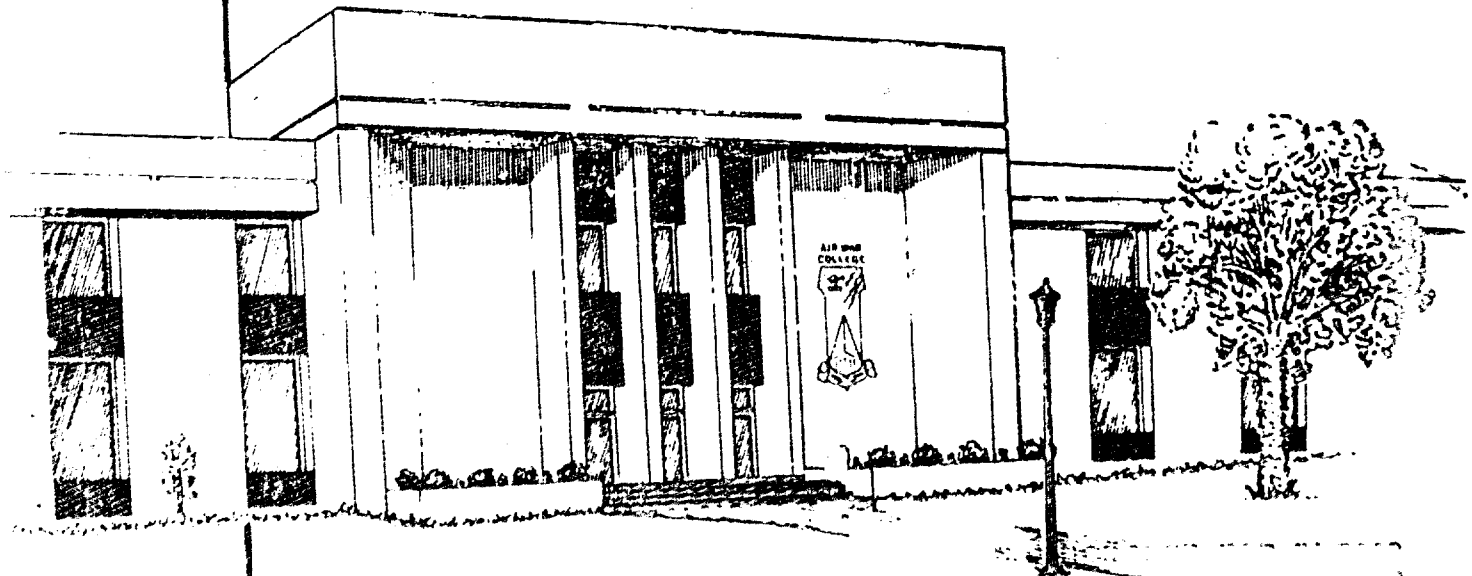
A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF
MILITARY AND CIVILIAN COUPLES

LT COL RICHARD R. PARKINSON

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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA

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AIR WAR COLLEGE
AIR UNIVERSITY

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF MILITARY AND CIVILIAN COUPLES

by

Richard R. Parkinson
Chaplain, Lieutenant Colonel, USAF

A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY

IN

FULFILLMENT OF THE RESEARCH

REQUIREMENT

Research Advisor: Colonel Bryan D. Strickland

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA

April 1988

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AIR WAR COLLEGE RESEARCH REPORT ABSTRACT

TITLE: A Comparative Study of Military and Civilian
Couples

AUTHOR: Richard R. Parkinson, Chaplain, Lieutenant Colonel, USAF

→ Remarks on the importance of preventative programs for healthy families that will be supportive of an Air Force career set the stage for a comparison of Air Force, Army and civilian couples based on data compiled over a number of years by the pre-marital inventory Prepare. Based on the data, the author recommends that programs be established to enable couples to prevent crises and tension areas from disabling the marriage. Areas to be addressed in the program are suggested on the basis of the study. (6/25/54)

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Chaplain, Lieutenant Colonel Richard R. Parkinson (B.A., Alderson-Broaddus College, M.Div., Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, M.A., Central Michigan University) has been interested in the maintenance of good family relationships since entering the ministry in 1965. He served as pastor of churches in Pennsylvania prior to becoming a chaplain in the Air Force in 1972. Much of his time in these positions has been in family counseling and marriage enrichment programs. Chaplain Parkinson is a graduate of the Air War College, class of 1988.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author owes a debt of gratitude to Dr. David Olson of Prepare/Enrich, who provided the data for this research from the couples who have taken Prepare/Enrich. The author also expresses thanks to Chaplain, Major Kenneth E. Briggs of the Air Force Chaplain Resource Board for his guidance and editorship.

INTRODUCTION

The military has identified family life satisfaction as one of the major factors affecting retention in the all-volunteer force today.¹ As a result, several studies of military families have been undertaken over the past few years. The main thrust of the studies has been to discover what is needed to stimulate satisfaction within the military lifestyle. A secondary goal has been to provide a basis for programs which would strengthen or enrich family life.

One of the major weaknesses of the present studies is the neglect of addressing the issue of family break-up in the military. In spite of the military emphasis on quality of family life, many divorces still take place in military families. Not only are marriages breaking up, but counselors are experiencing more demands on their time than they have to give. One of the answers to the expanded number of troubled marriages is to provide prevention programs. These programs are aimed at teaching relationship skills which will help prevent marriage problems, strengthen family relationships, and enable families to deal with the problems and stress in more positive ways.

In Luciano L'Abate's work, Prevention in Family Services, the author lists reasons for the utilization of preventative work with families. It is (1) cheaper, (2) innovative, (3) easier, (4) happier, and (5) cleaner.² In

order to provide beneficial preventative programs, the unique strengths and weaknesses of a given group of married couples should be known.

This paper will compare strengths and weaknesses of Air Force, Army, and civilian couples, who were preparing to be married. The identification of these elements should be of help to counselors, chaplains, and family support centers as they seek to provide prevention programs.

METHODOLOGY

The comparison data for this study were gathered from couples preparing for marriage. Both the civilian and military couples were surveyed with Prepare, an instrument designed for premarital personal and relationship evaluation by Dr. David Olson. The data for this study were provided by Dr. Olson from the results of couples taking Prepare over a number of years.

"The Prepare inventory was designed to provide an objective assessment of the personal and relationship issues in 12 content areas related to marriage. The Item Booklet contained 125 statements that were answered on a 5-point Likert-type scale ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree. A 15-20 page printout reported each couple's unique characteristics in sections that highlighted each

partner as an individual, the couple as a dyadic unit, and normative scores comparing each person and couple with norms from thousands of other couples."³

The items in Prepare were systematically developed to represent categories that are consistently identified in the literature as relevant to marriage (Fournier, 1979). These included: Idealistic Distortion, Realistic Expectations, Personality Issues, Communication, Conflict Resolution, Financial Management, Leisure Activities, Sexual Relationship, Children and Marriage, Family and Friends, Equalitarian Roles, and Religious Orientation. Individual scores assessed relationship attitudes and adjustment while couple scores were more indicative of consensus, indecision, and positive or negative relationship adjustments.⁴

This study will compare Army, Air Force, and civilian couples to determine the unique strengths and work categories that each sphere brings to marriage. Based on the results, recommendations will be made for areas in which to develop programs which will be preventative in nature.

THE DATA

The data from the Prepare instrument and the background information will be presented in chart form in the appendix beginning on page 32. The charts will be numbered for easy reference. The data and charts were provided by Dr. David Olson of Prepare/Enrich.

DISCUSSION AND COMPARISON OF CATEGORIES

REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

In Howard Hovde's work, Neo-married, he states the reason that expectations are not met in the married⁵ relationship is because they are often unrealistic. Even couples who have been married before often start off their new lives together with very unrealistic and unreasonable expectations.⁶ The impact of expectations is one of the most important items determining the success or failure of the marriage relationship. In the judgment of David and Vera Mace the vast majority of marriages that fail do so because of an inability to deal with the changes that occur in the adjustment period of marriage. It is common for many of these to break up in the early years. But even those marriages that fail later in life, present almost invariable evidence of failure to adapt in the early years of the marriage.⁷ The difficulty in adjusting is perhaps due to unrealistic expectations for the marriage relationship.

Today soap operas and commercials on television tend to produce unrealistic expectations in marriages.⁸ Marriage counselors often find their first task in helping couples is to identify⁹ and clarify expectations which have not even been verbalized.

Making adjustments to unfulfilled expectations will take

much of the energy a couple has to give to a relationship and can become very troubling in early marriage, especially when expectations are far short of reality.¹⁰ Because of the time and energy expended in meeting expectations, they need to be realistic. Realistic or unrealistic expectations are often a primary factor in the success or failure of a marriage.

In Prepare the realistic expectations category gives an assessment of the expectations of the individual about love, commitment and conflicts in his/her relationship. These items are intended to assess the degree to which expectations about marriage relationships are based on objective thinking and realism.

Moderately high scores, in this category, usually reflect realistic expectations concerning marriage relationship matters. Those, whose perception of marriage and their relationship are romantic or idealistic have low scores.¹¹

Charts 1 and 2 illustrate that the realistic expectations category indicated significant differences between military and civilian males. (Significance as used in this paper refers to .05 level of acceptance or rejection of a null hypothesis. This significance means that the difference in the groups is not due to a sampling error, but is a real difference.) The military averaged 31.3 and the civilians 32.2 denoting that civilian males had a higher realistic expectation than did military males. Charts 6 and

7 indicate a slight difference between Air Force and Army males with Air Force scoring 31.4 and Army 31.0.

In charts 1 and 3 the civilian females scored 33.3, while the military scored 32.2, showing a higher score for civilian than military. Charts 6 and 7 indicate that Air Force females score lower with 32.0, than Army females at 32.8.

Charts 4 and 5 reveal that Air Force couples scored a mean of 31.7, while Army couples scored 31.9 and civilians 32.7. A suggestion as to why the military couples were less realistic than civilian couples might be the age factor. Most civilian couples are 5 to 10 years older than military couples when they get married according to chart 9.

PERSONALITY ISSUES

Marriage relationships, as in all relationships, are affected by personalities. Particular types of personalities cause families to function in certain ways.¹² Some types of personality disorders make people incapable of intimate relationships; therefore, those with the disorder should not get married at all.¹³ For this reason, pre-marital counselors look closely at a couple's personality profile. They may discover traits that will contribute to problems in the marriage relationship.¹⁴ Personalities are important

in determining if a couple should get married in the first place.

But it is also important that personalities be viewed as areas where adjustments will have to be made after the wedding. A question that couples are encouraged to ask themselves is, "Does my prospective partner complement my personality?"¹⁵ A couple should not necessarily have identical personalities, but there should be a way for the two personalities to mesh together. Being aware of what the various aspects of the personalities are, the couple can then work on making their personalities mesh together like the gears in machinery.

In Prepare, this category assesses the perception of the individual of his or her feelings about the level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction regarding the behaviors or traits of his or her partner. The personal behaviors assessed include traits such as tardiness, temper, moodiness, stubbornness, jealousy, and possessiveness. Also, personal behaviors in the areas of public demonstration of affection, smoking, and drinking habits are addressed.

Favorable adjustment to the partner and satisfaction with the partner's personality are reflected in high scores. Low scores indicate an acceptance level that is low or a sense of discomfort with the partner's personality and behaviors.¹⁶

Charts 1 and 2 indicate only slight differences between

military and civilian males. The military males scored a 35.5 while civilian males had a 35.3. Air Force males scored significantly higher, 36.1, than Army males at 33.7 on charts 6 and 7, indicating that Air Force males were more comfortable with the behaviors and personalities of their partners than were Army males.

Charts 1 and 3 reveal that civilian females scored 36.7 while the military females scored slightly higher with a 36.8. But Air Force females with 37.2 were significantly higher than Army females with 35.7 on charts 6 and 8. This indicates that Air Force females are more comfortable about behavior and personality traits of their partners than Army females.

Charts 4 and 5 indicate some differences with couples also. Air Force couples scored 36.7, while Army couples scored 34.7, and civilians 36.0. A factor that might bear on these differences could again be the length of time that the couple knew one another prior to taking the instrument. Chart 11 indicates that civilian couples know their partners longer than military couples do. Even though Air Force couples score higher than civilian couples do, this could just indicate that they do not know the personality traits and behaviors of their partners enough to be concerned about them.

COMMUNICATION

Dolores Curran indicates that communication is the number one trait found in healthy families¹⁷ and also a top stress to healthy families.¹⁸ This means that when communication is good it is a positive in the relationship, but when communication is not good, it becomes a stressor. In talking about communication, Howard Hovde says, "Neo-marrieds have a most exciting and most difficult task, learning how to communicate with each other."¹⁹ Peg and Lee Rankin sum it up this way, "Good communication is an absolute must for couples who intend to stay together."²⁰

Why is communication so important to the marriage relationship? Because it "is the primary vehicle through which couples relate to and manage each other."²¹ Communication is important for more than just itself. It is the vehicle which allows couples to work on other aspects of the relationship. It will help the couple to deal with the inevitable changes that life brings²² and improving it will increase marital satisfaction.²³

In Prepare this category is concerned with the feelings, beliefs, and attitudes of an individual toward the role of communication in the maintenance of the marriage relationship. The focus of the items is on the degree of comfort or discomfort felt by each partner in being able to share important emotions and beliefs with each other, the

perception of how the partner gives and receives information, and the perception of the respondent on the adequacy with which they communicate with each other.

High scores indicate an awareness and satisfaction of the couple with the level and type of communication in their relationship. Lack of satisfaction with their communication is indicated by low scores which indicate that work on improving their communications skills is needed by the couple.²⁴

Military males are shown to have slightly higher communication scores than do civilians by scores of 36.8 to 36.4 on charts 1 and 2. Air Force males score slightly higher with 37.0, than Army males with 36.2 on charts 6 and 7.

The military females outscore the civilian females by 37.9 to 36.8 on charts 1 and 3. But on charts 6 and 8 Air Force females score significantly higher with 38.3 than Army females with 37.1, indicating that Air Force females are more satisfied about communication with their partners than Army wives are.

Charts 4 and 5 indicate that Air Force couples score 37.7 while Army and civilian couples score 36.6. Air Force couples then have less concern about communication with partners than do Army or civilian couples. (This can be a positive or a negative. Less concern is very much a negative if the couple has not related long enough to see the reality

of the relationship and recognize there might be problems. This could be a possibility given the fact that military couples indicate a shorter relationship before taking Prepare.)

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

"Marriage does include conflict because a marriage is a union of two individuals who have unique viewpoints, frames of reference and values."²⁵ Marital conflict is a central issue in the marriage enrichment process because it is the result of differences. The differences are important because the people are related to one another and the differences disrupt the relationship.²⁶ As a matter of fact, the conflicts resulting from those differences and the inability to manage the conflict is a major cause of marital dissatisfaction and even divorce.²⁷

Conflict is so common in the marriage relationship that almost all premarital, marital, and marriage enrichment programs include a section on the resolution of conflicts. "Fighting is not the concern. The ability to resolve the fight or the conflict without physical or mental violence is the crucial determinant of a couple's success in handling the stresses that disagreement can bring into the family."²⁸ The ability to resolve conflicts is what this category is designed to measure.

The Prepare conflict resolution category assesses the attitudes, feelings, and beliefs of the individual toward the existence and resolution of conflict in his or her relationship with the partner. Items assessed focus on the openness of individuals and their partners to recognize and resolve issues, the procedures used to settle arguments, and the satisfaction of partners with the way problems are resolved.

High scores reflect realistic attitudes about the existence of relationship conflicts and comfort with the way most problems are handled in the relationship of the couple.

An ineffective approach to conflicts in the relationship or dissatisfaction with the way the conflict is resolved is suggested by low scores.
29

Civilians were slightly outscored by military in conflict resolution. Charts 1 and 2 reveal that military males scored 35.3 while their civilian counterparts scored 35.0. Charts 6 and 7 indicate a significant difference between Army and Air Force males. Air Force males scored 35.8, while Army males scored 34.3, indicating that Air Force males believe they have recognized and dealt adequately with conflicts in the relationship, while Army males are not as sure that they have recognized and dealt with conflicts adequately. If indeed, the Air Force male has a better handle on conflict resolution than his Army counterpart, this

can be utilized as a strength in developing programs to enable him to deal with all the issues of the relationship.

On charts 1 and 3 civilian females score 35.8 while military females score 36.4. Unlike the males, the Army and Air Force females had only a slight difference with the Air Force females scoring 36.6, while Army females scored 35.8.

Air Force couples had 36.2 and Army couples had 35.0 and civilians were at 35.4.

It is speculated that the authoritarian atmosphere of the military does not lend itself to real conflict resolution. The data do not support this. It indicates that Air Force couples feel better about their identification of conflicts and resolution of them than does either Army or civilian couples. There is not much difference between the Army and civilian couples.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Dolores Curran reports that the number one stress to healthy families is finances. ³⁰ "The primary problem area in marriage almost invariably turns out to be the management of money." ³¹ Why is this? The answer could be any one or a combination of factors.

First, it could be that the couple just is not realistic about what it takes to support a household. Often in premarital-marital counseling, it is discovered that a

couple really has little or no concept about how much money
it takes to set up housekeeping.³² Second, "many neo-married
couples have problems with money because they come from
families that handled money differently."³³

The amount of money that a couple has does not seem to
be the determining factor of it becoming a conflict issue.
"Either too little or too much money can frustrate your hope
for happiness."³⁴ "Our data show that couples argue more
about how money is managed than about how much they have--and
this holds true despite the income level."³⁵ Whatever their
income, married couples must learn to manage their resources
together.³⁶

Conflict over finances is true of the military couple as
well as the civilian. In a study of married and single
families in the Air Force by Dennis K. Orthner, one fourth of
the couples interviewed listed finances as their greatest
source of marital disagreement.³⁷

In Prepare the financial management category focuses on
concerns and attitudes about the manner in which economic
issues are managed within the relationship of the couple.
Items assess the tendency of individuals to be spenders or
savers, their concern about issues of credit and debts, the
care with which financial decisions about major purchases are
made, and satisfaction or dissatisfaction with economic
status.

Realistic attitudes toward financial management and

satisfaction with financial management are reflected in high scores.

Low scores are indicative of various concerns with financial management in the relationship. ³⁸

Charts 1 and 2 indicate some difference between military and civilian males in financial management. Military males score 33.5 and civilian males 33.0. Air Force males scored significantly higher than Army males with 33.8 to 32.7 on charts 6 and 7, indicating Air Force males are more satisfied with financial management in their relationship than are Army males.

There was a significant difference indicated between females in this group. Military females scored 34.4, while civilian females scored 33.4 on charts 1 and 3. Charts 6 and 8 show Air Force females scoring 34.8, and Army females 33.4, indicating that Air Force females are more satisfied concerning financial management than Army females.

The couples on charts 4 and 5 had Air Force scores as 34.3, Army scores were 33.0, and civilian scores were 33.2.

It is surprising that the military females had lower concerns about finances than did civilian females when the average military female would have less income than the civilian according to the background data on chart 11. One reason for this could be that there is less social pressure on military wives to have more material things. The military families may have perceived more financial security than

civilian families because their pay check is secure and regular.

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Several years ago a survey of school children revealed that they believed that the primary ingredient of a happy family was "doing things together."³⁹ Dolores Curran lists time as both a trait of a healthy family⁴⁰ and a stress for the healthy family.⁴¹ Time is seen as a trait of a healthy family when there is enough to spend with the family, but it becomes a stressor when there is not enough time spent together. The more time that is spent together, the greater the marital quality will be.⁴²

The problem is many couples complain there is never enough time to spend it together.⁴³ "Despite the pressure which can drive family members apart, healthy families make concerted efforts to eat together as regularly as possible and share leisure times together."⁴⁴ It is apparent that leisure time is an important element in the marriage relationship.

The leisure activities category assesses the preference of each individual for spending his or her free time. The items look at personal versus social activities, active versus passive interests, shared versus individual preferences, and expectations of spending leisure time

together or balancing it between separate and joint activities.

Compatibility, flexibility, and/or consensus concerning the use of leisure time activities is reflected in high scores. Low scores are indicative of a dissatisfaction with the way in which leisure time is used in the couple's relationship.⁴⁵

The data on charts 1 and 2 indicate that military males score slightly higher than civilian males, 35.9 to 35.5. Charts 6 and 7 indicate that Air Force males scored slightly higher than Army males by 36.1 to 35.4.

Charts 1 and 3 reveal that military females also score slightly higher than civilian females, 37.4 to 37.1. Air Force females scored 37.5, while Army females scored 36.9 on charts 6 and 8.

On charts 4 and 5 the Air Force couples score 36.8, the Army 36.1, and civilians 36. Again Air Force couples score slightly higher but not significantly so. The use of leisure time is an area that needs to be looked at by all couples to avoid one partner feeling that he or she is being cheated in the time spent with the partner.

SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP

"Sex is the first major adjustment that most newly married couples have to face. Unless they make reasonable

progress here in the early months of marriage, their adjustment in other areas of their relationship may be affected. Moreover, in this area the marriage counselor again and again finds problems that are the result of ignorance and misunderstanding."⁴⁶

Roland Gittelsohn says "the mates who discover from the very beginning that intercourse is mutually pleasurable are probably an exception and not the rule."⁴⁷ Probably the best summary of why this is so is offered by David Mace who says,

In my earlier years as a marriage counselor, couples couldn't enjoy their sex life because they were ignorant and embarrassed about their sexuality, and this created anxiety that paralyzed a natural function. Now I find by contrast that couples know so much and expect so much of themselves and each other, that they may become obsessed by what has been called 'performance anxiety.' When the couple is troubled by performance anxiety, it robs a natural function of its spontaneity."⁴⁸ In speaking of performance anxiety Zuengler and Neubeck list: "to meet one's own sexual expectations and those of the lover or to give up to cultural norms which exist or are thought to exist (e.g., frequency of love making). Trying new behaviors (such as assuming different positions in sexual intercourse) may also generate performance anxiety, with each new variation or change presenting an element of stress."⁴⁹

Mace says, "If it were not for sex, there would be no marriage."⁵⁰ "Sex is important in marriage. It can cover a multitude of sins. It can be the glue when things are drifting apart, the lubrication over the rough spots, the cushioning for the bumps."⁵¹ In Prepare the sexual relationship category assesses the feelings and concerns of

the individual about affection and the sexual relationship with his or her partner. Items measure satisfaction with expressions of affection, comfort level in discussion of sexual issues, attitudes toward sexual behavior, intercourse and birth control decisions, and feelings about sexual fidelity.

Satisfaction with affectional expressions and a positive attitude about the role of sexuality in marriage are disclosed by high scores. Low scores are reflective of unhappiness with the expression of affection in the relationship, worry about the role of sexuality in marriage, and/or disagreement over decisions regarding birth control.⁵²

Charts 1 and 2 indicate that military males at 40.1, scored higher than civilian males with a 39.1. Air Force males scored 40.3 and Army males 39.6 on charts 6 and 7.

Also, military females with 40.3 were higher than civilian females who scored 39.4 on charts 1 and 3. Charts 6 and 8 reveal that Air Force females scored 40.6 and Army females scored 39.6.

Charts 4 and 5 show Air Force couples scoring 40.4, Army couples 39.6, and civilian couples 39.3. This indicates that military couples begin with an advantage in their sexual relationship over their civilian counterparts. (This again might be a negative in relation to the amount of time the couples have known each other. Perhaps the couple has not

really known one another long enough to identify their differences in this area.)

CHILDREN AND PARENTING

"Nothing changes a marital relationship quite so definitely and permanently as parenthood." ⁵³ Pittman says it this way. "The birth of a baby is considered the most blessed of life's events. It isn't of course. Babies leak, won't follow anyone else's schedule, and give nothing in return...Some people don't like babies at all, while others find them inconvenient, but might like them at some other time." ⁵⁴ It's not just the baby that presents problems, but the fact that children change the dynamics of interaction and structure between the marital pair in a dramatic way. ⁵⁵

The bottom line is becoming a parent changes the relationship, so consideration must be given to children and parenting even as the couple plans to get married.

In Prepare, the children and marriage category assesses the attitudes and feelings of individuals about having and raising children. The focus of the items is on decisions regarding having children and agreement on the number of children preferred. Specific items reveal the awareness of the couple on the impact of children on the marriage relationship, their satisfaction with the responsibility of the roles of father and mother in childrearing, compatibility

of philosophy toward discipline of children and goals and values desired for the children.

High scores imply a consensus about decisions to have children and the size of family desired, a realistic perception of the impact of children on the marriage relationship, and satisfaction with their defined roles and responsibilities as parents.

Disagreement regarding decisions to have children and the size of family preferred, worry over the impact of children on the relationship, and discomfort with perceptions or definitions of parental roles and responsibilities are seen in low scores.⁵⁶

Charts 1 and 2 reveal that both civilian and military males scored 36.4. Air Force males scored 36.2 and Army males scored 36.8 on charts 6 and 7.

Charts 1 and 3 show military females scoring 37.3 and civilian females 36.8. Air Force females compare to Army females 37.2 to 37.4, respectively.

Charts 4 and 5 have Air Force couples scoring 36.7, Army couples 37.0, and civilian couples 36.6. No group scores significantly higher than any other group. The reality of changes in the relationship that children cause indicates that this area needs to be addressed for all groups in programs that will be preventative in nature.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Family and friends deal with the primary support groups that a couple brings to the marriage. Ridenour says, "After a brief honeymoon trip back to their families of origin to show off each other, they begin to fight to see which one of the two constellations their newly formed family will be like."⁵⁷ Not only has the family been a support group but has exerted great influence on the development of each individual. "Experiences in one's family of origin affect how one functions in marriage."⁵⁸

It is natural for families of origin to continue to be involved with the couple after the marriage, so the opinion of the family of origin is important to the couple.⁵⁹ Friends are also included as support systems whose opinions the couple values and who may continue to be involved with the couple after marriage.⁶⁰

In Prepare, the family and friends category assesses concerns and feelings about relationships with relatives, in-laws, and friends. Items reflect the perceived attitudes of friends and relatives toward the marriage, expectations about the amount of time spent with friends and family, comfort felt in the presence of each other's family and friends, and views of the situation as either potentially conflicted or satisfactory.

High scores reflect comfortable family and friend

relationships. Low scores reflect discomfort with family and friends relationships and imply potential areas of conflict.
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Civilian males score significantly higher than military males in this category by 38.2 to 37.4 on charts 1 and 2. Charts 6 and 7 show Air Force males scoring 37.9, while Army males score 36.2, a significant difference. This may be due to the fact that Army males come from families of less cohesion than Air Force males as indicated on chart 6.

Female civilians score only slightly higher with 38.7 to military females with 38.4 on charts 1 and 3. However, Air Force females scored notably higher than Army females by 38.9 to 36.9 on charts 6 and 8, indicating that Air Force family and friends were more in favor of the marriage in the eyes of the couple than were Army family and friends.

When it comes to the couple scores on charts 4 and 5, the Air Force and civilian couples both score 38.4, while Army couples score 36.5. Two factors may be affecting the difference here. First, families may be reacting less positively for Air Force males because a much larger percentage of Air Force males are living away from home according to chart 12. Chart 11 indicates that friends of civilians are more positive about the marriage than military friends. This could possibly be because the military are younger when they get married according to chart 6. The fact that many people disapprove of the military lifestyle may

also be a factor here.

EQUALITARIAN ROLES

"Each family assigns roles to its members."⁶² Wright says, "One of the greatest areas of adjustments, change, and concern in today's marriages centers around the roles of husband and wife."⁶³ Others see the roles of husband and wife as more than just an adjustment but as a "great threat"⁶⁴ to the marriage. The great threat centers around the question of equality of roles. "And if one partner feels the other is not doing his or her fair share an argument can easily erupt."⁶⁵

The equalitarian roles category assesses an individual's beliefs, feelings, and attitudes about various marital and family roles. Items focus on occupational roles, household roles, sex roles, and parental roles. There is an implied bias in this scale, which does not reflect the philosophy of Prepare/Enrich, but which is based on the research design of the inventories.

A high individual score indicates the scorer's values are more equalitarian (egalitarian); she/he desires a shared approach to husband-wife roles. A low individual score, rather than indicating a lack of satisfaction, indicates that the scorer values traditional husband-wife roles and areas of responsibility.

The individual and couple agreement scores suggest the degree of harmony between the two individuals. If male or female are either both low or both high, satisfaction with role positions is indicated by a high couple agreement score. If one individual score is high and one is low, disharmony is indicated and will be reflected in a lower couple agreement score, possibly indicating a potentially problematic area.⁶⁶

Charts 1 and 2 indicate that there is very little difference in the scores of military and civilian males with military scoring 38.3 and civilian 38.0. There is also very little difference between Air Force and Army males with Air Force scoring 38.4 and Army scoring 37.8 on charts 6 and 7.

The same is true of females with military scoring 36.8 and civilians 36.9 on charts 1 and 3. Charts 6 and 8 reveal similarities between Air Force and Army females also. The Air Force females score 37.0 and the Army scores 36.3.

The similarities are also found in the couple scores with Air Force scoring 37.7, the Army 37.0, and civilians 37.4. The lack of difference here may be indicative of the tenor of society in general. It could mean that couples are attracted to one another because they already have some shared concept of roles. But in any event role concepts play an important part of the marriage relationship and need to be defined by the couple.

RELIGIOUS ORIENTATION

Dolores Curran identifies "a shared religious core" as the tenth trait of a healthy family.⁶⁷ Evelyn and Sylvanus Duvall say, "Success in marriage is closely related to whether the married couple have religious or non-religious families."⁶⁸ Although David Mace admits that non-religious families can be happy he says, "nevertheless a positive

relationship between marriage happiness and religion exists
according to the research of many years." ⁶⁹

"The religious orientation category assesses an individual's attitudes, feelings and concerns about the meaning of religious beliefs and practices within the context of marriage. Items focus on the meaning and importance of religion, involvements in church activities, and the expected role that religious beliefs will have in the marriage.

High scores reflect a more traditional view that religion is an extremely important component of marriage. Low scores reflect a more individualistic and less traditional interpretation of the role of religion in the marriage relationship.

Individual and Couple Agreement Scores provide a measure of the degree of harmony or disharmony between the two individuals regarding the role of religion in their relationship. If one individual score is high and one is low, disharmony is indicated by low Positive Couple Agreement score. If both individual scores are high or both are low, satisfaction with how they both perceive the role of religion in their relationship is indicated by a high Positive Couple Agreement score."70

Charts 1 and 2 indicate that military males score 34.4 and civilian males score 35.2, indicating a slightly higher interest in traditional religious views than the military males. Charts 6 and 7 show Air Force males slightly lower with 34.2 than civilian males with 35.0.

Military females with 34.9 are notably lower than civilian females with 36.8 according to charts 1 and 3. Charts 6 and 8 show Air Force females with 34.8, while Army females scored 34.9. Military females are less concerned with traditional religious values than civilian females.

Chart 4 and 5 revealed that Air Force couples scored 34.5, Army couples 34.9, and civilian couples 36.0. The difference between military and civilian couples may be influenced by the fact that more civilians are living with their parents (or in the same geographic area as their parents) than military couples according to chart 15.

CONCLUSIONS

Premarital and newlywed programs can serve to reduce the emotional pain and financial burden experienced by the over three million adults and children each year who directly experience divorce. Personal and interpersonal difficulties are also felt by family, friends, employers, schools, physicians, and others who come into direct contact with individuals undergoing the painful adjustment of divorce. In addition, the impact of marital dissolution is felt by government and legal institutions forced to process the caseload, social service agency personnel needed to counsel families, and the clergy, who often feel a tremendous obligation to prevent such events. 71

If premarital and newlywed programs are to be of help in preventing divorces, they must deal with the issues that cause families to dissolve. What does this study tell us about the strengths and weaknesses of military couples who are getting married and possible programs to help them cope?

The background data which were obtained through Prepare give us some clues to develop preventative programs. It is apparent that Air Force couples marry younger, without taking as long to develop relationships as civilian couples do.

They also tend to marry quicker and have less time between premarital counseling and the wedding. All this points to the need for newlywed programs which will help couples with adjustments shortly after marriage. A program such as this could bring newly married couples together as a support group. The data indicate this is strongly needed since military couples do not have the close supportive care of family and friends like their civilian counterparts.

The data show that Air Force couples do have some strengths when compared to Army and civilian couples. Air Force couples are more comfortable with their sexual relationships than either the Army or the civilians. However, a preventative program for Air Force couples as for any others should not assume that the couple either has all the information they should have or communicate freely in this area. The program should include efforts to improve both communication and information in this area.⁷²

For Air Force couples both communication and conflict resolution were indicated as being stronger than Army or civilian couples. Although these areas are scored higher by Air Force couples than Army or civilian couples, one out of five Air Force couples still admitted serious problems in these areas.⁷³ Therefore, newly married programs should certainly include training in skills related to communication and conflict resolution. Skills in these two areas are critical for solving other problems the couple may face.

Air Force couples were also in more agreement about financial management. Air Force couples claimed financial management as a common topic for arguments. Help in financial management is needed but may be easier to give to Air Force couples because they appear to have a better understanding or agreement in financial management than do Army and civilian couples.

Communication, conflict resolution, sexual relationships, personality issues, leisure activities, and financial management are areas of strength which form a foundation upon which to work with Air Force couples, but these areas are not to be ignored in further training or enrichment programs.

Equalitarian roles and family and friends are categories with little difference between Air Force, Army, and civilian couples, with the exception that Army couples did not have the family and friend support of the Air Force or civilian couples. Overall these areas need to be treated on an individual basis because the categories show little difference.

On the other side of the coin, there are some areas in which Air Force couples appeared to be weaker than Army and civilian couples. It was indicated that some work was needed in the areas of realistic expectations and religious orientation just to catch up with Army or civilian counterparts.

Each individual brings certain expectations to the marriage. The trouble is that they often keep those expectations to themselves and each can be terribly hurt or disappointed when those expectations are not met, no matter how unrealistic they may be. Certainly, a program designed to help newly married couples needs to deal with this issue. The key is to enable the couple to communicate about those expectations first and then to explore the realism of them. ⁷⁴

From the perspective of the chaplain, religion is a very important item to explore. The data indicate that Air Force couples do not hold traditional religious values as being important. That does not mean that the couples do not have religious values. They may just not be the traditional ones. The important thing in this area is to enable the couple to communicate about their individual faith position and be willing to affirm one another in that faith. ⁷⁵

In the area of friends and family, "nearly a third of the Air Force couples acknowledge serious disagreement but few mention these as frequent sources of arguments. This indicates that these couples recognize their stress in these areas, but they do not seek to deal with their differences. It is this kind of underlying tension and stress that can fester and explode in anger and resentment when conditions are ripe." ⁷⁶ The preventative program must deal with this issue by providing some insights into friend and family relationships and encouraging the couple to discuss potential

problems in this area.

Although areas of strength and weakness have been identified in this comparison, all of the categories need attention in the preventative programs designed to be helpful to the couples who are about to be married or are newly married. Specific couples do not always fall into the category type of military or civilian, yet have their own individual needs of growth. Therefore, it is recommended that an instrument like Prepare or Enrich be utilized to assess each individual couple in order to insure that a preventative program meets the needs of each specific couple.

Each individual couple may vary in how they compare to the group norms as shown in this study. Comparison of the individual couple scores with the norms of the group to which they belong can be useful in identifying potential problem areas.

The value of this study is not so much in the specifics of the data as it is in the reinforcement of the idea that "greater emphasis should be placed on family centered and preventative interventions."⁷⁶

APPENDIX

Comparison Between Military and Civilian Individuals

| CATEGORY | MALE | | | FEMALE | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------|
| | <u>Military</u> (n=566) | <u>Civilian</u> (n=553) | t | <u>Military</u> (n=566) | <u>Civilian</u> (n=566) | t |
| Realistic Expectations | 31.3 | 32.2 | -2.92* | 32.2 | 33.3 | -3.29* |
| Personality Issues | 35.5 | 35.3 | 0.33 | 36.8 | 36.7 | 0.23 |
| Communication | 36.8 | 36.4 | 1.10 | 37.9 | 36.8 | 3.14* |
| Conflict Resolution | 35.3 | 35.0 | 1.04 | 36.4 | 35.8 | 1.94 |
| Financial Management | 33.5 | 33.0 | 1.48 | 34.4 | 33.4 | 2.73* |
| Leisure Activities | 35.9 | 35.5 | 1.24 | 37.4 | 37.1 | 0.88 |
| Sexual Relationship | 40.1 | 39.1 | 3.81* | 40.3 | 39.4 | 2.90* |
| Children and Parenting | 36.4 | 36.4 | -0.04 | 37.3 | 36.8 | 1.64 |
| Family and Friends | 37.4 | 38.2 | 2.53* | 38.4 | 38.7 | -1.16 |
| Equalitarian Roles | 38.3 | 38.0 | 0.89 | 36.8 | 36.9 | -0.21 |
| Religious Orientation | 34.4 | 35.2 | -1.87 | 34.9 | 36.8 | -4.95* |
| Family Cohesion | 12.6 | 12.9 | -1.25 | 12.2 | 12.1 | 0.27 |
| Family Adaptability | 18.2 | 18.0 | 0.85 | 17.9 | 18.2 | -1.27 |

* Difference is significant at the $p < .05$ level.

CHART 1

Comparison Between Military and Civilian Males

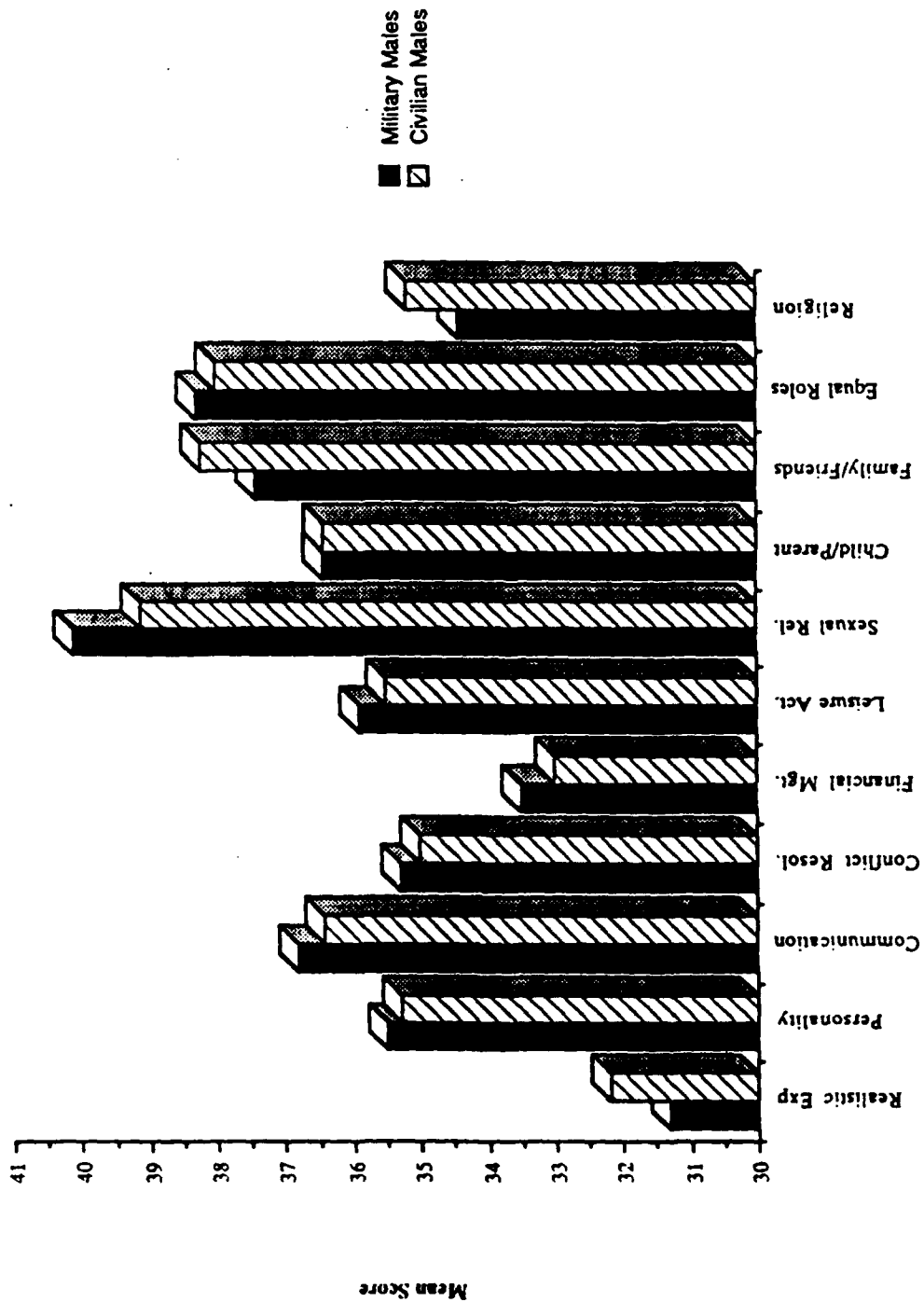
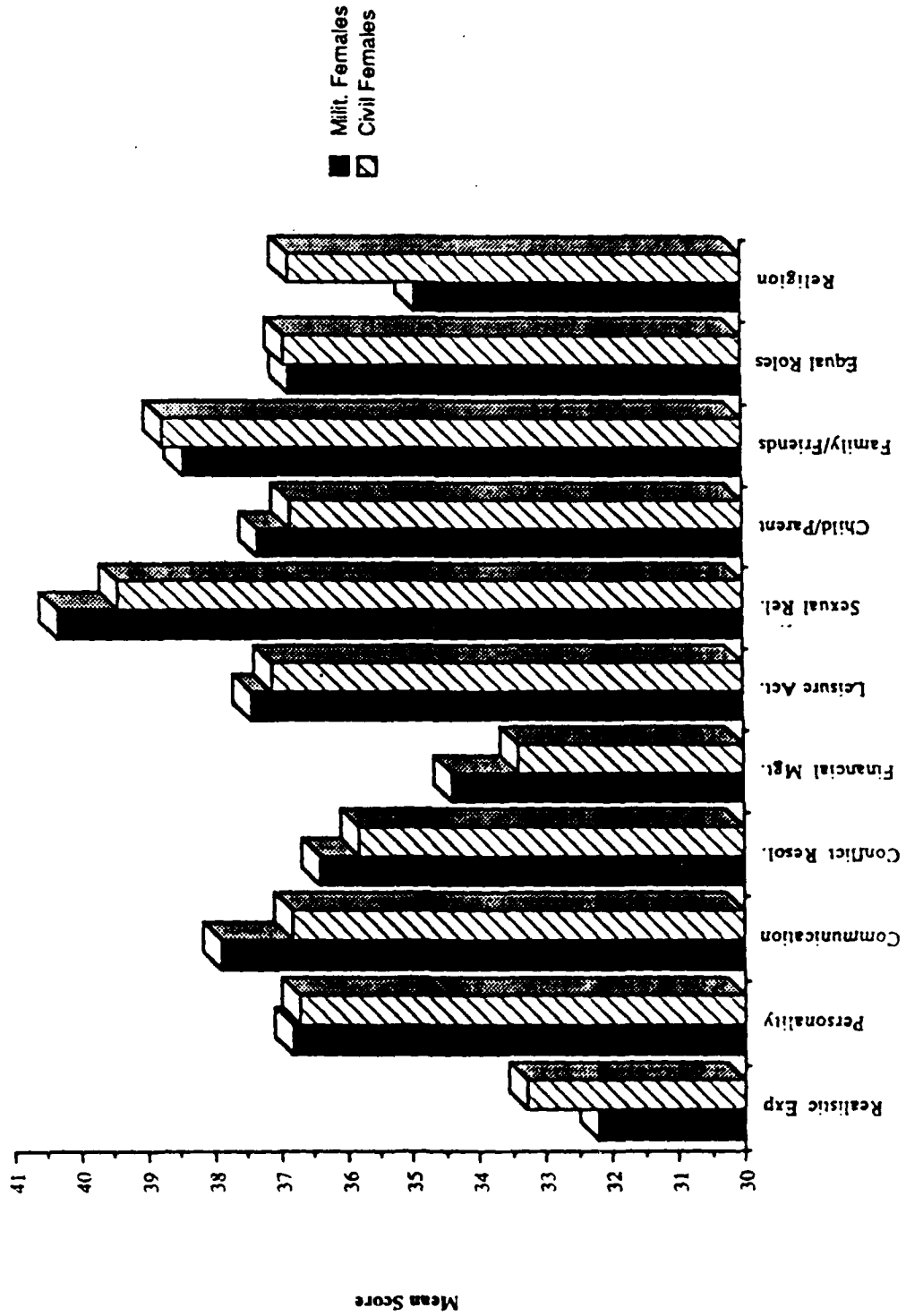


CHART 2

Comparison Between Military and Civilian Females



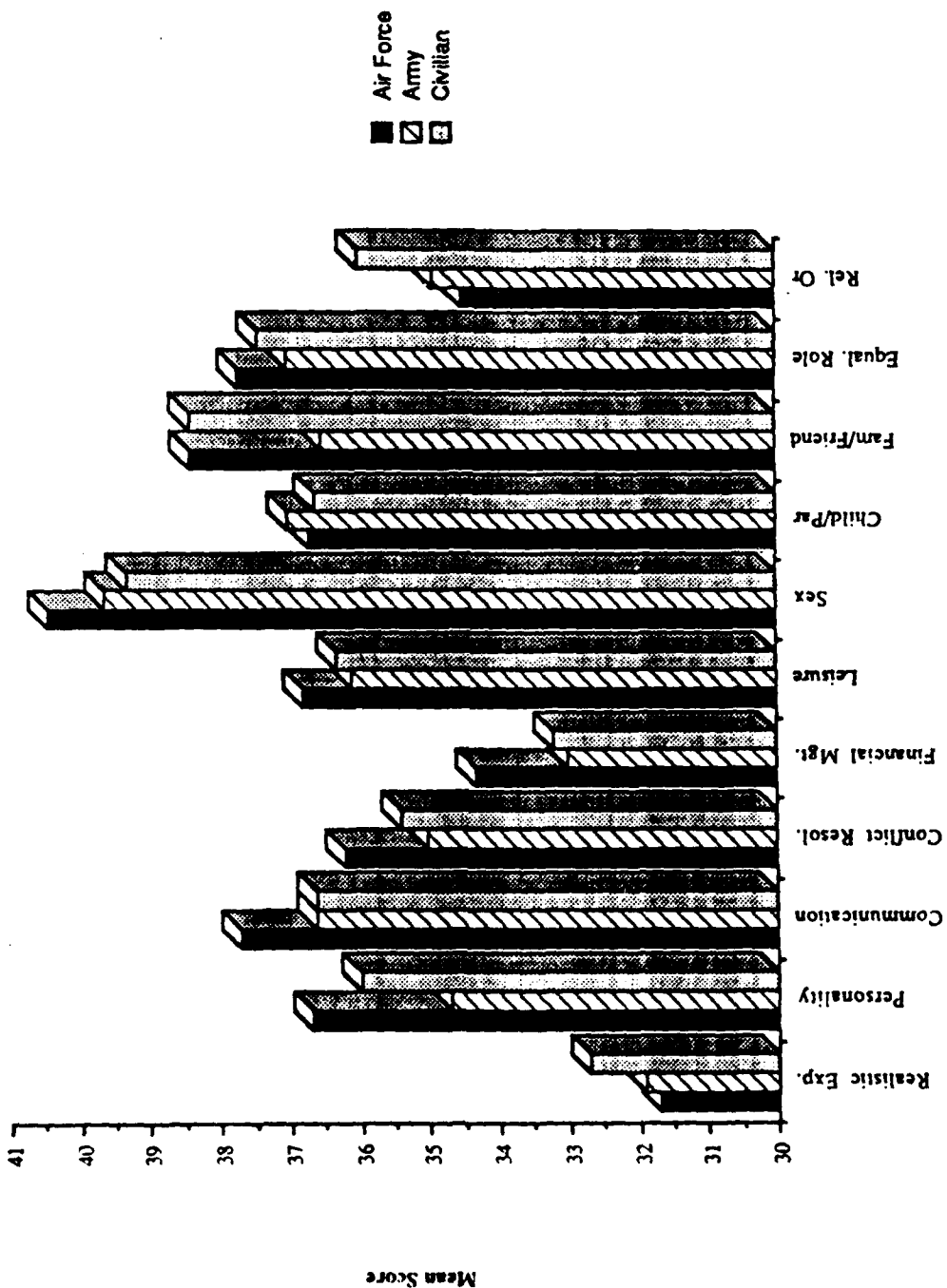
Comparison Between Military and Civilian Couples

| CATEGORY | AIR FORCE (n=808) | | ARMY (n=324) | | CIVILIAN (n=11119) | |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| | <u>mean</u> | <u>st. dev.</u> | <u>mean</u> | <u>st. dev.</u> | <u>mean</u> | <u>st. dev.</u> |
| Idealistic Distortion | 16.8 | 3.1 | 16.8 | 3.2 | 16.6 | 3.1 |
| Realistic Expectations | 31.7 | 5.0 | 31.9 | 5.6 | 32.7 | 5.3 |
| Personality Issues | 36.7 | 6.2 | 34.7 | 6.7 | 36.0 | 6.1 |
| Communication | 37.7 | 5.7 | 36.6 | 6.5 | 36.6 | 5.9 |
| Conflict Resolution | 36.2 | 5.4 | 35.0 | 6.0 | 35.4 | 5.3 |
| Financial Management | 34.3 | 6.0 | 33.0 | 6.0 | 33.2 | 5.9 |
| Leisure Activities | 36.8 | 4.6 | 36.1 | 5.1 | 36.3 | 4.7 |
| Sexual Relationship | 40.4 | 4.7 | 39.6 | 5.1 | 39.3 | 4.6 |
| Children and Parenting | 36.7 | 4.6 | 37.0 | 4.7 | 36.6 | 4.7 |
| Family and Friends | 38.4 | 5.0 | 36.5 | 5.0 | 38.4 | 5.0 |
| Equalitarian Roles | 37.7 | 5.3 | 37.0 | 5.5 | 37.4 | 5.7 |
| Religious Orientation | 34.5 | 6.5 | 34.9 | 6.6 | 36.0 | 6.8 |
| Family Adaptability | 18.2 | 3.4 | 17.7 | 3.6 | 18.1 | 3.5 |
| Family Cohesion | 12.2 | 4.6 | 12.8 | 4.8 | 12.5 | 4.4 |

CHART 4

CHART 5

Comparison Between Military and Civilian Couples



Comparison Between Air Force and Army Individuals

| CATEGORY | MALE | | | FEMALE | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------|
| | <u>Air Force</u> (n=404) | <u>Army</u> (n=162) | t | <u>Air Force</u> (n=404) | <u>Army</u> (n=162) | t |
| Realistic Expectations | 31.4 | 31.0 | 0.94 | 32.0 | 32.8 | -1.43 |
| Personality Issues | 36.1 | 33.7 | 4.11* | 37.2 | 35.7 | 2.50* |
| Communication | 37.0 | 36.2 | 1.58 | 38.3 | 37.1 | 1.94* |
| Conflict Resolution | 35.8 | 34.3 | 2.84* | 36.6 | 35.8 | 1.49 |
| Financial Management | 33.8 | 32.7 | 2.08* | 34.8 | 33.4 | 2.23* |
| Leisure Activities | 36.1 | 35.4 | 1.49 | 37.5 | 36.9 | 1.29 |
| Sexual Relationship | 40.3 | 39.6 | 1.70 | 40.6 | 39.6 | 1.83 |
| Children and Parenting | 36.2 | 36.8 | -1.38 | 37.2 | 37.4 | -0.29 |
| Family and Friends | 37.9 | 36.2 | 4.19* | 38.9 | 36.9 | 3.93* |
| Equalitarian Roles | 38.4 | 37.8 | 1.28 | 37.0 | 36.3 | 1.25 |
| Religious Orientation | 34.2 | 35.0 | -1.30 | 34.8 | 34.9 | -0.08 |
| Family Cohesion | 12.5 | 12.9 | -1.04 | 12.0 | 12.6 | -1.37 |
| Family Adaptability | 18.6 | 17.4 | 3.58* | 17.9 | 18.0 | -0.39 |

* Difference is significant at the $p < .05$ level.

CHART 6

Comparison Between Air Force and Army Males

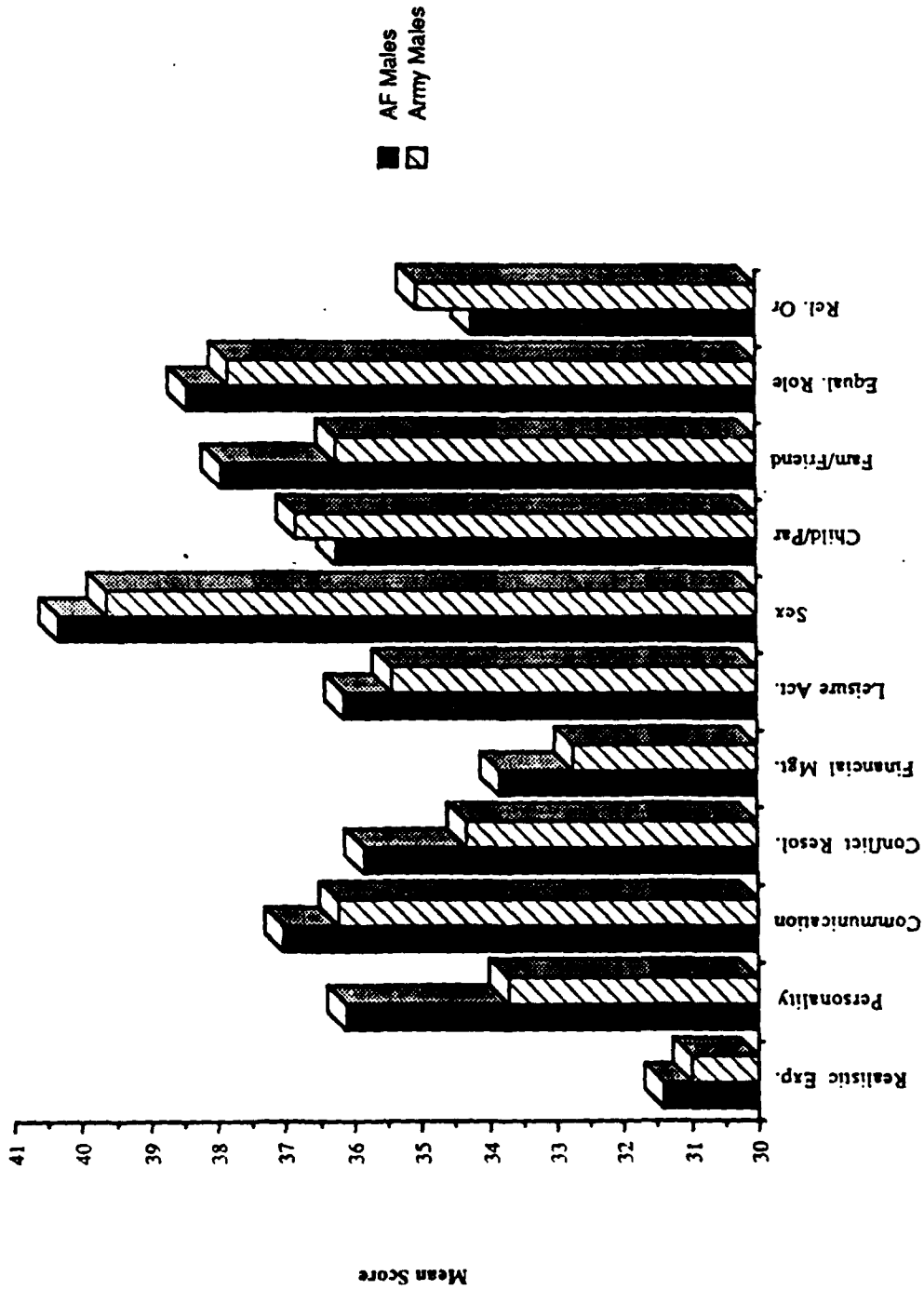
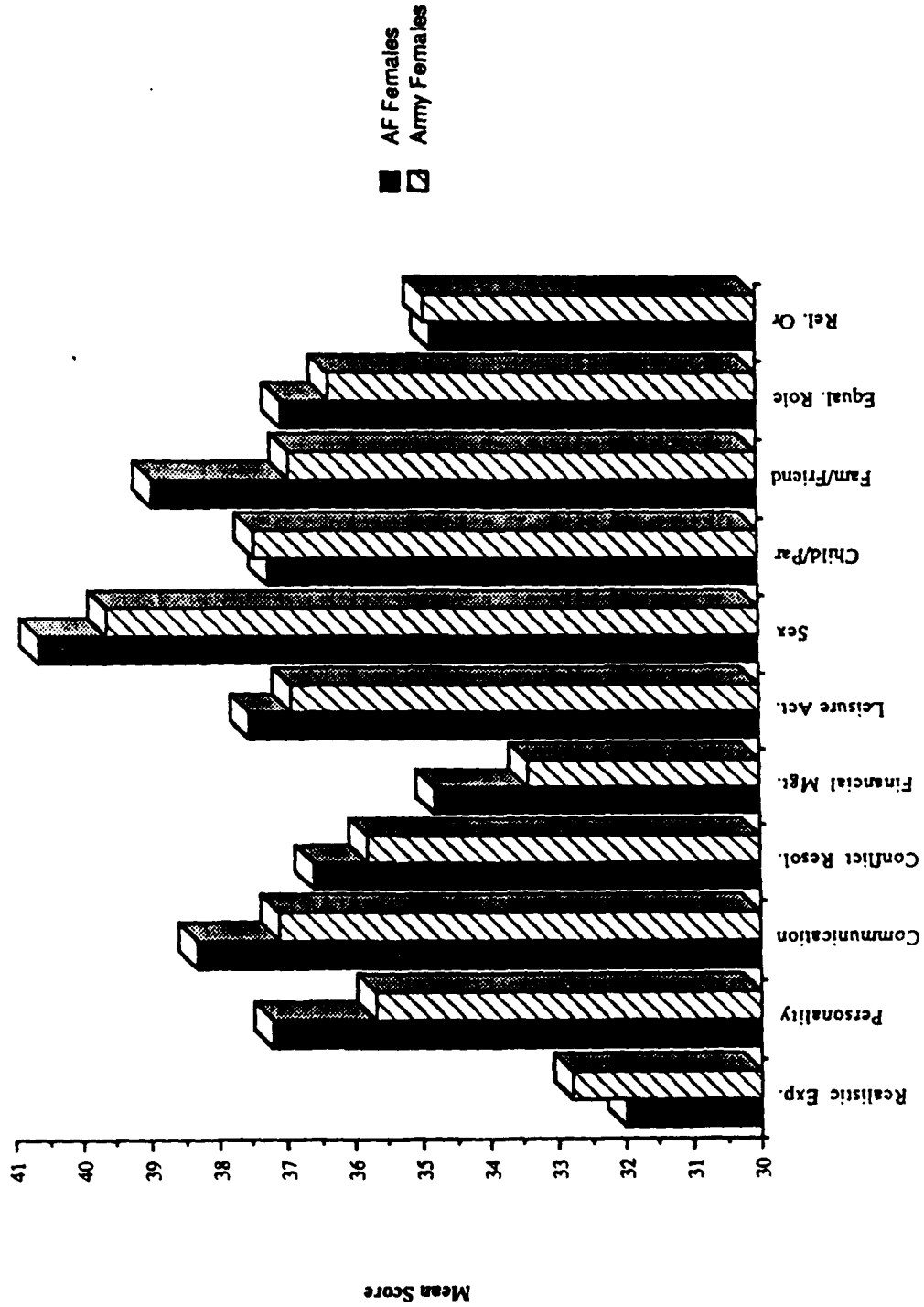


CHART 7

CHART 8

Comparison Between Air Force and Army Females



PREPARE/ENRICH

January, 1987

Background Information Between Military and Civilian Individuals

| Age | Military | | | | Civilian | | | |
|--------------|----------|------|--------|------|----------|------|--------|------|
| | Male | | Female | | Male | | Female | |
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| 16-20 | 77 | 13.7 | 195 | 32.7 | 38 | 6.8 | 114 | 20.2 |
| 21-24 | 234 | 41.4 | 186 | 33 | 203 | 36.7 | 220 | 39 |
| 25-29 | 143 | 25.3 | 109 | 19.3 | 190 | 34.5 | 150 | 26.3 |
| 30+ | 58 | 10.5 | 49 | 8.8 | 90 | 16.3 | 52 | 9.5 |
| Missing Data | 54 | 9.5 | 36 | 6.4 | 30 | 5.7 | 29 | 5.1 |

| Education | Military | | | | Civilian | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|------|--------|------|----------|------|--------|------|
| | Male | | Female | | Male | | Female | |
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Graduate/Professional | 41 | 7.2 | 36 | 6.4 | 47 | 8.5 | 42 | 7.4 |
| Four Year College | 114 | 20.1 | 79 | 14.0 | 144 | 26.1 | 130 | 23 |
| Some College/Tech | 218 | 38.5 | 246 | 43.6 | 197 | 35.7 | 238 | 42.1 |
| Finished High School | 156 | 27.6 | 148 | 26.2 | 129 | 23.4 | 118 | 20.9 |
| Some High School | 5 | 0.9 | 23 | 4.1 | 13 | 2.4 | 17 | 3 |
| Missing Data | 32 | 5.6 | 22 | 3.9 | 22 | 4.0 | 20 | 3.5 |

CHART 9

| <u>Occupation</u> | <u>Military</u> | | | | <u>Civilian</u> | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------|---------------|----------|-----------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| | <u>Male</u> | | <u>Female</u> | | <u>Male</u> | | <u>Female</u> | |
| | <u>N</u> | <u>%</u> | <u>N</u> | <u>%</u> | <u>N</u> | <u>%</u> | <u>N</u> | <u>%</u> |
| Professionals | 42 | 7.2 | 10 | 1.8 | 30 | 5.4 | 10 | 1.8 |
| Other Professionals | 78 | 13.8 | 87 | 15.4 | 100 | 18.1 | 122 | 21.6 |
| Skilled/ Bld Trades | 50 | 8.8 | 10 | 1.8 | 78 | 14.1 | 9 | 1.6 |
| Sales, Tech, Clerical | 79 | 14.0 | 120 | 21.3 | 59 | 10.7 | 137 | 24.2 |
| Laborer, Waitress | 18 | 3.2 | 16 | 2.8 | 53 | 9.6 | 37 | 6.5 |
| General Services | 7 | 1.2 | 25 | 4.4 | 14 | 2.5 | 21 | 3.7 |
| Homemaker | 0 | 0 | 13 | 2.3 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0.7 |
| Student | 24 | 4.2 | 57 | 10.1 | 45 | 8.2 | 41 | 7.3 |
| Unemployed | 1 | 0.2 | 13 | 2.3 | 3 | 0.5 | 7 | 1.2 |
| Other | 86 | 15.2 | 40 | 7.1 | 23 | 4.2 | 11 | 1.9 |
| Missing Data | 181 | 32.0 | | 4.2 | 40 | 7.1 | 166 | 29.4 |

| <u>Months Until Marriage</u> | <u>Military</u> | | | | <u>Civilian</u> | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|----------|---------------|----------|-----------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| | <u>Male</u> | | <u>Female</u> | | <u>Male</u> | | <u>Female</u> | |
| | <u>N</u> | <u>%</u> | <u>N</u> | <u>%</u> | <u>N</u> | <u>%</u> | <u>N</u> | <u>%</u> |
| 0-1 | 156 | 27.5 | 165 | 29.3 | 90 | 16.3 | 114 | 20.2 |
| 2-3 | 209 | 36.9 | 212 | 37.6 | 199 | 36.0 | 195 | 34.5 |
| 4-5 | 99 | 17.5 | 92 | 16.4 | 114 | 20.7 | 133 | 23.6 |
| 6-10 | 69 | 12.1 | 64 | 11.3 | 94 | 17.1 | 90 | 15.9 |
| 11+ | 14 | 2.5 | 16 | 2.9 | 36 | 6.7 | 21 | 3.9 |
| Missing Data | 19 | 3.4 | 15 | 2.7 | 19 | 3.4 | 12 | 2.1 |

CHART 10

| <u>Months Known Partner</u> | Military | | | | Civilian | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | Male | | Female | | Male | | Female | |
| | <u>N</u> | <u>%</u> | <u>N</u> | <u>%</u> | <u>N</u> | <u>%</u> | <u>N</u> | <u>%</u> |
| Less than 5 | 76 | 13.5 | 80 | 14.2 | 25 | 4.5 | 40 | 7.0 |
| 6-10 | 145 | 25.6 | 142 | 25.2 | 66 | 11.8 | 73 | 13.0 |
| 11-15 | 95 | 16.4 | 99 | 17.5 | 69 | 12.5 | 81 | 14.4 |
| 16-24 | 89 | 15.7 | 87 | 15.4 | 104 | 18.9 | 90 | 15.7 |
| 25-48 | 105 | 18.7 | 104 | 18.6 | 159 | 29.0 | 155 | 27.4 |
| 49+ | 42 | 7.7 | 40 | 11.5 | 103 | 21.8 | 123 | 22.2 |
| Missing Data | 14 | 2.5 | 12 | 2.1 | 10 | 1.8 | 3 | 0.5 |

| <u>Income</u> | Military | | | | Civilian | | | |
|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | Male | | Female | | Male | | Female | |
| | <u>N</u> | <u>%</u> | <u>N</u> | <u>%</u> | <u>N</u> | <u>%</u> | <u>N</u> | <u>%</u> |
| No income | 0 | 0 | 36 | 6.4 | 3 | 0.5 | 15 | 2.7 |
| Under \$5,000 | 14 | 2.5 | 72 | 12.8 | 32 | 5.8 | 74 | 13.1 |
| \$5,000-\$9,999 | 80 | 14.1 | 111 | 19.7 | 33 | 6.0 | 58 | 10.3 |
| \$10,000-\$14,999 | 137 | 24.2 | 92 | 16.3 | 70 | 12.7 | 95 | 16.8 |
| \$15,000-\$19,999 | 70 | 12.4 | 41 | 7.3 | 85 | 15.4 | 81 | 14.3 |
| \$20,000-\$29,999 | 74 | 13.1 | 54 | 9.6 | 121 | 21.9 | 65 | 11.5 |
| \$30,000-\$39,999 | 38 | 6.7 | 11 | 2.0 | 57 | 10.3 | 15 | 2.7 |
| \$40,000-\$49,999 | 10 | 1.8 | 1 | 0.2 | 8 | 1.4 | 5 | 0.9 |
| \$50,000-\$74,999 | 3 | 0.5 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 1.8 | 1 | 0.2 |
| \$75,000 or more | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0.7 | 1 | 0.2 |
| Missing Data | 140 | 24.7 | 146 | 25.9 | 129 | 23.4 | 154 | 27.3 |

CHART 11

| <u>Religious Preference</u> | Military | | | | Civilian | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|------|--------|------|----------|------|--------|------|
| | Male | | Female | | Male | | Female | |
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Assembly of God | 9 | 1.6 | 17 | 3.0 | 11 | 2.0 | 18 | 3.2 |
| Baptist | 87 | 15.4 | 122 | 21.6 | 35 | 6.3 | 40 | 7.1 |
| Catholic | 130 | 23.0 | 138 | 24.5 | 154 | 27.9 | 129 | 22.8 |
| Christian | 92 | 16.3 | 69 | 12.2 | 68 | 12.3 | 76 | 13.5 |
| Episcopal | 39 | 6.9 | 32 | 5.7 | 36 | 6.5 | 37 | 6.5 |
| Jewish | 21 | 3.7 | 15 | 2.7 | 33 | 6.0 | 22 | 3.9 |
| Lutheran | 50 | 8.8 | 36 | 6.4 | 121 | 21.9 | 148 | 26.2 |
| Methodist | 34 | 6.0 | 36 | 6.4 | 32 | 5.8 | 26 | 4.6 |
| Other Protestant | 64 | 11.3 | 54 | 9.6 | 33 | 6.0 | 36 | 6.4 |
| Not Listed | 30 | 5.4 | 30 | 5.3 | 24 | 4.3 | 23 | 4.1 |
| Missing Data | 10 | 1.8 | 13 | 2.3 | 5 | 0.9 | 10 | 1.8 |

| <u>Birth Position</u> | Military | | | | Civilian | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|------|--------|------|----------|------|--------|------|
| | Male | | Female | | Male | | Female | |
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| One | 198 | 35.0 | 193 | 34.2 | 184 | 33.3 | 150 | 26.5 |
| Two | 126 | 22.3 | 138 | 24.5 | 133 | 24.1 | 135 | 23.9 |
| Three | 86 | 15.2 | 105 | 18.6 | 103 | 18.7 | 120 | 21.2 |
| Four | 61 | 10.8 | 51 | 9.0 | 60 | 10.9 | 55 | 9.7 |
| Five | 28 | 4.9 | 26 | 4.6 | 28 | 5.1 | 40 | 7.1 |
| Six or more | 43 | 7.5 | 29 | 7.3 | 22 | 3.9 | 47 | 8.4 |
| None | 14 | 2.5 | 10 | 1.8 | 15 | 2.7 | 12 | 2.1 |
| Missing Data | 10 | 1.8 | 12 | 2.1 | 7 | 1.3 | 6 | 1.1 |

CHART 12

| <u>Children in Family</u> | Military | | | | Civilian | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|------|--------|------|----------|------|--------|------|
| | Male | | Female | | Male | | Female | |
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| One | 25 | 4.4 | 26 | 4.6 | 13 | 2.4 | 26 | 4.6 |
| Two | 113 | 20.0 | 124 | 22.0 | 101 | 18.3 | 101 | 17.9 |
| Three | 137 | 24.2 | 168 | 29.8 | 157 | 28.4 | 157 | 27.8 |
| Four | 108 | 19.1 | 98 | 17.4 | 111 | 20.1 | 102 | 18.1 |
| Five | 75 | 13.3 | 69 | 12.2 | 75 | 13.6 | 77 | 13.6 |
| Six or more | 92 | 16.3 | 61 | 10.8 | 85 | 15.4 | 96 | 17.2 |
| None | 6 | 1.1 | 5 | 0.9 | 2 | 0.4 | 0 | 0 |
| Missing Data | 10 | 1.8 | 13 | 2.3 | 8 | 1.4 | 5 | 1.1 |

| <u>Marital Status</u> | Military | | | | Civilian | | | |
|-------------------------|----------|------|--------|------|----------|------|--------|------|
| | Male | | Female | | Male | | Female | |
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Single, never married | 478 | 84.5 | 452 | 80.1 | 494 | 89.5 | 506 | 89.6 |
| Single, prev. married | 65 | 11.5 | 90 | 16.0 | 50 | 9.1 | 46 | 8.1 |
| Single, widowed | 1 | 0.2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0.5 |
| Married, Separated | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0.2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Married, prev. married | 4 | 0.7 | 3 | 0.5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Married, first marriage | 11 | 1.9 | 7 | 1.2 | 3 | 0.5 | 2 | 0.5 |
| Missing Data | 7 | 1.2 | 11 | 2.0 | 4 | 0.7 | 5 | 0.9 |

CHART 13

| <u>Parents Reaction</u> | Military | | | | Civilian | | | |
|-------------------------|----------|------|--------|------|----------|------|--------|------|
| | Male | | Female | | Male | | Female | |
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Very Positive | 280 | 49.5 | 294 | 52.1 | 352 | 63.8 | 382 | 67.6 |
| Positive | 208 | 36.7 | 167 | 29.6 | 153 | 27.7 | 120 | 21.2 |
| Neutral | 44 | 7.8 | 61 | 10.8 | 37 | 6.7 | 39 | 6.9 |
| Negative | 17 | 3.0 | 18 | 3.2 | 3 | 0.5 | 11 | 1.9 |
| Very Negative | 6 | 1.1 | 7 | 1.2 | 1 | 0.2 | 1 | 0.2 |
| Missing Data | 11 | 1.9 | 17 | 3.1 | 6 | 1.1 | 12 | 2.1 |

| <u>Friends Reaction</u> | Military | | | | Civilian | | | |
|-------------------------|----------|------|--------|------|----------|------|--------|------|
| | Male | | Female | | Male | | Female | |
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Very Positive | 258 | 45.6 | 322 | 57.1 | 288 | 52.2 | 384 | 68.0 |
| Positive | 225 | 39.8 | 487 | 33.2 | 206 | 37.3 | 144 | 25.5 |
| Neutral | 60 | 10.6 | 38 | 6.7 | 43 | 7.8 | 21 | 3.7 |
| Negative | 14 | 2.5 | 7 | 1.2 | 6 | 1.1 | 4 | 0.7 |
| Very Negative | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Missing Data | 9 | 1.6 | 10 | 1.8 | 9 | 1.6 | 12 | 2.1 |

| <u>Race</u> | Military | | | | Civilian | | | |
|-----------------|----------|------|--------|------|----------|------|--------|------|
| | Male | | Female | | Male | | Female | |
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Afro-American | 44 | 7.8 | 38 | 6.7 | 7 | 1.3 | 7 | 1.2 |
| Asian-American | 9 | 1.6 | 4 | 0.7 | 6 | 1.1 | 9 | 1.6 |
| Caucasian | 472 | 83.4 | 481 | 85.3 | 513 | 92.9 | 528 | 93.5 |
| American Indian | 3 | 0.5 | 3 | 0.5 | 3 | 0.5 | 3 | 0.5 |
| Spanish Descent | 15 | 2.7 | 19 | 3.4 | 9 | 1.6 | 9 | 1.6 |
| Other | 12 | 2.1 | 8 | 1.4 | 7 | 1.3 | 5 | 0.9 |
| Missing Data | 11 | 1.9 | 11 | 2.0 | 7 | 1.3 | 4 | 0.7 |

CHART 14

| <u>Living Arrangement</u> | Military | | | | Civilian | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|------|--------|------|----------|------|--------|------|
| | Male | | Female | | Male | | Female | |
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Live Alone | 207 | 36.6 | 116 | 20.6 | 144 | 26.1 | 114 | 20.2 |
| Live with parents | 52 | 9.2 | 172 | 30.5 | 152 | 27.5 | 199 | 35.2 |
| Live with partner | 176 | 31.1 | 168 | 29.8 | 151 | 27.4 | 163 | 28.8 |
| Live with others | 123 | 21.7 | 99 | 17.6 | 100 | 18.1 | 94 | 14.9 |
| Missing Data | 8 | 1.4 | 9 | 1.6 | 5 | 0.9 | 5 | 0.9 |

| <u>Parent's Marital Status</u> | Military | | | | Civilian | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|------|--------|------|----------|------|--------|------|
| | Male | | Female | | Male | | Female | |
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Married living together | 325 | 57.4 | 351 | 62.2 | 391 | 70.8 | 385 | 68.1 |
| Married, separated | 12 | 2.1 | 12 | 2.1 | 6 | 1.1 | 7 | 1.2 |
| Divorced both single | 50 | 8.8 | 23 | 4.1 | 34 | 4.3 | 30 | 5.3 |
| Divorced both remarried | 45 | 8.0 | 40 | 7.1 | 24 | 4.3 | 26 | 4.6 |
| Divorced one single | 50 | 8.8 | 66 | 11.7 | 34 | 6.2 | 52 | 9.2 |
| Single one deceased | 51 | 9.0 | 45 | 8.0 | 44 | 8.0 | 40 | 7.1 |
| Remarried one deceased | 19 | 3.4 | 12 | 2.1 | 15 | 2.7 | 12 | 2.1 |
| Both deceased | 8 | 1.4 | 7 | 1.2 | 9 | 1.6 | 6 | 1.1 |
| Missing Data | 6 | 1.1 | 8 | 1.5 | 5 | 0.9 | 7 | 1.2 |

| <u>Residence Most of Life</u> | Military | | | | Civilian | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|------|--------|------|----------|------|--------|------|
| | Male | | Female | | Male | | Female | |
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Farm | 37 | 6.5 | 33 | 5.9 | 57 | 10.3 | 54 | 9.6 |
| Rural not farm | 57 | 10.1 | 46 | 8.2 | 50 | 9.1 | 55 | 9.7 |
| Town 2500 or less | 56 | 9.9 | 41 | 7.3 | 42 | 7.6 | 55 | 9.7 |
| Town 2501 to 25000 | 99 | 17.5 | 115 | 20.4 | 116 | 21.0 | 114 | 20.2 |
| Small city to 100000 | 160 | 28.3 | 186 | 33.0 | 148 | 26.8 | 158 | 28.0 |
| Large city 100000+ | 149 | 26.3 | 133 | 23.6 | 131 | 23.7 | 124 | 21.9 |
| Missing Data | 8 | 1.4 | 10 | 1.8 | 8 | 1.4 | 5 | 0.9 |

CHART 15

| <u>Current Residence</u> | Military | | | | Civilian | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|-------|--------|------|----------|------|--------|------|
| | Male | | Female | | Male | | Female | |
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Farm | 2 | 0.4 | 4 | 0.7 | 27 | 4.9 | 14 | 2.5 |
| Rural not farm | 19 | 3.4 | 21 | 3.7 | 28 | 5.1 | 41 | 7.3 |
| Town 2500 or less | 39 | 6.9 | 53 | 9.4 | 30 | 5.4 | 39 | 6.9 |
| Town 2501 to 25000 | 117 | 20.7 | 105 | 18.6 | 105 | 19.0 | 103 | 18.2 |
| Small city to 100000 | 193 | 34.1 | 191 | 33.9 | 170 | 30.8 | 169 | 29.9 |
| Large city 100000+ | 156 | 27.69 | 160 | 28.4 | 170 | 30.8 | 172 | 30.4 |
| Missing Data | 40 | 7.1 | 30 | 5.4 | 22 | 4.0 | 27 | 4.8 |

| <u>Woman Pregnant</u> | Military | | | | Civilian | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|------|--------|------|----------|------|--------|------|
| | Male | | Female | | Male | | Female | |
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Yes | 33 | 5.8 | 31 | 5.5 | 28 | 5.1 | 33 | 5.8 |
| No | 521 | 92.0 | 524 | 92.9 | 517 | 93.7 | 526 | 93.1 |
| Missing Data | 12 | 2.1 | 9 | 1.6 | 7 | 1.3 | 6 | 1.1 |

CHART 16

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