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DUAL ARMY COUPLES AND THEIR IMPACT ON READINESS

BY

LIEUTENANT COLONEL KERRY G. ADAMS

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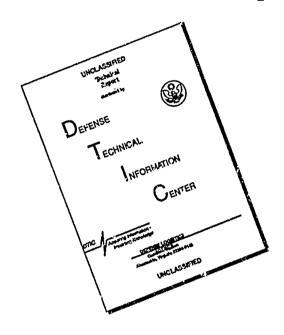
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DUAL ARMY COUPLES AND THEIR IMPACT ON READINESS

An Individual Study Project

bу

Lieutenant Colonel Kerry G. Adams, SC

Colonel Danny L. Crawford, FA Project Advisor

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#### ABSTRACT

AUTHOR: Kerry G. Adams, LTC, SC

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The Army is shrinking. Growing public concern for the federal deficit, the perception of a much diminished Soviet threat and ballooning demands for domestic social programs have exerted tremendous pressures on Congress to reduce the Department of Defense budget. One of the key challenges facing the Army's senior leadership today is how to reduce the force structure and maintain an acceptable level of readiness. This study examines the impact of dual Army couples on readiness. Presented in this study is a review of previous studies and applicable literature on dual Army Army policies in regard to assignment of dual Army couples are examined. Professional development issues for dual Army couples are explored in depth with particular emphasis on officer professional development. concludes that there is no measurable direct impact on unit readiness. However, an indirect impact on readiness results from conflicting professional development needs of dual Army couples and their twin commitments to the Army and (SOW) their marriage.

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# DUAL ARMY COUPLES AND THEIR IMPACT ON READINESS

#### CHAPTER I

#### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this paper is to determine the impact, if any, of dual Army couples on readiness. Increasing international, domestic and fiscal pressures will likely result in a significantly reduced Department of Defense (DoD) budget. Due to the Army's mission to conduct prompt and sustained land combat, a disproportionate share of the reduction may fall upon the Army. Conversely, demand for the maximum readiness for each defense dollar is likely to grow. In the immediate future every aspect of readiness will likely be subjected to close scrutiny by the Army, DoD and Congress. Policies and programs that impact negatively on readiness, even on the margin, are probable candidates for review, revision and/or elimination.

Women have served in the Army throughout our nation's history. Through World War II the operative attitude toward women in the Army had been two fold: free men to fight and provide medical care and services. This attitude was radically altered during the late 1960's and early 1970's as a result of the women's movement and our nation's commitment

to an all volunteer force. These forces resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of women in the Army. Concurrent with this increase in the percentage of women in the Army was a rise in the number of marriages between service members. The growing social acceptance of dual career couples, the rising expectations of women in the work force, economic pressures on individual families and the needs of the services to recruit and retain quality people combined to produce a substantial number of dual Army couples in which both members had long term career aspirations.

General John A. Vessey, then Chairmen of the Joint

Chiefs of Staff, stated to the House Armed Services Committee

on 2 February 1984:

"The greatest change that has come about in United States forces in the time that I've been in military service has been extensive use of women. That's even greater than nuclear weapons, I feel, as far as our own forces are concerned."(1)

General Vessey was addressing the much larger issue of women in the service rather than focusing on the much smaller issue of dual Army couples. However, the study of dual Army couples cannot be completely divorced from the larger issue of women in the Army. Accordingly, the background section of this chapter will briefly review the growth of and expansion in the roles of women in the Army since World War II.

The readiness of the Army to conduct sustained combat operations on land is supported by its personnel and personnel policies. The growth in the number/percentage of women in the Army and the corresponding growth in the number

of dual Army couples resulted in an evolution of Army personnel policies. It is beyond the scope of this paper to examine these policies in detail except for those policies that deal specifically with the Army Married Couples Program (Chapter II). Also in Chapter II is a brief summary of statistical data focusing on dual Army couples.

Chapter III looks at the direct impact of dual Army couples on unit readiness. Although there has been a lot of speculation that dual Army couples hamper readiness, no studies have shown this conclusively.

In the final analysis the readiness of a unit is heavily dependent upon the collective tactical and technical competence of its soldiers and, particularly, its leaders. The competence of Army leaders is in large measure derived from their professional development over the span of a career. The impact of dual Army couples on this aspect of readiness will be explored in detail in Chapter V. It is the contention of the author that competing demands on dual Army couples result in a less than optimum professional development track for at least one member of the couple and that this indirectly affects unit readiness.

#### DEFINITIONS

<u>Dual Army Couple:</u> A legally married couple in which each member is a soldier on active duty in the Army. Dual Army couples are of three types: officer-officer couples, enlisted-enlisted couples and officer-enlisted couples.

<u>Dual Service Couples</u>: A legally married couple in which each member is on active duty in different branches of the uniformed services.

#### LIMITATIONS

This study is limited to the impact of active component dual Army couples and, to a lesser extent, dual service couples on readiness. This study is heavily dependent upon the previous research and study of others. The experience of the author as both a Professional Development Officer at the Army Military Personnel Center and as a battalion commander colored the results of this study.

#### ASSUMPTIONS

The following assumptions were made in this study:

o The vast majority of dual Army couple and dual
service couple are defacto and dejure marriages.

o Convenience marriages between service mambers for purposes of obtaining additional entitlements (i.e., BAS, BAQ) and/or additional liberty (i.e., no requirement to live in the barracks) constitute such a small minority of dual Army/dual service couples as to be insignificant.

#### BACKGROUND

Women have served in all of the services virtually since their establishment. From the Revolutionary War through the Korean War women have made numerous, significant contributions to the national war effort. Through the Korean War the

roles and functions of women in the service were clearly defined — free manpower for the fight and provious medical care and services. There was clearly a traditional role that women filled. "At the peak of World War I, approximately 49,000 women were in uniform, 73% of whom were in the Army or Navy Nurse Corps. All were returned to civilian status in 1919."(2) "In World War II approximately 350,000 women served in a wide variety of military occupations but were barred from direct combat and combat units."(3) By 1948 less than 15,000 remained in uniform, again, concentrated in the Nurse Corps.

In 1967 Congress repealed the laws restricting the number of women in uniform. By 1978 the Army had abolished the Women's Army Corps (WAC) and had merged women into the mainstream of the Army. The number of women on active duty rose dramatically from slightly less than one percent of the force in 1969 to slightly under ten percent in 1981, an increase of over 350%. (4) During this time frame emphasis was placed on utilizing women in non-traditional roles. A large number of Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) that had previously barred women were now open to them. The Army policy on the assignment and utilization of women evolved to that which is in effect today (no assignment to Infantry, Armor, or Cannon Artillery and no assignment to units that have the highest probability of direct combat).

This large influx of women, most of whom were single, into male dominated organizations where many of the males

were single resulted in a very foreseeable outcome:
romance, courtship and marriage in significant numbers.

Today there are roughly 20,000 dual Army couples. The Army is predominately a married force with 54% of all enlisted soldiers married. In general, the more senior a soldier is the more likely he is to be married. Dual Army couples constitute roughly 9% of the married personnel in the Army and are clustered in the mid-officer and NCO grades. (5) In this century the Army evolved from an essentially all male, predominately single force to one that has a significant percentage of women and married soldiers. One effect of this transition has been the tremendous rise in the number of dual Army couples. Could this change have occurred with no impact on readiness? This paper attempts to partially answer this question.

#### ENDNOTES

- 1. Statement by General John A. Vessey to the House Armed Services Committee, reported by <u>The Washington Post</u>, 3 February 1984, p.A12
- 2. Assistant Secretary of Defense-Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Military Women in the Department of Defense, p. 1
  - 3. <u>Ibid</u>, p. 1
  - 4. <u>Ibid</u>, p. 1, 3 and 10
- S. Defense Manpower Data Center, <u>Statistical Report</u> Number <u>521</u>, (see appendix p.31-40)

#### CHAPTER II

#### ARMY POLICY AND STATISTICAL REVIEW

The Army's personnel policies must be carefully crafted to meet the needs of today's commanders, provide for the growth and development of tomorrow's leaders and satisfy the requirements of individual soldiers. Fairness in burden sharing and equal opportunity for advancement are the hallmarks of Army personnel policies. A brief review of Army personnel policies that pertain specifically to dual Army couples is therefore in order. To determine the impact of dual Army couples on readiness it is first necessary to determine the number of soldiers in dual Army couples. A very brief statistical review of dual Army couples is included in this chapter to provide the reader with a better understanding of the scope and some of the peculiarities of this issue.

#### ARMY POLICY ON MARRIED COUPLES

Army policy on dual Army couples is found in Army Regulations 614-30, Oversea Service, 614-100, Officer Assignment Policies, Details and Transfers and 614-200, Selection of Enlisted Soldiers for Training and Assignment. All three regulations make two strong points:

to be eligible for joint domicile assignments dual Army couples must be enrolled in the Army Married Couples Program and Army requirements and readiness goals are the prime factors in assignment considerations. Personnel Command reports a 70-80% success rate in making joint domicile assignments. The Army considers it a successful joint domicile assignment whenever the two members of a dual Army couple are assigned to duty stations within 50 miles or one hour commuting distance of one another. The Army has clearly established Army requirements as the first consideration in making assignments. The high joint domicile success rate provides ample support that the Army has just as clearly established satisfying joint domicile assignment requirements as a high priority.

It should be noted that the Army provides no consideration in the assignment process for couples that are engaged, living together, etc. To be enrolled in the Married Couples Program a couple must be legally married. The timing of marriages between service members is often out of synchwith the assignment process. Further, PCS restrictions and time on station guidelines serve as limits to personnel managers' abilities to effect a joint domicile assignment. If these constraints were not in effect, the already high success rate would probably rise substantially, yielding a truer reflection of the Army's commitment to making the joint domicile/Married Couples Program work.

#### STATISTICAL REVIEW

How many dual Army couples are on active duty today?

The following statistical summary tables are provided to give the reader an idea of the scope of this issue. All of the statistics are drawn from information provided by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC).(1) DMDC utilizes the Officer Master File and the Enlisted Master File as the data source for these reports. Some minor discrepancies may exist in the figures due to errors in these data files.

TABLE II-1 ENLISTED SUMMARY

MALE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Single married to non-military married to enlisted married to officer TOTAL	267, 281 301, 355 15, 379 323 584, 338	45.7 51.2 2.6 
FEMALE		
Single married to non-military married to enlisted married to officer TOTAL	40,-331 18,-651 14,607 <u>191</u> 73,780	54.7 25.3 19.8 
ENLISTED TOTALS		
Single married to non-military married to enlisted married to officer TOTAL	307,612 320,007 29,986 514 638,119	46.7 48.6 4.6 .08 99.98

TABLE II-2 OFFICER SUMMARY

MALE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Single married to non-military married to officer married to enlisted TOTAL,	21,861 69,879 2,805 396 94,941	23 73.6 3 <u>.4</u> 100
FEMALE		
Single married to non-military married to officer married to enlisted TOTAL	6,049 3,208 2,525 <u>416</u> 12,198	49.6 26.3 20.1 <u>3.4</u> 99.4
OFFICER TOTALS		
Single married to non-military married to officer married to enlisted TOTAL	27,910 73,105 4,008 <u>815</u> 105,838	26.4 69.1 3.8 <u>8</u> 100.1

Although Tables II-1 and II-2 are very revealing they do not tell the complete demographic story. For complete details see Appendixes pages 31 through 40. Consider the following points:

- o In the enlisted ranks 84% of dual Army couples are in the ranks of Specialist through Staff Sergeant.
- o In the commissioned officer ranks 77% of dual Army couples are clustered in the ranks of First Lieutenant through Major. When looking at males alone, the concentration is even greater with 51% in the rank of Captain.

o A disproportionately high percentage of Army married females are married to service members:

OF MARRIED POPULATION
PERCENTAGE MARRIED TO SERVICE MEMBERS
OFFICER ENLISTED
MALE 4.4% 5%

44%

47.8%

FEMALE

o Teplitzky, Thomas and Nogami found in their study of officer couples that the officers were usually of the same rank but whenever there was a difference the male almost always outranked the female. Further, the male usually had more service time than the female even if of the same rank. (2) Although this study reviewed officer couples, only a similar pattern in the enlisted ranks would not be surprising. This relationship will be of great importance in the discussion on professional development in Chapter IV.

#### ENDNOTES

- 1. Defense Manpower Data Center, <u>Statistical Report</u>
  Number <u>521</u>, (See Appendix p.31-40)
- 2. Martha L. Teplitzky, Shelley A. Thomas and Glenda Y. Nogami, <u>Dual Army Career Officers: Job Attitudes</u> and <u>Career Intentions of Male and Female Officers</u>, p. 12-14

#### CHAPTER III

## DIRECT IMPACT OF DUAL ARMY COUPLES ON READINESS

There is great change and great instability in the world today. Eastern Europe has undergone dramatic shifts in political and power relationships in the last six months. Instability has frequently lead to hostilities. No one wants war but we must be prepared for it. Will dual Army couples respond to the call and perform as well or better than their counterparts? Short of war we will never have a complete answer to that question but some partial answers are available now.

In August 1976 two American officers were murdered in the Joint Security Area separating the two Koreas. The National Command Authority responded to this incident in a very deliberate and cautious manner. In Korea, U.S./U.N. forces were brought to the highest level of readiness (DEFCON 1). In his account of this incident Brian Mitchell maintains that many women in the wake of imminent war requested transfers to the rear. Mitchell asserts that "Most fully expected to be evacuated in the event of hostilities..." and "others(women) had reported for duty with dependent children in tow, since their arrangements for child

care did not cover the event of war. In some instances, male noncommissioned officers had left their posts remporarily to tend to the safety of their wives and girl friends in other units."(1) In his book Weak Link, Mitchell directs a stinging attack against women in the services and, in particular, in the Army. Mitchell uses his account of this incident as a supporting argument against women in the military. Mitchell argues that the expansion in the roles and number of women in the services was ill-conceived and disastrously implemented. Mitchell concludes that women in the services are incompatible with mission and readiness needs. As previously noted, a significant percentage of female soldiers are married to other soldiers. If Mitchell's account of this incident is accurate and if this could be generalized to the Army as a whole, then the obvious conclusion is that women in the Army and married couples in particular ( since many males left their units to tend to wives) are extremely detrimental to war fighting readiness. There appears to be little direct supporting evidence for Mitchell's contention. In fact, the recent Panama invasion indicates that it would be improper to generalize the Korean incident to the Army as a whole.

Although the Korean incident and the Panama invasion

(data not available yet) provide some useful insights,

neither involved mobilization, massive reinforcement nor

large scale land combat. What would be the response of dual

Army couples in the event of mid to high intensity conflict?

Three studies provide an indication of the likely response.

The Army Research Institute (ARI) has conducted several studies and surveys on dual Army couples. These studies have generally focused on retention rather than readiness. Illustrative of these studies is the Teplitzky, Thomas and Nogami report published in 1988. This report was based on a survey and interviews of just 149 dual Army officers. this survey 86% of those officers believe that the Army can count on dual Army couples in the event of an emergency or deployment. This is a strong level of agreement and men held this belief more strongly than women. However, the remaining 14% of this sample did not believe the Army could count on dual Army couples in the event of an emergency. Although this is a small percentage it is nonetheless significant. This significance is amplified when one considers that the population in this sample consisted exclusively of dual Army officer couples. A reasonable assumption would be that this group would be sympathetic and supportive of dual Army couples. Secondly, the officer corps is the bastion of commitment to selfless service. If this group of officers have this level of doubt about themselves as a group, what conclusions could be reasonably drawn about the commitment of the much larger group of enlisted dual Army couples?

In the same survey this group expressed much less support for Army requirements in the day-to-day conflicts between Army/unit/career needs and family commitments. This has a much larger implication for impacting readiness on a

daily basis (i.e. reduced commitment to training). This study concludes that "dual Army career officers enjoy their work and like Army life, but the demands of dual Army career lifestyle appear to be perceived by many as weing incompatible with family goals."(2) The conflict between service and family commitments is common to all service members. This conflict is compounded when both spouses are service members.

In 1982 the General Accounting Office conducted a study of sole and inservice parents and in part concluded:

"As noted earlier, some major and unit commanders contend that sole and inservice parents will not be readily available or available at all in the event of war or a national emergency. Data we gathered from firstline supervisors and sole and inservice parents, however, disclosed that, while some problems may exist, most sole and inservice parents included in our survey would deploy in a timely manner. However, when compared to sole and inservice parents, supervisors believed that the service members included in our survey who were neither sole parents nor inservice parents would most likely be present and punctual in the event of a war or national emergency."(3)

As can be seen from the above the GAO report found that most dual Army couple parents would be available in the event of war. A logical extension of this would be that most (probably a greater percentage) dual Army couples that are not parents would be available. The important point in this study that is easily overlooked is contained in the last sentence quoted above. Although most dual Army couple parents will be available, first line supervisors generally feel that their response will be less than that of either

their single or married to a non-service member counterpart.

There was remarkable consistency in the findings of the GAO study, the results of the ARI survey and a survey of former battalion and brigade commanders conducted at the USAWC in 1989-1990. In analyzing the War College survey results LTC Marino concluded "... That most dual Army parents, in the view of former senior commanders, can and will respond to deployments with at least the same degree of reliability as other soldiers/officers."(4) In reference to actual hostilities Marino concluded: "The majority (57.9%) indicated that their dual-military parents would proceed with mission requirements thereby properly executing their familycare plans. The remaining 42.1% of the respondents indicated that they felt that one or both members would, in essence, put family considerations above the mission and absent themselves for either a long or short term (time not defined in the survey)."(5)

There are two common threads in these three reports.

The first is that dual military couples as a group are performing as well or better than their single and married not to a service member counterparts. This includes short term deployments to meet training/contingency requirements. The second is that in each study a distinct group (first line supervisors, dual Army couples, former commanders) predicts that the response of dual Army couples in the event of war will be less than that of their counterparts. Short of actual war we will never know if these predictions are

accurate. If the predictions are correct, will the lower response of dual Army couples make a significant difference in the outcome? At what level does it become significant? Again, only war will provide a complete answer to these questions.

Some dual Army couples will respond to the call. Some will not. The dilemma for the Army is to identify who will and who will not respond as required in the event of war. This applies equally to all soldiers. It would be improper to discriminate against all dual Army couples because of a prediction that some will not perform their duty as expected.

#### ENDNOTES

- 1. Brain Mitchell, Weak Link: The Feminization of the American Military, p.92
  - 2. Teplitzky, Thomas and Nogami, p.viii
- 3. General Accounting Office, Army Needs Better Data to Develop Policies for Sole and Inservice Parents, p.8
- 4. Marino, Charles Jr, LTC, <u>Sole Parents and Their Impact on Readiness</u>, p. 42
  - 5. <u>Ibid</u>, p. 42

# CHAPTER IV PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

"The goal of the Officer Professional Development

System is to strengthen and fortify the will, character,

knowledge and skills of those who lead and support

soldiers... Our capacity to defend our Nation and to preserve

the vitality of the Army of tomorrow depends on the state of

officer development today."(1)

All leaders work, train, and prepare themselves very hard for something they hope will never happen — war. Our preparedness for war is to a large measure dependent upon the collective professional development of the officer and NCO Corps. The best weapons become impotent in the hands of soldiers who are not technically and tactically competent. Competence does not just happen. It is the product of individual study, institutional training and education, and assignments and experience. Professional development programs for officers and NCOs must blend these elements to produce the tactically/technically competent leaders our nation demands for our soldiers. This must be done over the span of a career.

What is the impact of dual Army couples on the professional development of the members of the couple? Since there is no exact measure of the state of professional development, the impact cannot be directly accessed. However, a close examination of the professional development

requirements and processes can yield some conclusions. This chapter will focus on professional development and the implications of this process on dual Army couples. Primary emphasis will be on officer professional development. Enlisted professional development will also be addressed, but in less detail.

D.A. Pamphlet 600-3, Commissioned Officer Professional Development and Utilization, provides a guide to the Army's process for officer professional development. In it each branch proponent outlines the role of the branch in the Army, basic skills of specialties within the branch, professional development objectives and, most importantly, basic branch qualification criteria. Basic branch qualification is normally a prerequisite for promotion to major. To detail the professional development requirements for each branch is beyond the scope of this paper. Additionally, it is the common requirements/demands that are of interest to this A generic professional development career model developed by Personnel Command is provided in the appendix (p. 41). A thorough review of this model in conjunction with D.A. Pam 600-3 reveals that the professional development demands placed upon the officer corps are significant. Consider the following list of requirements at company grade level:

Professional Military Education: OBC, OAC, CAS3, technical courses as appropriate for assignment/branch.

Civilian Education: B.A. required, Masters recommended

Experience: Flatoon leader, Company Commander, battalion staff, Recruiting, Readiness Group, or ROTC (for some), functional area assignment for those officers with a functional specialty.

To narrow the focus further, consider what may be expected of a Captain: Complete OAC and CAS3, company command, battalion staff experience, advanced civil schooling (for some), functional area assignment, and/or a nominative assignment(3R). The difficulty in completing these requirements is complicated by the time frame (3.5 to 10 years of service) involved. This means as a captain an officer will normally be eligible for reassignment by PERSCOM to an area capable of satisfying career progression needs only twice, occasionally three times. Indeed we are asking captains to accomplish a great deal in just two assignments.

How are dual Army couples affected by this?

Intuitively, it becomes more difficult to satisfy the separate professional needs of the members of a couple and accommodate a joint domicile assignment as they progress in rank. To the couple, which is more important the career enhancing assignment or a joint domicile? In the Teplitzky survey 78% of the men and 88% of the women rated joint domicile as a very important career decision factr 32)

This report also states:

"Obtaining career enhancing joint domicile assignments is another problem for dual military career couples. Both males and females are reluctant to endure long separations from their spouses preferring to have one or both spouses

leave the services. Since both men and women tend to give the husbands' career the higher priority in dual career families, career conflicts are more likely to result in the departure of the wife than the husband" (3)

This tendency may partially account for the higher long term retention rate among men. For example, "in 1978, 89.1% of DOD officers were men and 10.9% were women. In 1988, 50.5% of the men and 41.9% of the women remained."(4) Army continuation rates are consistent with this.

Inevitably, dual Army couples are faced with a dilemma: take the right job and endure a long separation, or accept a less desirable job and maintain the joint domicile or have one member separate. The direct impact of this on readiness is not measurable. But those officers that have accepted a less than optimum professional development path will not (due to a lack of experience) as a group be capable of making the same level of contributions to their unit as their counterparts that are not faced with this dilemma. If this were not true then the whole concept of professional development through a series of assignments to positions of increasing responsibilities is falsely based. there will be exceptions based upon the unique characteristics of the individuals involved. It also appears likely that those units with a high density of women will be affected most. This stems from the disproportionate participation of female soldiers in dual Army couples and the tendency to sacrifice the female's career for the male's. This tendency to place the male's career ahead of the

female's may flow from the fact that the male is usually senior and, therefore, has the greater investment in his career. It may also stem from social pressures revolving around the traditional sex roles. Regardless of the source, the tendency to put the male career ahead of the female career is strong. As a professional development officer at MILPERCEN I counseled no less than 50 dual Army couples on their professional development needs and, in the process, noted the almost overwhelming tendency to place the male career first. This observation is supported by the study noted above and others.

Army Regulations 614-200, Selection of Enlisted Soldiers for Training and Assignment, 600-200, Enlisted Personnel Management, and 350-17, Noncommissioned Officer Development Program must be used together to draw a full understanding of the professional development requirements for NCOs. are many parallels in the progressive nature of professional development between officers and NCOs. For example the formal military education requirements for NCOs begins with PLDC and progresses through BNOC, ANOC, 1SG Course to the Sergeants Majors Academy. Assignments to positions of progressively greater responsibility are also remarkably similar. However, the promotion system in the enlisted ranks is somewhat more forgiving for NCOs that do not follow the traditional path. Nonetheless, at the senior enlisted ranks the ability of the personnel system to match grade and MOS requirements with the professional development needs of a

couple at a joint domicile location is limited. Enlisted couples, like officer couples are probably more willing to sacrifice the professional development of one member rather than endure a long separation. Given that the male is usually the senior member it is more likely that the females development will be sacrificed. The effect of this phenomenon on a unit's readiness is essentially the same for officers and NCOs. The direct effect on units is that they receive leaders whose professional development has been tempered/restricted by family considerations above and beyond that associated with a single or married to a non-member leader. It is impossible to place a quantitative value on the level of professional development. Additionally, a soldier's value to a unit is not determined solely by the state of his professional development. However, it is reasonable to conclude that the cumulative effect of all the opportunity costs associated with selecting a joint domicile over a career enhancing assignment by dual Army couples is significant to the Army as a whole. At the individual unit level this effect is probably unnoticed.

#### ENDNOTES

- 1. Bagnal, Charles W, <u>Professional Development of Officers</u> Study, Office of the Chief of Staff of the Army, Washington D.C., February 1985, p.7
  - 2. Teplitzky, Thomas and Nogami, p.19
  - 3. <u>Ibid</u>, p.8
- 4. Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, <u>Military Women in the Department of Defense</u>, p. 18

#### CHAPTER V

#### CONCLUSIONS

I have reached the following conclusions based upon the research presented in this paper:

- o The vast majority of dual Army couples are professional, hard working, and dedicated.
- o Dual Army couples adversely affect readiness in two
  ways:
- Dual Army couples and in particular dual Army couple parents are not as likely to be immediately available and responsive to national emergencies/war as their single/married to non-military counterparts.
- The conflicting requirements for joint domicile vice career developing assignments produces a professional development shortfall for at least one member of the couple. Units may suffer from the assignment of these personnel to leadership positions.
- o It is impossible to directly measure the impact of the above. In all likelihood it is not a major distractor to readiness and simply be a cost of doing business.
- o Most dual Army couples decide early in the relationship which member's career will be given priority and which will be second consideration in the joint domicile

assignment process.

o It is impossible to identify either those dual Army couples that are negatively impacting readiness or those positively impacting readiness. It would be improper/unfair to develop policy for a group based on the expected low performance of some.

## CHAPTER VI

# RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are submitted for consideration:

- o That the Army continue its current policy in regard to joint domicile assignments.
- o The Deputy Chief for Personnel, Headquarters,

  Department of the Army should prepare a counseling checklist

  for supervisors of members of dual Army/service couples. The

  primary purpose of the checklist would be to ensure that

  members are made aware of joint domicile/development dilemma

  early in their career. Secondly, that supervisors are made

  aware of this dilemma and its ramifications so that they can

  properly counsel soldiers.
- o The Army has requested authority to conduct a voluntary Reduction in Force Program (RIF). Should this authority be granted and it becomes necessary to conduct a RIF, and if volunteers exceed requirements, then dual Army couple status should be given some priority in the selection process.

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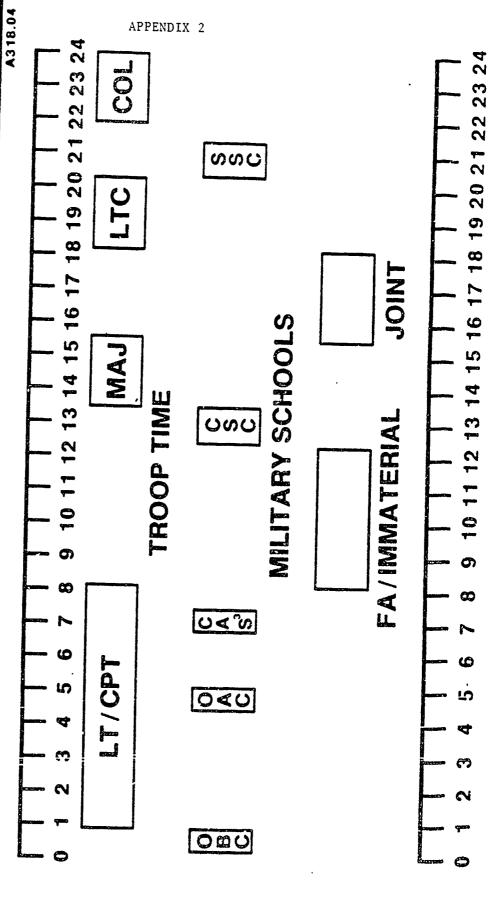
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