Annotated Bibliography
The Impact of Deployment on Children
A Review of the Quantitative and Qualitative Literature
Submitted By:

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Introduction

This annotated bibliography serves as a summary guide to the literature on the impact of parental deployment on child and family functioning during Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). In total, 28 peer-reviewed articles were identified that focused, in whole or in part, on the impact of deployment on children. Fourteen of these articles were quantitative studies, eight were literature reviews, five were qualitative studies and one utilized mixed methods (i.e. included both qualitative and quantitative analyses). All articles were peer-reviewed and the literature reviews contained only articles that were peer-reviewed. Six primary outcome variables were identified in the literature: internalizing behavior problems, externalizing behavior problems, academic adjustment, family problems, peer problems, and physical health problems. The information presented in this bibliography is organized by outcome variable. More detailed information on each of these articles can be found in Appendix A.

The majority of articles in this annotated bibliography did not examine these outcomes in isolation, rather two or more of these outcomes were examined in a single article. Thus, an article may be considered in more than one section of this bibliography. It is important to note that in this bibliography, the term “deployed parent,” refers to the parent who is currently deployed, “nondeployed parent” refers to a military parent who is not currently deployed, and “caregiver” refers to the spouse of the military parent.
Internalizing Behavior Problems

There were 13 articles (seven quantitative studies, two literature reviews, three qualitative studies, and the qualitative analyses of the mixed methods study) focusing on child internalizing behavior problems. The term “internalizing” was inclusive of several different problems including depression, anxiety, child stress, emotional problems/symptoms, and a broad collection of internalizing symptoms as defined by the Child Behavior Checklist.

Summary:

Children between the ages of six and seventeen years, experience sadness, anxiety, and other internalizing behavior problems (i.e., emotional problems) during parental deployment. Military children of this age across the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines, are experiencing increased emotional problems, compared to civilian children. Children ages three to five years with a deployed parent exhibited more emotional problems than their military peers with a nondeployed parent. A number of studies showed that parental distress predicted more emotional problems for children, regardless of branch. Evidence is mixed regarding the effects of gender, ethnicity, length of parental deployment, and parent rank on the impact of parental deployment on children’s emotional problems, with different studies demonstrating different results.

Barker & Berry (2009):
- Sample Size \(N = 57\); 51% boys; ethnic breakdown not specified; age range 0-47 months; Branch: Army
- Young children were often confused or didn’t understand the meaning of deployment
- Children showed increased attachment problems during deployment and at reunion compared to those not experiencing a parental deployment

Chandra, Lara-Cinisomo, Jaycox, Tanielian, Burns, Ruder, & Han (2010):
- \(N = 1507\); 53.4% boys; 72.4% White, 11.2% African American, 9.7% Other, 5.3% Hispanic/Latino, 1.3% Asian/Pacific Islander; Age range 11-17 years (Mean \(\mu = 12.8\), standard deviation \(SD = 1.5\)); Branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine
- Children of Service members had more emotional difficulties (defined globally and non-specifically) than a national sample
- Girls reported more challenges overall (definition not specified) both during deployment and reintegration
- Poorer caregiver mental health was associated with more emotional difficulties
- Children who experienced more months of parental deployment in the past three years were rated by caregivers to be experiencing more challenges
- Parents reported more emotional problems for children of lower-level enlisted (E1-E4) compared to children of officers
- The deployed parent’s communication was not associated with child difficulties
Chartrand, Frank, White, & Shope (2008):
- \( N = 169; 51.48\% \) boys; 65.68% White, 15.98% African American, 13.61% Hispanic/Latino, 1.78% Asian, 1.18% other; age range 1.5-5 years (\( M = 3.1, SD = 0.9 \)); Branch: Marine
- Children aged three to five years with a deployed parent exhibited more internalizing problems than their military peers without a deployed parent, even after controlling for caregiver’s stress and depressive symptoms

Davis & Treiber (2007):
- Sample size (\( N \)) = 121, 52% boys; 74.4% Non-Caucasian; age (\( M = 15.8 \) years, \( SD = 1.1 \)); Branch: Army
- Military adolescents with deployed parents reported higher stress symptoms and fewer psychological resources than adolescents with nondeployed or civilian parents
- Differences were particularly marked for non-Caucasian adolescents

Drummet, Coleman, & Cable (2003):
- Literature Review
- Military families experience stressors common to all families (e.g., child care, education, parenting concerns, etc.) and some that are unique (e.g. frequent separation, repeated relocation)
- Reunions can be very difficult due to different roles in the family and who plays each role, household management, honeymoon effect (e.g. romanticized reunion), rejection by children, and physical and mental impairment

Finkel, Kelly, & Ashby (2003):
- \( N = 86 \) mother-child dyads; gender breakdown not specified; 75.6% White, 12.8% African American, 5.8% Pacific Islander, 2.3% Hispanic/Latino, 1.2% multicultural; age (\( M = 11.8 \) years, \( SD = 2.1 \)); Branch: Not specified
- Children’s more positive feelings toward their mother, longer time in current residence, and more family cohesion significantly predicted less fear of negative evaluation, higher self-esteem, and less loneliness
- More internalizing behavior problems were predicted by higher levels of maternal depression
**Flake, Davis, Johnson, & Middleton (2009):**

- \( N = 101; \) 52% boys; 65% White, 13% Hispanic/Latino, 9% Asian, 9% African American, 4% other; Age range 5-12 years (\( M = 8.6, SD = 2.2 \)); Branch: Army
- Parents reported more general stress, though they did not report more “parenting stress”, than normed data (i.e., data obtained from parents outside of this study)
- Higher levels of parenting stress were associated with children’s poorer psychosocial functioning
- According to parent reports, 39% of the children were “high risk” (on a 0 to 70 scale, scores greater than or equal to 28 are considered “high risk”) for internalizing symptoms
- According to parent reports, children had higher levels of psychosocial difficulties (physical, emotional, or cognitive difficulties) than a national sample
- Higher levels of parenting stress were associated with children’s poorer psychosocial functioning
- Children identified as “high risk” were more likely to have parents who perceived poor support, had less education, and were young spouses of enlisted Service members
- Length of separation, time with deployed unit, child gender, age, and race were not associated with higher risk for psychosocial difficulties

**Houston, Pfefferbaum, Sherman, Melson, Joen-Slaughter, Brand, & Jarman (2009):**

- \( N = 24; \) 63% boys; 58% White, 21% African American, 17% American Indian, 4% Hispanic/Latino; age range 6-17 years; Branch: National Guard
- Short term effects of deployment include initial loneliness and sadness about the parent’s departure
- Children of deployed National Guard troops reported their biggest concern is about their deployed parent getting hurt, dying, or not coming home and the family’s safety while the father was away

**Huebner, Mancini, Wilcox, Grass, & Grass (2007):**

- \( N = 107; \) 54% boys; 61% White, 17% African American, 7% Hispanic/Latino, 3% Pacific Islander, 1% Native American, 10% Biracial; age range 12-18 years; Branch: Not specified
- Approximately 32% of participants made statements indicative of depressive symptoms
Huebner, Mancini, Bowen, & Orthner (2009):

- Literature Review
- Deployment and the stress of the military can have a negative impact on marriages and child well-being
- Support systems are available to help caregivers and their children cope with these stresses
- A community-based approach to support systems that emphasizes shared responsibility and collective competence between community members may buffer negative effects

Lester, Peterson, Reeves, Knaus, Glover, Mogil, Duan, Saltzman, Pynoos, Wilt, & Beardslee (2010):

- $N = 272$ children, $N = 228$ parents; 55% boys; ethnic breakdown not specified; age range 6-12 years ($M = 8.53, SD = 2.0$); Branches: Army, Marine
- Child behavioral adjustment and depression levels were comparable to community norms
- Anxiety was significantly elevated for both boys and girls, with 30% of the children demonstrating clinically significant anxiety symptoms
- Cumulative length of parental combat-related deployments predicted increased child depression (as measured by the Child Behavioral Checklist {CBCL})
- Moreover, parental distress, whether reported by caregiving parents or Service members/deployed parents, predicted child internalizing (as measured by the CBCL)

Mmari, Roche, Sudhinaraset, & Blum (2009)

- $N = 98$; 39% boys; 56.4% White, 20.5% African American, 12.8% Hispanic/Latino, 2.5% Native American, 2.5% other; age range 12-18 years ($M = 14.6$); Branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine
- Children may experience initial sadness and loneliness when their parent first deploys

Morris & Age (2009):

- $N = 65$; 49% boys; 48% White, 33% African American, 6% Biracial, 6% other, 5% Hispanic/Latino, 2% Asian; age range 9-15 years ($M = 11.75, SD = 1.56$); Branch: Navy
- There were no differences between children with parents who were deployed and those with nondeployed parents in terms of coping or emotional problems (e.g. worries or seems worried)
- Children with both deployed and nondeployed parents had higher rates of emotional problems than normed samples
- Parent support and effortful control were associated with more positive outcomes in children
- Age was not related to coping or emotional problems
- Girls reported more support seeking and emotional problems than boys
Externalizing Behavior Problems

In the review of the literature, there were 10 articles (six quantitative and three qualitative studies, and both quantitative and qualitative analyses of the mixed methods study) identified that examined child externalizing problems. Externalizing behavior problems included issues such as aggressive behavior, conduct problems, and hyperactivity.

Summary:

Children with deployed parents do not exhibit more externalizing behavior problems (e.g., acting out, aggressive behaviors) than national samples or children with nondeployed parents. Studies on older children (ages six years and older) produced mixed findings, two studies on younger children (under the age of five years) both found that experiencing a parental deployment was related to increased behavior problems, particularly for children who had already experienced at least one parental deployment. The longer total time a parent is away, the more behavioral problems children exhibited. Decreased parent well-being is related to more behavior problems for children during parental deployment.

Barker & Berry (2009):

- N = 57; 51% boys; ethnic breakdown not specified; age range 0-47 months; Branch: Army
- Children’s behavior problems were higher during deployment especially for those experiencing multiple deployments
- Deployment length, parental stress, and cumulative time gone were all positively correlated with externalizing behavior problems
- Children’s intense attachment behaviors at reunion were positively correlated with number of deployments, length of deployments, and parental stress

Chandra, Lara-Cinisomo, Jaycox, Tanielian, Burns, Ruder, & Han (2010):

- N = 1507; 53.4% boys; 72.4% White, 11.2% African American, 9.7% Other, 5.3% Hispanic/Latino, 1.3% Asian/Pacific Islander; Age range 11-17 years (M = 12.8, SD = 1.5); Branches: Army, Navy, Airforce, Marine
- Older adolescents tended to report more behavioral problems (the definition of behavior problems was not specified by the authors)
**Chartrand, Frank, White, & Shope (2008):**
- \( N = 169 \); 51.48\% boys; 65.68\% White, 15.98\% African American, 13.61\% Hispanic/Latino, 1.78\% Asian, 1.18\% other; age range 1.5-5 years (\( M = 3.1, SD = 0.9 \)); Branch: Marine
- Children ages 3 to 5 years with a deployed parent showed more externalizing problems than their military peers with a nondeployed parent (even after controlling for caregiver stress and depression)

**Finkel, Kelly, & Ashby (2003):**
- \( N = 86 \) mother-child dyads; gender breakdown not specified; 75.6\% White, 12.8\% African American, 5.8\% Pacific Islander, 2.3\% Hispanic/Latino, 1.2\% multicultural; age (\( M = 11.8, SD = 2.1 \)); Branch: Not specified
- Externalizing behavior problems were predicted by higher levels of maternal depression
- Externalizing behavior problems were predicted by children’s more negative feelings toward their mother
- Mobility (child age/number of moves) was not a significant predictor of externalizing problems

**Flake, Davis, Johnson, & Middleton (2009):**
- \( N = 101 \); 52\% boys; 65\% White, 13\% Hispanic/Latino, 9\% Asian, 9\% African American, 4\% other; Age range 5-12 years (\( M = 8.6, SD = 2.2 \)); Branch: Army
- According to parents, 29\% of children were “high risk” (on a 0 to 70 scale, scores \( \geq 28 \) are considered high risk) for externalizing symptoms
- Children identified as high risk were more likely to have parents who perceived poor military or community support, had less education, and were young spouses of enlisted Service members

**Huebner, Mancini, Wilcox, Grass, & Grass (2007):**
- \( N = 107 \); 54\% boys; 61\% White, 17\% African American, 7\% Hispanic, 3\% Pacific Islander, 1\% Native America, 10\% Biracial; age range 12-18 years; Branch: Not specified
- Adolescents may stifle their emotions so that they can act as if they are okay when in fact they are not
- One result of emotional suppression is lashing out in anger
Lester, Peterson, Reeves, Knauss, Glover, Mogil, Duan, Saltzman, Pynoos, Wilt, & Beardslee (2010):
- $N = 272$ children, $N = 228$ parents; 55% boys; ethnic breakdown not specified; age range 6-12 years ($M = 8.53$, $SD = 2.0$); Branches: Army, Marine
- Cumulative length of parental combat-related deployments predicted increased externalizing problems in children
- Parental distress (caregiver or Service member/deployed parent) predicted externalizing problems
- No differences in externalizing problems observed by gender or age

Lincoln, Swift, & Shorteno-Fraser (2008):
- $N = 1$; male; White; age 17 years; Branch: Not specified
- In a case study of a 17 year old boy with a history of aggressive behavior his caregiver felt unsafe living with the boy when the father went on deployment

Mmari, Roche, Sudhinaraset, & Blum (2009)
- $N = 98$; 39% boys; 56.4% White, 20.5% African American, 12.8% Hispanic, 2.5% Native American, 2.5% other; age range 12-18 years ($M = 14.6$); Branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine
- During deployment both parents and school personnel perceive an increase in adolescent externalizing behavior problems, particularly among boys
- Reporters indicated that externalizing behavior is the result of difficulty expressing emotions

Morris & Age (2009):
- $N = 65$; 49% boys; 48% White, 33% African American, 6% Biracial, 6% other, 5% Hispanic/Latino, 2% Asian; age range 9-15 years ($M = 11.75$, $SD = 1.56$); Branch: Navy
- No differences found between children with and without a deployed parent in terms of conduct problems (e.g. loses temper)
Academic Adjustment

Five articles focused on children’s academic adjustment (three quantitative and two qualitative studies). Two of the quantitative studies described adjustment or associations within one group, with both comparing their samples to standardized norms. One study compared the academic achievement of children with a deployed parent to that of children with a nondeployed parent.

Summary:

While some children cope well with deployment, others experience academic difficulties during parental deployments. Parental deployment during the school year tends to marginally decrease test scores, and the longer parents were deployed, the greater the negative impact on academic achievement. Being older was associated with more academic problems during both deployment and reunion for children. Decreased caregiver well-being was associated with less academic engagement for children.

Chandra, Lara-Cinisomo, Jaycox, Tanielian, Burns, Ruder, & Han (2010):
- \( N = 1507; \) 53.4% boys; 72.4% White, 11.2% African American, 9.7% Other, 5.3% Hispanic/Latino, 1.3% Asian/Pacific Islander; Age range 11-17 years (\( M = 12.8, SD = 1.5 \)); Branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine
- Poor caregiver mental health was associated with less academic achievement among adolescents ages 11 to 17
- Older children of Service members reported more academic challenges during deployment as well as reintegration

Chandra, Martin, Hawkins, & Richardson (2010):
- 148 school staff members; gender breakdown not specified; ethnic breakdown not specified; Branch: Army
- Although some children seem to be coping well with deployment, school staff felt that children’s anxiety related to parental absence, increased responsibilities at home, poor caregiver mental health, difficulty accessing mental health services, uncertainty about deployment length, and increased stress at home affected the ability of other students to function well in school
- School staff felt that parental deployment negatively affected social and emotional functioning for some children such that deployed lead to sadness and anger which disrupted classroom activities
Engel, Gallagher, & Lyle (2010):
- \( N = 56,116 \); 49% boys; 37% White, 32% African American, 11% Other; grades 3-11; Branch: Army
- Children with a parent deployed during the school year had slightly lower academic scores
- The longer the parent was deployed, the greater the negative impact on academic achievement
- Upon return of the deployed parent, academic achievement slowly increased. Four years later, scores were similar to children without a deployed parent

Flake, Davis, Johnson & Middleton (2009):
- \( N = 101 \); 52% boys; 65% White, 13% Hispanic/Latino, 9% Asian, 9% African American, 4% Other; Age range 5-12 years (\( M = 8.6, SD = 2.2 \)); Branch: Army
- Based on reports from the caregiver, 14% of children with a deployed parent reported having school-related problems (dropping grades, decreased interest, teacher conflict)

Mmari, Roche, Sudhinaraset, & Blum (2009)
- \( N = 98 \); 39% boys; 56.4% White, 20.5% African American, 12.8% Hispanic, 2.5% Native American, 2.5% other; age range 12-18 years (\( M = 14.6 \)); Branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine
- Having school staff who are familiar with military life and military culture may serve to buffer against the negative experiences that children may go through when a parent deploys
Family Problems

In the review of the literature, there were 20 articles (nine quantitative articles, seven literature reviews, three qualitative articles, and both quantitative and qualitative analyses of the mixed methods article) identified that examined family problems. For this review, family problems included family violence, child maltreatment (physical, emotional, sexual abuse and neglect), child interactions with families, and parent well-being (e.g., parent stress). Six quantitative articles and two of the literature reviews focused exclusively on family violence or child maltreatment including neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse. No qualitative articles examined family violence and/or child maltreatment.

Family Violence

**Summary:**

Child maltreatment is lower in military families compared with civilian families. Rates of child maltreatment, in general, and child neglect in particular, increase during parental deployment. Younger children and older adolescents were at greater risk of maltreatment when parents were not deployed, children between the ages of two and twelve were at heightened risk during parental deployment.

**Gibbs, Martin, Kupper, & Johnson (2007):**

- \( N = 1771; \) gender breakdown not specified; ethnic breakdown not specified, age range 1-18 years \( (M = 6); \) Branch: Army
- The majority (54%) of substantiated child maltreatment offenders were non-Hispanic White
- The rate of child maltreatment during deployment was 42% higher than the rate of maltreatment when the Soldier was not deployed. The rate of moderate to severe maltreatment was especially high during deployment compared to when the Soldiers were not deployed
- The rate of child neglect when Soldiers were deployed was almost twice the rate of child neglect when Soldiers were not deployed
- Rates of physical and emotional abuse were lower during deployment than during nondeployment
- The rate of child maltreatment by female civilians was more than three times higher during times of deployment, compared to nondeployment
- The rate of child neglect by female spouses during deployment was almost four times the rate when Soldiers were not deployed. The rate of child abuse by female spouses during deployment was nearly twice the rate when Soldiers were not deployed
Martin, Gibbs, Johnson, Rentz, Clinton-Sherrod, & Hardison (2007):

- \( N = 465,100 \); gender breakdown not specified, ethnic breakdown not specified, age information not specified; Branch: Army
- Within Army families, 61% of substantiated violence perpetrators abused their spouses, 27% abused children, and 12% abused both spouses and children
- Physical abuse was the most widespread amongst spouses
- Neglect was most prevalent form of maltreatment for children
- Army soldiers who committed both spouse and child offenses were approximately one and a half times more likely than soldiers who committed child offenses only to have multiple child offenses
- Army family violence offenders are more likely to be married, male, African American, enlisted rather than officers, and in higher salary paygrades compared to all Army Soldiers

McCarroll, Fan, Newby, & Ursano (2008):

- \( N = 54,341 \); gender breakdown not specified, ethnic breakdown not specified, age range 0-18 years; Branch: Army
- The incidence of maltreatment committed by parents tends to be higher in Army families (90% committed by parents) compared to US national data (79.9% committed by parents)
- The incidence of maltreatment committed by fathers is greater within the Army (56%) compared to US national data (41.8%)
- Neglect rates in the Army decreased from a high point in 1991 to a low in 2000. From 2000 to 2004, neglect rates increased by 40%. The US national data showed little change in neglect rates over those times. These changes coincide with two large-scale deployments of the US Army to the Middle East (1991 and 2002–2004)
- Rates of neglect among Army families were highest for younger children and decreased with age
- Rates of physical abuse and neglect were generally higher for boys than for girls, up to the teenage years when the difference then reversed


- Literature Review
- Physical abuse and neglect are the most common forms of substantiated child maltreatment in military families, followed by sexual and emotional abuse
- Comparative studies of military and civilian populations show mixed results in terms of child maltreatment or spouse abuse. Some report higher rates in the military and others finding lower rates in the military
Rentz, Marshall, Loomis, Casteel, Martin, & Gibbs (2007):
- $N = 147,982$; 49% boys; ethnic breakdown not specified, age range 0 to 17 years; Branch: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine
- Substantiated maltreatment among military families was twice as high in the period after October 2002 (the 1 year anniversary of the September 11th attacks) compared with the period prior to that date
- The rate of child maltreatment in military families increased by 30% for each 1% increase in the percentage of active duty personnel departing to or returning from operation-related deployment
- Children under the age of four had the highest rate of maltreatment among both military and civilian families with children under the age of one year at greatest risk for maltreatment

Rentz, Marshall, Martin, Gibbs, Casteel, & Loomis (2008):
- $N = 962$ Military cases, 119,379 Civilian cases; 51.5% fathers, 45.5% White, 29.9% African American, 17.5% Hispanic/Latino, 7.0% Other; age range 0-17 years; Branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine
- Incidences of physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse is lower for children in military families compared to civilian families
  - Except among adolescents age 16-17 where the rates are comparable
- When maltreatment does occur in military families, it is more likely to come in the form of physical abuse (rather than other forms of maltreatment) when compared to civilian families
- Substantiated maltreatment in military families is highest among children under age one year
- African American (non-Hispanic) military families had the highest rate of substantiated child maltreatment
- No gender differences were found in the probability of experiencing substantiated maltreatment in children

Schaeffer, Alexander, Bethke, & Kretz, (2005):
- $N = 765$; gender breakdown not specified; ethnic breakdown not specified; age range 0-6 years (M = 2.3); Branch: Army
- Parental depression, parental stress, and family stress predicted child abuse potential for both mothers and fathers
- Low family expressiveness was a predictor of child abuse potential unique to fathers
- Marital dissatisfaction, low social support, and low family cohesion were predictors of child abuse potential unique to mothers
Other Family Problems

Summary:

Children in military families (i.e., Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines) had more difficulty interacting with their families than a national sample. Deployment and reunion may be very difficult for families as they have to readjust family roles, renegotiate responsibilities and household management. Child bonding issues, such as difficulty connecting with a parent, are undermined by longer parental deployments, experiencing multiple deployments, and increased stress experienced by parents. Poorer caregiver well-being was associated with more difficulty in family interactions among military families.

Barker & Berry (2009):
- \(N = 57;\) 51% boys; ethnic breakdown not specified age range 0-47 months; Branch: Army
- Children showed increased attachment problems during deployment and at reunion
- When the deployed parent returns home some conflict may ensue between the returning parent and their child

Chandra, Lara-Cinisomo, Jaycox, Tanielian, Burns, Ruder, & Han (2010):
- \(N = 1507;\) 53.4% boys; 72.4% White, 11.2% African American, 9.7% Other, 5.3% Hispanic/Latino, 1.3% Asian/Pacific Islander; Age range 11-17 years \((M = 12.8, SD = 1.5);\) Branch: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine
- Children of Service members had more family difficulties (getting along in the family) than a national sample
- Poorer caregiver mental health was associated with family difficulties in children

Chartrand & Seigel (2007):
- Literature Review
- An estimated 1,600 children have lost a parent as a result of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and a larger number of children have an injured parent
- Activated Reserve troops and their families face unique challenges (e.g., not located near a military base and its associated support resources, pay cuts, job loss, and changes in medical insurance)
- No current data has reported the specific impact on children of war-related parental injury or deaths
Drummet, Coleman, & Cable (2003):
• Literature Review
• Military families experience stressors common to all families (e.g., child care, education, parenting concerns, etc.) and some that are unique (e.g. frequent separation, repeated relocation)
• Reunions can be very difficult due to different roles in the family and who plays each role, household management, honeymoon effect (e.g. romanticized reunion), rejection by children, and physical and mental impairment.

Flake, Davis, Johnson, & Middleton, (2009):
• $N = 101$; 52% boys; 65% White, 13% Hispanic/Latino, 9% Asian, 9% African American, 4% Other; Age range 5-12 ($M = 8.6$, $SD = 2.2$); Branch: Army
• Parents with a deployed partner report more general stress compared to normed data, but not more stress related to parenting
• Higher levels of parenting stress are linked to poor psychosocial outcomes in children

Houston, Pfefferbaum, Sherman, Melson, Joen-Slaughter, Brand, & Jarman (2009):
• $N = 24$; 63% boys; 58% White, 21% African American, 17% American Indian, 4% Hispanic/Latino; age range 6-17 years; Branch: National Guard
• During deployment children experience the absence of a parent which results in considerable changes in the family
• Children reported an increase in responsibility around the house ranging from chores to taking care of siblings
• Siblings and caregiver more easily upset

Huebner, Mancini, Wilcox, Grass, & Grass (2007):
• $N = 107$; 54% boys; 61% White, 17% African American, 7% Hispanic/Latino, 3% Pacific Islander, 1% Native America, 10% Biracial; age range 12-18 years; Branch: Not specified
• The emotional climate of the family may become more intense during parental deployment
**McFarlane (2009):**
- Literature Review
- Some veterans develop post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as a consequence of their experiences
- The components of PTSD (e.g., withdrawal, numbing, and irritability) drive many of the adverse changes in the families of returning veterans due to the effects on intimacy and nurturance in their families
- There is a lack of systematic research on the topic of military families and the deployment cycle

**Mmari, Roche, Sudhinaraset, & Blum (2009):**
- \(N = 98\); 39% boys; 56.4% White, 20.5% African American, 12.8% Hispanic/Latino, 2.5% Native American, 2.5% other; age range 12-18 years \((M = 14.6)\); Branch: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine
- 71% of children and adolescents said that the biggest change was an increase responsibility at home

**Morris & Age (2009):**
- \(N = 65\); 49% boys; 48% European American, 33% African American, 6% biracial, 6% other, 5% Hispanic/Latino, 2% Asian; age range 9-15 years \((M = 11.75, SD = 1.56)\); Branch: Navy
- Parental support is associated with more positive child outcomes
- No difference was found between children with and without a deployed parent in terms of parental support or coping
- Many parents and adolescents reported that the deployed parent’s return was more stressful than the initial departure
- Some adolescents experienced stress with trying to get to know their parent again

**Palmer (2008):**
- Literature Review
- Military experiences have an indirect effect on child outcomes
- Parent-child relationship quality and relationships serve as a mechanism by which military risk and resilience factors impact children
- PTSD deceases parent-child relationship quality, which leads to increase externalizing behavior problems
Sheppard, Malatras, & Israel (2010):

- Literature Review
- Deployment and reintegration are major life events
- Global family stability, such as residences or schools, can be disrupted with deployment
- Molecular family stability, such as daily routines, can be disrupted with deployment
- These disruptions can create stress in families that undermines family functioning
Peer Problems

In the review of the literature there were two quantitative and one qualitative study identified that dealt with child peer problems, including children’s ability to interact with others and peer relationship quality. One quantitative study compared peer problems between children with a deployed parent and children with a nondeployed parent. The other quantitative study did not make this comparison but instead provided information about variables associated with peer problems during parental deployment.

Summary:

Deployment status is not associated with child social functioning. Some adolescents report that friends are a meaningful source of support while others report that friends do not or cannot understand what they are going through. Children with a deployed parent reported being more comfortable discussing problems they are having with other military children rather than civilian children or school counselors. A child’s positive feelings toward his/her caregiver and family cohesion may act as buffers against poor peer relationships during parental deployment. Poor caregiver well-being appears to be associated with more peer difficulties among older children.

Chandra, Lara-Cinisomo, Jaycox, Tanielian, Burns, Ruder, & Han (2010):
- \( N = 1507; 53.4\% \text{ boys}; 72.4\% \text{ white}, 11.2\% \text{ African American}, 9.7\% \text{ Other}, 5.3\% \text{ Hispanic/Latino}, 1.3\% \text{ Asian/Pacific Islander}; \text{ Age range } 11-17 \text{ years} (M = 12.8, SD = 1.5); \text{ Branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine} \\
- Poorer caregiver mental health was associated with more peer difficulties
- Children who experienced more months of parental deployment in the past three years were rated by caregivers to be experiencing more challenges

Finkel, Kelly, & Ashby (2003):
- \( N = 86 \) mother-child dyads; gender breakdown not specified; 75.6% White, 12.8% African American, 5.8% Pacific Islander, 2.3% Hispanic/Latino, 1.2% multicultural; age \( (M = 11.8, SD = 2.1) \); Branch: Not specified
- Children’s more positive feelings toward their mothers, longer time in current residence, and more family cohesion significantly predicted more positive peer relationships.
- Mobility (child’s age/number of moves) was not a significant predictor of peer relationships
Mnari, Roche, Sudhinaraset, & Blum (2009)

- $N = 98$; 39% boys; 56.4% White, 20.5% African American, 12.8% Hispanic/Latino, 2.5% Native American, 2.5% other; age range 12-18 years ($M = 14.6$); Branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine
- Some adolescents report that friends are a meaningful source of support while other report friends do not or cannot understand what they are going through
- Often adolescents seek support from other adolescents who have experience with deployment
Physical Health

In the review of the literature, one article was identified that dealt with physical health. Physical health was assessed in addition to internalizing behavior. This article is a quantitative article.

Summary:

Army adolescents (with both deployed and nondeployed parents) had higher heart rates than civilian children, yet no differences were found in blood pressure. Adolescents with a deployed parent, however, had higher Body Mass Indices (BMIs) than both adolescents with a nondeployed parent and civilian adolescents.

Davis & Trieber (2007):

- $N = 121$, 52% boys; 74.4% Non-Caucasian; age ($M = 15.8$, $SD = 1.1$); Branch: Army
- Adolescents with a deployed parent had higher BMIs than civilian adolescents and adolescents with a nondeployed military parent
- Children of military parents (both deployed and nondeployed) had higher heart rates than children of civilian parents
- Caucasian military adolescents had higher blood pressure than other ethnic groups
- The authors attribute these differences to the higher levels of stress that military children encounter compared to their civilian counterparts
References


**Purpose of Research**

| Main Purpose: | To examine the impact of parent deployment (single and multiple) on young children, comparing reports of those experiencing a single deployment, multiple deployments, or no deployment |
| Secondary Purpose: | None |

**Research Methods**

| Type of Design: | Mixed Methods |
| | Qualitative: Open-ended survey questions |
| | Quantitative: Description of adjustment/associations with no comparison, and comparison to a non-matched military control group (nondeployed) |
| Source/ Informant: | Deployed Parent (after returning home) |
| | Caregiving Parent |
| Key Outcome Variable: | Qualitative: internalizing problems, externalizing problems, family problems |
| | Quantitative: externalizing problems ("observed behavior responses"), family problems ("intense attachment behaviors") |

**Participants**

| Sample Size | N = 57 families (21 with a single deployment, 22 with multiple deployments, 14 with no deployments) |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gender</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Ethnic</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>Family Information</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SES:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gender of Deployed Parent</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Military Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Service Member Rank Composition:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Service Component Composition:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Service Branch Composition: 100% Army
- Deployed From: CONUS
- Average Months Deployed:
  - Single deployment group: 15 months
  - Multiple deployment group: 6 months
- Deployment Stage(s): Not Specified
- Average Months Postdeployment: 1.25 months at Time 2
- Characteristics of Deployment
  - Single deployment group: Combat Support
  - Multiple deployment group: Combat Service Support
- Average Number of Previous Deployments: Multiple deployment group: 2.4
- Operations: Operation Iraqi Freedom

### Key Findings:

Qualitative: Younger children were often confused or did not understand the meaning of deployment. Children also showed increased attachment problems during deployment and at reunion, compared to those not experiencing a parental deployment. When the deployed parent returns home some conflict may ensue between the returning parent and their child.

Quantitative: According to parents' retrospective reports, children's behavior problems were higher during deployment than pre-deployment, especially for those experiencing multiple deployments. Deployment length, parental stress, and cumulative time gone were all positively correlated with externalizing behavior problems. Children's intense attachment behaviors at reunion were positively correlated with number of deployments, length of deployments, and parental stress.

### Limitations of the Study

**Threats to Internal Validity:**

Selected participants may differ from non-participants in a way that is not measured, but affected the outcome variables. Also, the authors did not analyze the qualitative response, but rather, just included them in a table. Barker and Berry (2009) asked caregivers to retrospectively report their children’s pre-deployment behavior problems, as well as their children’s current behavior problems. Although the parents give a retrospective report of
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Barker, L. H., &amp; Berry, K. D. (2009)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>children's behaviors pre-deployment, this strategy is flawed because retrospective reports are not as accurate as, or may be given in comparison to, reports of current behavior. In addition, while the authors survey parents at two timepoints, they do not use the same sample for both assessments, and the &quot;nondeployed&quot; group only completed one assessment. Along with this, the groups may have pre-existing differences that were not measured or controlled statistically (e.g., different deployment lengths).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths of External Validity:</th>
<th>Only children under the age of 4 years with a parent in the Army were included in this study.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>There was a positive correlation between children's ages and externalizing behavior problems during deployment; older children exhibited more behavior problems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No results were reported based on gender, ethnicity, SES, rank, branch, or component.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Threats to Construct Validity: | The authors appear to have created scales to measure externalizing behavior problems and intense attachment behaviors, but no psychometric data is provided for those measures. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reviewed By:</th>
<th>Stacy Hawkins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review Date:</td>
<td>10/04/10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Purpose of Research

**Main Purpose:**
To explore the prevalence of reported child abuse in the military and compare those rates to the civilian population

**Secondary Purpose:**
None

### Research Methods

**Type of Design:**
Literature Review

**Source/Informant:**
Not Applicable

**Key Outcome Variable:**
Family Problems (child abuse and neglect)

### Participants

**Sample Size:**
Not Applicable

**Child Information**
- **Age:** Not Applicable
- **Gender:** Not Applicable
- **Ethnic:** Not Applicable

**Family Information**
- **SES:** Not Applicable
- **Gender of Deployed Parent:** Not Applicable

**Military Information**
- **Service Member Rank Composition:** Not Applicable
- **Service Component Composition:** Not Applicable
- **Service Branch Composition:** Not Applicable
- **Deployed From:** Not Applicable
- **Average Months Deployed:** Not Applicable
- **Deployment Stage(s):** Not Applicable
- **Average Months Post-deployment:** Not Applicable
- **Characteristics of Deployment:** Not Applicable
- **Average Number of Previous Deployments:** Not Applicable
- **Operations:** Not Applicable

### Key Findings:

This paper reviews the military and civilian literature on rates of child abuse and neglect. The authors note that military families face a number of challenges that make them vulnerable to high levels of stress, such as financial burden, long...
separations, frequent moves, and isolation from friends and family. During deployment, the risk of child abuse may increase even further. More research should be done on military families stationed outside the continental U.S. Like the civilian population, risk for child abuse in military families is higher among younger parents. Self-selection into the military may also be a factor contributing to child abuse as some studies have shown higher rates of military members where they themselves have been abused. Some caution should be taken in utilizing data from registries however.

### Limitations of the Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threats to Internal Validity:</th>
<th>No Empirical Analysis or Evidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengths of External Validity:</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threats to Construct Validity:</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reviewed By: Gabriel Schlamfer

Review Date: 07/12/10
### Reference


### Purpose of Research

| Main Purpose: | To describe the health and well-being of children from military families from the perspectives of the child and caregivers |
| Secondary Purpose: | To assess the experience of deployment for children and how it varies according to total months of deployment and military service component |

### Research Methods

| Type of Design: | Quantitative: Description of adjustment/associations with no comparison, and comparison to standardized norms |
| Source/ Informant: | Caregiving Parent Child |
| Key Outcome Variable: | Internalizing Problems (emotional symptoms)  
Externalizing Problems (behavior problems)  
Academic Adjustment (being prepared for school)  
Family Problems (getting along in the family)  
Peer Problems (ability to interact with other youth) |

### Participants

| Sample Size | N = 1507 |

#### Child Information

| Age | Children's ages ranged from 11 to 17, with an average of 12.8 (SD = 1.5) |
| Gender | 53.4% Boys |
| Ethnic | 72.4% White/Caucasian  
11.2% Black/African American  
9.7% Other/Multiracial  
5.3% Hispanic/Latino  
1.3% Asian/Pacific Islander |

#### Family Information

| SES: | 85.6% of parents had some college or more. No income information was specified, and no SES composite measure was used. |
| Gender of Deployed Parent | Not Specified |

#### Military Information
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Chandra, A., Lara-Cinisomo, S., Jaycox, L. H., Tanielian, T., Burns, R. M., Ruder, T., &amp; Han, B. (2010)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Service Member Rank Composition:</strong></td>
<td>72.5% Enlisted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Service Component Composition:</strong></td>
<td>62.9% Active Component</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Service Branch Composition:</strong></td>
<td>57.1% Army 19.8% Air Force 16.8% Navy 5.5% Marines 0.9% Coast Guard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deployed From:</strong></td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average Months Deployed:</strong></td>
<td>10.9 months in the past 3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deployment Stage(s):</strong></td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average Months Post-deployment:</strong></td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Characteristics of Deployment</strong></td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average Number of Previous Deployments</strong></td>
<td>5.2% had 0 38.6% had 1 29.1% had 2 27.1% had 3 or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operations:</strong></td>
<td>Not Specified (data collected June - August, 2008)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Key Findings:**

Children of Service members had more emotional and family difficulties than a national sample. Emotional difficulties was defined globally and non-specifically as "emotional symptoms." Family difficulties was defined as the child's ability to get along in the family. Older children reported more behavior problems (definition not specified) and academic challenges, and girls reported more challenges overall (definition not specified), both during deployment and at reintegration. Poorer caregiver mental health was associated with less academic engagement and more emotional, peer, and family difficulties. Children who experienced more months of parental deployment in the past 3 years were rated by caregivers to be experiencing more challenges. Deployment status was not associated with child social functioning.

**Limitations of the Study**

**Threats to Internal Validity:**

Selected participants may differ from non-participants in a way that is not measured, but affected the outcome variables. Also, by comparing military children to a standardized norm, the authors make the assumption that there are no pre-deployment differences between military and civilian children. Finally, without a pretest or comparison to a
**Reference**  
Chandra, A., Lara-Cinisomo, S., Jaycox, L. H., Tanielian, T., Burns, R. M., Ruder, T., & Han, B. (2010)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths of External Validity:</th>
<th>control group, there is no clear evidence of the direction of effects. This is a particular concern for the findings regarding caregivers' mental health; it may be that having a child experiencing more difficulties compromises caregivers' emotional functioning.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strengths of External Validity:</strong></td>
<td>Only children ages 11-17 were included in the study. Additionally, children of members of the Coast Guard were excluded from the analyses because of their small number.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Being older was associated with more academic and behavior problems.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Being a girl was associated with more difficulties during both deployment and reintegration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Caregivers reported more emotional problems for children of lower-level enlisted Service members (E1-E4), compared to children of officers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The deployed parent's component was not associated with child difficulties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No results were reported based on ethnicity, SES, or service branch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threats to Construct Validity:</td>
<td>Parents or children may have been trying to respond in the &quot;best&quot; way. Additionally, parent reports may be limited to only outcomes that occur within the home.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The researchers created measures to assess child difficulties during deployment and reintegration. Little information is available within the article regarding the psychometric properties (e.g., reliability, validity) of these measures.</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reviewed By:</th>
<th>Stacy Hawkins</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review Date:</td>
<td>06/18/10</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Purpose of Research

**Main Purpose:** To examine the effect of parental deployment on the social and or emotional functioning of children and youth in the school setting, and to highlighting how these challenges vary by service component.

**Secondary Purpose:** None

### Research Methods

**Type of Design:** Qualitative: Focus groups and semi-structured interviews

**Source/ Informant:** Teachers / Other school personnel

**Key Outcome Variable:** Academic Adjustment

### Participants

**Sample Size**

N = approximately 148 staff members (including 12 schools serving children of military families) Schools ranged in size (588-1400 students)

**Child Information**

- **Age**
  
  Not Specified (staff worked at elementary, middle/junior high, and high schools)

- **Gender**
  
  Not Specified

- **Ethnic**
  
  Not Specified

**Family Information**

- **SES:**
  
  Not Specified

- **Gender of Deployed Parent**
  
  Not Specified

**Military Information**

- **Service Member Rank Composition:** 98% Enlisted

- **Service Component Composition:** Not Specified

- **Service Branch Composition:** 100% Army

- **Deployed From:**
  
  Not Specified

- **Average Months Deployed:**
  
  Not Specified

- **Deployment Stage(s):**
  
  Not Specified

- **Average Months Postdeployment:**
  
  Not Specified

- **Characteristics of Deployment**
  
  Not Specified

- **Average Number of Previous Deployments**
  
  Not Specified

- **Operations:**
  
  Not Specified (data collected Spring, 2008)
Key Findings: Although some children seem to be coping well with deployment, school staff felt that children’s anxiety related to parental absence, increased responsibilities at home, poor mental health of some caregiving parents, difficulty accessing mental health services, uncertainty about deployment length, and increased stress at home affected the ability of other students to function well in school. School staff felt that parental deployment negatively affected social and emotional functioning for some children and youth such that the deployment lead to sadness and anger which disrupted classroom activities.

Limitations of the Study

Threats to Internal Validity: School staff members who chose to participate may differ from those who did not participate in ways that affected outcome variables.

Strengths of External Validity: Only teachers, counselors, and administrative staff reporting on their perceptions of the academic functioning of elementary, middle, and high school students from Army families were included in the study.

School staff working with children associated with the Reserve Components reported that isolation is a problem for these children; many are the only one in their grade or school with a parent who is deployed.

No results were reported based on age, gender, ethnicity, or SES.

Threats to Construct Validity: Teacher and other school personnel reports are limited to only outcomes that occur at school.

Reviewed By: Debbie Casper
Review Date: 10/03/10

**Purpose of Research**

Main Purpose: To briefly review the available literature relating to the physical health and mental health of military troops, and their families and children

Secondary Purpose: To describe the reasons that the impact may be greater on children in the Reserves and National Guard

**Research Methods**

Type of Design: Literature Review

Source/Informant: Not Applicable

Key Outcome Variable: Family Problems (family stress and challenges)

**Participants**

Sample Size | Not Applicable

Child Information

- Age | Not Applicable
- Gender | Not Applicable
- Ethnic | Not Applicable

Family Information

- SES: | Not Applicable
- Gender of Deployed Parent | Not Applicable

Military Information

- Service Member Rank Composition: | Not Applicable
- Service Component Composition: | Not Applicable
- Service Branch Composition: | Not Applicable
- Deployed From: | Not Applicable
- Average Months Deployed: | Not Applicable
- Deployment Stage(s): | Not Applicable
- Average Months Post-deployment: | Not Applicable
- Characteristics of Deployment | Not Applicable
- Average Number of Previous Deployments | Not Applicable
- Operations: | Not Applicable

**Key Findings:**

For the first time in history, the number of military dependents (spouses and children) outnumbers Active Duty and Reserve members of
Many military members and their families are experiencing repeated combat deployments. An estimated 1,600 children have lost a parent as a result of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and a larger number of children have an injured parent. Activated Reserve troops and their families face unique challenges (e.g., not located near a military base and its associated support resources, pay cuts, job loss, and changes in medical insurance).

The impact of the war on families and children has not been fully studied, nor is it clear that data from Operation Desert Storm can be generalized to the current conflict. Also, no current data has reported the specific impact on children of war-related parental injury or deaths. Hence, many questions remain and more work is needed to develop a short- and long-term research strategy to address these outstanding questions.

### Limitations of the Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threats to Internal Validity:</th>
<th>No Empirical Analyses or Evidence</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengths of External Validity:</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threats to Construct Validity:</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reviewed By: Leslie Bosch  
Review Date: 07/09/2010

### Purpose of Research

**Main Purpose:** To describe the effect of wartime military deployments on the behavior of young children (1.5 to 5 years) in military families

**Secondary Purpose:** None

### Research Methods

**Type of Design:** Quantitative: Comparison to non-matched military control group (nondeployed)

**Source/Informant:** Caregiving Parent
Teacher / Other school personnel

**Key Outcome Variable:** Internalizing Problems (CBCL internalizing)
Externalizing Problems (CBCL externalizing)

### Participants

**Sample Size** | N = 169

**Child Information**

- **Age:** Children ranged in age from 1.5 to 5, with a mean of 36.7 months (SD = 11.3 months).
- **Gender:** 51.48% Boys
- **Ethnic:**
  - 65.68% White
  - 15.98% Black
  - 13.61% Hispanic
  - 1.78% Asian
  - 1.77% Missing
  - 1.18% Other

**Family Information**

- **SES:** No income information was specified. Regarding parents' education: 13.02% High school or less, 44.97% Some college, 41.42% College degree or higher, 0.59% Missing
No composite measure of SES was used, however, rank was used as a proxy for SES.
- **Gender of Deployed Parent:** 92.7% Fathers

**Military Information**

- **Service Member Rank Composition:** 80% Enlisted
- **Service Component Composition:** 100% Active Component
- **Service Branch Composition:** 100% Marines
- **Deployed From:** CONUS
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|

- **Average Months Deployed:** 3.9 (SD = 2.4)
- **Deployment Stage(s):** Not Specified
- **Average Months Post-deployment:** Not Specified
- **Characteristics of Deployment** Not Specified
- **Average Number of Previous Deployments** Not Specified
- **Operations:** Not Specified (data collected May - Dec., 2007)

**Key Findings:**

In a multivariate regression interaction model children aged 3 years or older with a deployed parent exhibited more externalizing behavior problems than their military peers with a nondeployed parent, even after controlling for caregivers' stress and depressive symptoms No significant difference was found for internalizing as an interaction between age and deployment status.

**Limitations of the Study**

**Threats to Internal Validity:**

Selected participants may differ from nonparticipants in a way that is not measured, but affected the outcome variables. For example, those who chose to participate may be functioning better than those who did not respond. Possible pre-existing group differences, as well as other untested variables, may be influencing results. For example, the groups may differ according to resources such as parental social support. Additionally, without a pretest, there is no clear evidence of the causal direction (i.e., that military deployments cause externalizing problems in children).

**Strengths of External Validity:**

Only children aged 1.5 to 5 with parents in the Marines (Active Component) were included in this study.

Older children (ages 3 to 5 years) with a deployed parent exhibited increased, and more likely clinically significant, internalizing and externalizing behavior problems, compared with peers with a nondeployed parent.

No results were reported based on gender, ethnicity, SES, or Service member rank.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Threats to Construct Validity:</td>
<td>Parents and teachers may have been trying to respond in the “best” way. Also, parent and teacher reports may be limited to only outcomes that occur within their particular context (i.e., home or school, respectively).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reviewed By:</td>
<td>Leslie Bosch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review Date:</td>
<td>06/23/2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reference


### Purpose of Research

**Main Purpose:** To evaluate self-reported psychological responses among adolescents who had a family member deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom, compared to adolescents who did not have a family member deployed, and to their civilian dependent counterparts.

**Secondary Purpose:** To measure general sympathetic nervous system arousal, resting heart rate, and blood pressure at the onset and end of major OIF hostilities.

### Research Methods

**Type of Design:** Quantitative: Comparison to non-matched civilian and non-matched military control groups

**Source/ Informant:** Child

**Other Source:** Physiological tests

**Key Outcome Variable:** Internalizing Problems (adolescent stress) Physical Health (blood pressure, body mass index, heart rate)

### Participants

**Sample Size**  
N = 121

**Child Information**

- **Age**  
Participants were high school students, with an average age of 15.8 years (SD = 1.1)

- **Gender**  
52% Boys

- **Ethnic**  
74.4% Non-Caucasian

**Family Information**

- **SES:**  
No income, education, or SES information was specified.

- **Gender of Deployed Parent**  
Not Specified

**Military Information**

- **Service Member Rank Composition:**  
Not Specified

- **Service Component Composition:**  
100% Army

- **Service Branch Composition:**  
Not Specified

- **Deployed From:**  
CONUS

- **Average Months Deployed:**  
Not Specified
| --- | --- |

- **Deployment Stage(s):** Not Specified
- **Average Months Post-deployment:** Not Specified
- **Characteristics of Deployment** Not Specified
- **Average Number of Previous Deployments** Not Specified
- **Operations:** Operation Iraqi Freedom

**Key Findings:**

- Military children (with both deployed and not-deployed parents) had higher heart rates than children of civilian parents, and Caucasian military adolescents had higher blood pressure than other ethnic groups.
- Adolescents with a deployed parent had higher BMIs than civilian adolescents and adolescents with a military parent who was not deployed.
- Military children with deployed parents also reported higher stress symptoms and fewer psychological resources than adolescents with nondeployed or civilian parents; differences were particularly marked for Caucasian adolescents.

**Limitations of the Study**

**Threats to Internal Validity:**

- Groups may have pre-existing differences that were not measured, particularly when considering military versus civilian dependents. Although data was collected at multiple timepoints, the analyses did not compare scores over time; without this analysis, the differences evidenced cannot be attributed solely to parental deployment.
- In fact, other variables may be influencing results. For example, higher levels of media exposure or awareness of OIF coverage may be leading to increased stress for adolescents with a deployed parent.

**Strengths of External Validity:**

- Only adolescents attending a high school near an Army base in Georgia were included in this study.
- Caucasian military adolescents had higher blood pressure than other ethnic groups, however, for children of civilian parents, non-Caucasian adolescents had higher blood pressure than Caucasian adolescents. Non-Caucasian military adolescents had particularly high levels of stress.
and low levels of psychological resources. No results were reported based on age, gender, SES, rank, branch, or component.

**Threats to Construct Validity:**
The researcher may have influenced responses, intentionally or unintentionally (such as blood pressure readings) and for self-report data, adolescents may try to respond in the "best" way.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reviewed By:</th>
<th>Brian Tokarski</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review Date:</td>
<td>07/06/2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Reference (APA Citation)

## Purpose of Research

| Main Purpose: | To summarize the research on military relocation, separation, and reunion |
| Secondary Purpose: | To offer suggestions and recommendations for the creation and implementation of family life education programs for military families |

## Research Methods

| Type of Design: | Literature Review |
| Source/ Informant: | Not Applicable |
| Key Outcome Variable: | Internalizing Problems (stress) Family Problems (family roles / boundaries) |

## Participants

| Sample Size | Not Applicable |
| Child Information | |
| Age | Not Applicable |
| Gender | Not Applicable |
| Ethnic | Not Applicable |
| Family Information | |
| SES: | Not Applicable |
| Gender of Deployed Parent | Not Applicable |
| Military Information | |
| Service Member Rank Composition: | Not Applicable |
| Service Component Composition: | Not Applicable |
| Service Branch Composition: | Not Applicable |
| Deployed From: | Not Applicable |
| Average Months Deployed: | Not Applicable |
| Deployment Stage(s): | Not Applicable |
| Average Months Post-deployment: | Not Applicable |
| Characteristics of Deployment | Not Applicable |
| Average Number of Previous Deployments | Not Applicable |
| Operations: | Not Applicable |
Key Findings:

Military families experience stressors common to all families (e.g., child care, parenting concerns, etc.) and some that are unique (e.g., frequent separation, repeated relocation). In terms of relocation, most troubling for children is the lack of control, sense of loss, and cumulative stress. Separation is the greatest source of distress reported by military spouses. Sources of stress related to separation include: child care issues, relationship maintenance, boundary negotiation, and media coverage of military events. Additionally, reunion can be very difficult due to roles and boundary issues, household management, honeymoon effect, rejection by children, physical and mental impairment.

Implications for practice include: (1) practitioners need to be aware of lack of confidentiality and stigma attached to mental health services so better to frame as education; (2) need to be aware of cultural issues such as discrimination and racism; (3) family constellation likely affects separation; (4) spouse’s career needs must be addressed; (5) families should have some control over some relocation decisions; (6) programs need to be developed to help children adjust to relocation; (7) family life educators can help with reunion issues such as connecting families with programs and agencies, and establishing support groups for children and spouses.

Limitations of the Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threats to Internal Validity:</th>
<th>No Empirical Analyses or Evidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengths of External Validity:</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threats to Construct Validity:</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reviewed By: Debbie Casper
Review Date: 07/15/10
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Purpose of Research**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Purpose</th>
<th>To present a more comprehensive picture of children's academic achievement during a parent's absence during deployment in the current operations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Purpose</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Research Methods**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Design</th>
<th>Quantitative: Description of adjustment with no comparison, and comparison to unmatched military control group (nondeployed)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source/ Informant</td>
<td>Scores on a Standardized Instrument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Outcome Variable</td>
<td>Academic Adjustment (arts, language, math, reading, science, social studies)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Participants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Size</th>
<th>N = 56,116</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Age</td>
<td>Children were in grades 3 through 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Gender</td>
<td>49% Boys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ethnic</td>
<td>37% White 32% Black 11% Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• SES:</td>
<td>71% Graduated high school 20% Had some college education 7% Had a college degree 1% Had a graduate degree No income information was specified, and no measure of SES was used.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Gender of Deployed Parent</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Service Member Rank Composition:</td>
<td>100% Enlisted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Service Component Composition:</td>
<td>100% Active Component</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Service Branch Composition:</td>
<td>100% Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Deployed From:</td>
<td>OCONUS and CONUS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Average Months Deployed:</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Deployment Stage(s):</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Average Months Post-deployment:** Not Specified
- **Characteristics of Deployment:** Combat
- **Average Number of Previous Deployments:** Not Specified
- **Operations:** Not Specified (data collected 2002-2005)

**Key Findings:**

Children with a parent deployed during the school year had slightly lower academic scores (0.42%), and the longer parents were deployed, the greater the negative impact on academic achievement (0.11% per month of deployment). This was attenuated by how long a parent had been home before the test date; the longer a parent had been home, the better his/her child performed. After parents returned, academic performance slowly increased; four years after reintegration, children no longer had scores significantly different from those not experiencing a parental deployment.

**Limitations of the Study**

**Threats to Internal Validity:**

As the researchers did not examine academic achievement prior to parent deployment, it is possible that the groups may have pre-existing differences that were not measured. Additionally, other untested variables may be influencing results. For example, the branch in which the parent serves may also be associated with academic achievement, but is not assessed in the current analyses.

**Strengths of External Validity:**

Only children attending a DoDEA school with a parent who was an enlisted Service member in the Army (active component) were included in the study.

Results were not reported by age, gender, ethnicity, SES, or branch, although age, gender, and ethnicity were used as control variables. This study used a very large and geographically diverse data set which is its primary strength concerning external validity.

**Threats to Construct Validity:**

Possible differences in other aspects of academic achievement may be missed because only one measure was used in the study.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reviewed By:</td>
<td>Stacy Hawkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review Date:</td>
<td>06/22/10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose of Research</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main Purpose:</strong></td>
<td>To examine maternal and family factors and family mobility as related to mother’s and children’s reports of psychological adjustment of children in military families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Secondary Purpose:</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Methods</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type of Design:</strong></td>
<td>Quantitative: Description of adjustment/associations with no comparison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Source/Informant:</strong></td>
<td>Caregiving Parent Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Key Outcome Variable:</strong></td>
<td>Internalizing Problems (CBCL internalizing) Externalizing Problems (CBCL externalizing) Peer Problems (peer relationships)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participants</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sample Size</strong></td>
<td>N = 86 Mother-child Dyads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Child Information</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Age</td>
<td>Mean = 11.8 (SD = 2.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Gender</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ethnic</td>
<td>75.6% Caucasian 12.8% African American 5.8% Pacific Islander 2.3% Hispanic 1.2% Multicultural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family Information</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• SES:</td>
<td>Families had a mean income of $49,000/year (SD = $16,800). Mothers: 3.5% No high school diploma, 22.1% High school diploma or GED, 47.7% Vocational-technical degree or some college, 23.3% Bachelor's Degree, 3.5% Master's Degree Fathers: 30.2% High school diploma or GED, 30.2% Vocational-technical degree or some college, 19.8% Bachelor's degree, 16.3% Master's degree, 3.5% MD/PhD The authors did not use a composite SES measure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Findings:</td>
<td>Children's more positive feelings toward their mothers, longer time in current residence, and more family cohesion significantly predicted less fear of negative evaluation, higher self esteem, less loneliness, and more positive peer relationships. Child negative feelings toward their mother was associated with more child conduct problems. In contrast, more internalizing and externalizing behavior problems were predicted by higher levels of maternal depression. Mobility (child's age/number of moves) was not a significant predictor of any outcomes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limitations of the Study</td>
<td>Threats to Internal Validity: Selected participants may differ from non-participants in ways that are not measured, but affect the outcome variables. Additionally, other untested variables may be influencing results. For example, fathers' deployment status, which was not explicitly assessed, may influence children's outcomes. Finally, without a pretest, there is no clear evidence of a causal direction; for instance, it may be that having more positive peer relationships predicts more family cohesion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Strengths of External Validity: Only children with a father in the Active component were included in this study. No results were reported based on age, gender,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ethnicity, SES, Service member rank, service branch, or component</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threats to Construct Validity:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reviewed By:</td>
<td>Gabriel Schlomer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review Date:</td>
<td>07/07/10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Purpose of Research

**Main Purpose:**
To describe the psychosocial profile of military school-age children during parental deployment, using standardized psychosocial health and stress measures and to identify predictors of those at "high risk" for psychosocial morbidity during wartime deployment.

**Secondary Purpose:**
None

### Research Methods

**Type of Design:**
Quantitative: Description of adjustment/associations with no comparison, and comparison to standardized norms.

**Source/ Informant:**
Caregiving Parent

**Key Outcome Variable:**
- Internalizing Problems ("internalizing symptoms")
- Externalizing Problems ("externalizing symptoms")
- Academic Adjustment (decreased interest, dropping grades, teacher conflict)
- Family Problems (parental stress)

### Participants

**Sample Size**
N = 101

**Child Information**
- **Age:** Ages ranged from 5 to 12, with an average of 8.6 (SD = 2.2)
- **Gender:** 52% Boys
- **Ethnic:** 65% White, 13% Hispanic, 9% Asian, 9% Black, 4% Other

**Family Information**
- **SES:** Caregiving Parent: 58% Less than college degree, 42% College degree or higher. Deployed Service member: 67% Less than college degree, 33% College degree or higher. No income information was specified, and the
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Gender of Deployed Parent</td>
<td>86% Fathers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Information</td>
<td>authors did not use an SES composite measure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Service Member Rank Composition:</td>
<td>77% Enlisted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Service Component Composition:</td>
<td>Not Specified; Data collected on military base</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Service Branch Composition:</td>
<td>100% Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Deployed From:</td>
<td>CONUS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Average Months Deployed:</td>
<td>Not Specified; 61% had deployed within six months prior to data collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Deployment Stage(s):</td>
<td>Not Specified; All were deployed at time of data collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Average Months Post-deployment:</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Characteristics of Deployment</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Average Number of Previous Deployments</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Operations:</td>
<td>Not Specified (data collection dates not specified)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key Findings:**

According to parents, 39% of the children were "high risk" (on a 0 to 70 scale, scores ≥ 28 are considered "high risk") for internalizing symptoms (not specified), 29% for externalizing symptoms (not specified), and 13% for attention problems, 56% experienced sleep difficulties and 14% reported school-related problems (dropping grades, decreased interest, teacher conflict). According to parent reports, children had significantly higher levels of psychosocial difficulties (physical, emotional, or cognitive difficulties) than a national sample. No difference was found between children with and without a deployed parent in terms of their psychosocial functioning.

Although parents reported more general stress, they did not report more "parenting stress" than normed data. Higher levels of parenting stress were positively associated with childrens' poorer psychosocial functioning, and children identified as "high risk" were more likely to have parents who perceived poor military or community support, had less education, and were young spouses of enlisted Service members. Length of separation, time with a deployed unit, child gender, child age, and race were not associated with higher risk for psychosocial difficulties.
### Limitations of the Study

<p>| Threats to Internal Validity: | Selected participants may differ from non-participants in a way that is not measured, but affects the outcome variables. The majority of the sample was recruited from a deployment meeting; parents who attend such meetings may differ on important variables from those who choose not to attend. Also, by comparing military children to a standardized norm, the authors make the assumption that there are no pre-deployment differences between military and nonmilitary children. Other variables may be influencing the results; for example, the relationship between parent education and child psychosocial morbidity may be driven by parent income, which was not assessed. Finally, without a pretest or comparison to a control group, there is no clear evidence of the direction of effects. This is a particular concern for the findings regarding the association between parent stress and child functioning; it may be that having a child experiencing more difficulties can increase parental stress. |
| Strengths of External Validity: | Only children age 5-12 with a deployed parent in the Army where included in this study. Child age, gender, and ethnicity were not associated with psychosocial functioning (defined as physical, emotional, or cognitive dysfunction). No results were reported based on SES, Service member rank, or component. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threats to Construct Validity:</th>
<th>By using only one reporter (i.e., caregiving parent), researchers may be missing particular aspects of child functioning. For example, the child may function better at school or in other contexts. Also, other aspects of child psychosocial functioning may be missed, as only one measure of symptomology was used. Additionally, the caregiving may try to respond in the &quot;best&quot; way. Finally, other aspects of child psychosocial functioning may be missed, as only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

one measure of symptomology was used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reviewed By:</th>
<th>Gabriel Schlomer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review Date:</td>
<td>07/07/10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Reference (APA Citation)

### Purpose of Research

| Main Purpose | To examine the association between combat-related deployment and rates of child maltreatment in families of enlisted soldiers in the US Army who had one or more substantiated reports of child maltreatment |
| Secondary Purpose | None |

### Research Methods

| Type of Design | Quantitative: Description of adjustment/associations with no comparison |
| Source/ Informant | Other Source (Army Central Registry, Human Resources Data) |
| Key Outcome Variable | Family Problems (child maltreatment: emotional abuse, neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse) |

### Participants

| Sample Size | 1771 families of enlisted soldiers |
| Child Information | |
| Age | Children ranged from 1 to 18 years (mean age was 6 years) |
| Gender | Not Specified |
| Ethnic | Not Specified |
| Family Information | |
| SES | Not Specified |
| Gender of Deployed Parent | Not Specified |
| Military Information | |
| Service Member Rank Composition | 100% Enlisted |
| Service Component Composition | Not Specified |
| Service Branch Composition | 100% Army |
| Deployed From | OCONUS and CONUS |
| Average Months Deployed | Not Specified |
| Deployment Stage(s) | Not Specified |
| Average Months Postdeployment | Not Specified |
| Characteristics of Deployment | Not Specified |
| Average Number of Previous Deployments | Not Specified |
| Operations | Operation Enduring Freedom Operation Iraqi Freedom |
**Key Findings:**

The majority (54%) of substantiated child maltreatment offenders were non-Hispanic White. The rate of child maltreatment rate during deployment was 42% higher than the rate of maltreatment when the Soldier was not deployed. The rate of moderate to severe maltreatment was especially high during deployment, compared to when the Soldiers were not deployed. The rate of child neglect when Soldiers were deployed was almost twice the rate of child neglect when Soldiers were not deployed. Rates of physical and emotional abuse were lower during deployment compared to rates when deployed.

The rate of child maltreatment by female civilians was more than 3 times higher during times of deployment. The rate of child neglect by female spouses during deployment was almost 4 times the rate when Soldiers were not deployed. The rate of child abuse by female spouses during deployment was nearly twice the rate when Soldiers were not deployed.

**Limitations of the Study**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threats to Internal Validity:</th>
<th>Selected participants may differ from non-participants in a way that is not measured but affect the outcome variables. Also, other untested variables may be influencing results. Finally, without a pre-test there is not clear evidence of causal direction.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengths of External Validity:</td>
<td>Only Army families with at least one substantiated case of child maltreatment were included in this study. Rates of maltreatment were higher for children between the ages of 2 and 5 years and between 5 and 12 years with deployed parents, compared to children with nondeployed parents. No results were reported by gender, ethnicity, SES, service member rank, or component</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threats to Construct Validity:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reviewed By:</td>
<td>Gabriel Schlomer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review Date:</td>
<td>08/19/10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Reference (APA Citation)

## Purpose of Research

| Main Purpose: | To begin exploring the impact of deployment on the thoughts and feelings of children of National Guard Service members, and to assess possible differences in the experiences of children of Active Component and National Guard Service Members |
| Secondary Purpose: | To specifically focus on child perceptions of one phase of deployment, the pre-deployment phase-the time in which the parent has left the home to complete training for an upcoming deployment, but has not yet left the country |

## Research Methods

| Type of Design: | Qualitative: Interviews |
| Source/ Informant: | Child |
| Key Outcome Variable: | Internalizing Behavior Problems |
|                 | Family Problems |

## Participants

| Sample Size | N = 24  (Ages 6-12, n = 20; Ages 13 to 17, n = 4) |
| Child Information | |
| - Age | Children ranged from 6 to 17 years old |
| - Gender | 63% Boys |
| - Ethnic | 58% White |
|             | 21% Black |
|             | 17% American Indian |
|             | 4% Hispanic |

| Family Information | |
| - SES: | No income information was specified. No education information was specified. |
| - Gender of Deployed Parent | 100% Fathers |

<p>| Military Information | |
| - Service Member Rank Composition: | 100% Enlisted |
| - Service Component Composition: | 100% Reserve Component |
| - Service Branch Composition: | 100% Army |
| - Deployed From: | CONUS |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>- Average Months Deployed:</th>
<th>All fathers were away for training prior to</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- Deployment Stage(s): Pre-deployment
- Average Months Postdeployment: Not Specified
- Characteristics of Deployment: Not Specified
- Average Number of Previous Deployments: Not Specified
- Operations: Operation Iraqi Freedom

**Key Findings:**

Short-term effects include initial loneliness and sadness about the parent's departure. Children report that their biggest concern is about their deployed parent getting hurt, dying, or not coming home, and the family's safety while the father was away.

During deployment children experience the absence of a parent, which results in considerable changes in the family. Children reported an increase in responsibility around the house, ranging from chores to taking care of siblings. They also reported a change in the caregiver and siblings such that they were more easily upset.

**Limitations of the Study**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threats to Internal Validity:</th>
<th>Selected participants may differ from nonparticipants in a way that is not measured, but affected the outcome variables.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengths of External Validity:</td>
<td>Only children/adolescents of National Guard troops between the ages of 6 and 17 were included in this study. No results were reported based on gender, ethnicity, or SES.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threats to Construct Validity:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reviewed By: Debbie Casper
Review Date: 10/02/10
### Reference (APA Citation)

### Purpose of Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Purpose:</th>
<th>To use the ambiguous loss framework to organize the responses of youth to uncertainty associated with parental deployment into categories reflecting a family system that is reorganizing itself because of the absence of a key family member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Purpose:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Research Methods

| Type of Design: | Qualitative: Focus groups |
| Source/ Informant: | Child |
| Key Outcome Variable: | Internalizing Behavior Problems, Externalizing Behavior Problems, Family Problems |

### Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Size</th>
<th>N = 107</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### Child Information
- **Age**: Children ranged in age from 12 to 18 years
- **Gender**: 54% Boys
- **Ethnic**:
  - 61% White
  - 17% African American
  - 10% Biracial
  - 7% Hispanic/Latino
  - 3% Pacific Islander
  - 1% Native American

#### Family Information
- **SES**: No income information was specified. No education information was specified. No composite SES measure was used.
- **Gender of Deployed Parent**: Not Specified

#### Military Information
- **Service Member Rank Composition**: Not Specified
- **Service Component Composition**: 64% Active Component
- **Service Branch Composition**: 39% Army
  - 10% Air Force
  - 4% Marines
  - 3% Navy
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------|

- **Deployed From:** Not Specified
- **Average Months Deployed:** Not Specified
- **Deployment Stage(s):** Not Specified
- **Average Months Postdeployment:** Not Specified
- **Characteristics of Deployment** Not Specified
- **Average Number of Previous Deployments** Not Specified
- **Operations:** Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom

### Key Findings:

Response themes included overall perceptions of uncertainty and loss, boundary ambiguity, changes in mental health, and relationship conflict. Themes related to the key outcome variables included:

1. Approximately 32% of participants made statements indicative of depressive symptoms, as one adolescent stated, "I can't go to sleep. Because they're like up and doing something you can't like, you're thinking about what they are doing."

2. Adolescents may stifle their emotions so that they can act as if they are okay, when in fact they are not. One seemingly common reaction to emotional suppression is lashing out. For example, one adolescent stated, "I don't really deal with it. I try not to... I just kind of hide it and I don't really deal with it until it gets to the breaking point where I'm just like, ugh! And I can't take it anymore."

3. The emotional climate of the family may become more intense during parental deployment. As one adolescent reported, "[It's hard] not having a dad to depend on for like 2 years, and now my mom is always upset when we talk about him."

### Limitations of the Study

**Threats to Internal Validity:** Selected or participating youth may differ from non-participants in ways that are not measured but affect the outcome variables. For example, youth who choose to participate in this study may be functioning better (or worse) than those who...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>choose not to participate. Participants may have tried to respond in the &quot;best&quot; way. Also, interviewers may have asked leading questions, or avoided important questions. Researchers may have assumed the meaning of words or phrases, or they may have overlooked unexpected findings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengths of External Validity:</td>
<td>Only youth between the ages of 12 and 18 with deployed parents were included in this study. No results were reported based on age, gender, ethnicity, SES, rank, component, or branch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threats to Construct Validity:</td>
<td>Constructs may not have been properly clarified or defined. Along with this, researchers may have influenced responses, intentionally or unintentionally.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reviewed By:</td>
<td>Leslie Bosch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review Date:</td>
<td>10/03/10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Purpose of Research

| Main Purpose: | To explore the issues of separation, time away from home, and reunion in families since 9/11 |
| Secondary Purpose: | To suggest a new approach to building family support systems to support military families |

## Research Methods

| Type of Design: | Literature Review |
| Source/ Informant: | Not Applicable |
| Key Outcome Variable: | Internalizing Problems (stress, coping) |

## Participants

| Sample Size | Not Applicable |

### Child Information

- Age | Not Applicable
- Gender | Not Applicable
- Ethnic | Not Applicable

### Family Information

- SES: | Not Applicable
- Gender of Deployed Parent | Not Applicable

### Military Information

- Service Member Rank Composition: | Not Applicable
- Service Component Composition: | Not Applicable
- Service Branch Composition: | Not Applicable
- Deployed From: | Not Applicable
- Average Months Deployed: | Not Applicable
- Deployment Stage(s): | Not Applicable
- Average Months Post-deployment: | Not Applicable
- Characteristics of Deployment | Not Applicable
- Average Number of Previous Deployments | Not Applicable
- Operations: | Not Applicable

## Key Findings:

Many military service members are married and/or have children. Deployment and the stress of the military can have a negative impact on marriages and child well-being. To buffer these
negative effects, support systems are available to help non-deployed parents and their children cope with these stresses. The authors argue for a community-based approach to support systems that emphasizes shared responsibility and collective competence between community members. Community capacity is built through both formal and informal social networks, both of which can lead to the other. Through these social networks, social capital (resources, friendship, & reciprocity) is built. Social capital is then positively related to positive parent and child outcomes.

Limitations of the Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threats to Internal Validity:</th>
<th>No Empirical Analyses or Evidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengths of External Validity:</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threats to Construct Validity:</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reviewed By: Gabriel Scholmer
Review Date: 07/09/10
### Purpose of Research

**Main Purpose:** To clarify the impact of parental stress and cumulative duration of parent deployment on child adjustment

**Secondary Purpose:** None

### Research Methods

**Type of Design:** Quantitative: Description of adjustment / associations with no comparison, and comparison to standardized norms

**Source/ Informant:** Deployed Parent (after returning home)
Caregiving Parent
Child

**Key Outcome Variable:** Internalizing Problems (CBCL internalizing, depression, and anxiety)
Externalizing Problems (CBCL externalizing)

### Participants

**Sample Size**

- N = 272 children
- N = 228 parents (163 caregiving parents, 65 Service members)

**Child Information**

- **Age:** Children ranged in age from 6 to 12 (M = 8.53, SD = 2.0)
- **Gender:** 55% Boys
- **Ethnic:** Not Specified

**Family Information**

- **SES:** No income or educational information was specified. No composite SES measure was used by the authors.
- **Gender of Deployed Parent:** Not Specified

**Military Information**

- **Service Member Rank Composition:** 69.6% Enlisted
- **Service Component Composition:** 100% Active Component
- **Service Branch Composition:** 74% Army
26% Marines
### Key Findings:

Child behavioral adjustment and depression levels were comparable to community norms; however, anxiety was significantly elevated for both boys and girls, with 32% of the children with a recently returned parent demonstrating clinically significant anxiety symptoms. In addition, cumulative length of parental combat-related deployments predicted increased child depression and externalizing symptoms (as measured by the CBCL). Moreover, parental distress, whether reported by caregiving parents or Service members/deployed parents, predicted child internalizing and externalizing symptoms (as measured by the CBCL). Children with either a deployed or recently returned parent had depression levels comparable to community and clinical norms.

### Limitations of the Study

**Threats to Internal Validity:**

Selected participants may differ from non-participants in a way that is not measured, but affected the outcome variables (selection bias), and other untested variables may be influencing results. For example, parents who participated in the study may be functioning better than those who did not participate. Also, without a pretest or comparison to a control group, there is no clear evidence of the direction of effects. This is a particular concern for the findings regarding caregivers' mental health; it may be that having a child experiencing more difficulties can compromise caregivers' emotional functioning. Finally, by comparing military
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

children to a standardized norm, the authors make the assumption that there are no pre-deployment differences between military and civilian children.

**Strengths of External Validity:**

Only children between the ages of 6 and 12 with Active Duty parents in the Army and Marine Corps were included in this study.

No differences in child outcomes (i.e., depression, anxiety, or CBCL internalizing/externalizing problems) were found based on the age or gender of the children.

No results were reported based on ethnicity, SES, service member rank, service branch, or component.

**Threats to Construct Validity:**

Parents and children may be trying to respond in the “best” way. Parent reports may be limited to only outcomes that occur within the home.

**Reviewed By:**

Leslie Bosch

**Review Date:**

07/29/2010
**Reference**

**Purpose of Research**

| Main Purpose | To use case vignettes to illustrate the psychological adjustment and treatment implications for children with parents deployed in support of military combat operations |
| Secondary Purpose | None |

**Research Methods**

| Type of Design | Qualitative: Case study |
| Source/ Informant | Case Studies |
| Key Outcome Variable | Externalizing Behavior Problems |

**Participants**

| Sample Size | Case Studies |
| Child Information | |
| Age | Not Applicable |
| Gender | Not Applicable |
| Ethnic | Not Applicable |
| Family Information | |
| SES | Not Applicable |
| Gender of Deployed Parent | Not Applicable |
| Military Information | |
| Service Member Rank Composition | Not Applicable |
| Service Component Composition | Not Applicable |
| Service Branch Composition | Not Applicable |
| Deployed From | Not Applicable |
| Average Months Deployed | Not Applicable |
| Deployment Stage(s) | Not Applicable |
| Average Months Postdeployment | Not Applicable |
| Characteristics of Deployment | Not Applicable |
| Average Number of Previous Deployments | Not Applicable |
| Operations | Not Applicable |

**Key Findings**
This case study features a 17 year old boy who had a history of anger, aggression, and oppositional behavior. After years of failed therapy the parents decided to place him in a...
<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>residential treatment facility as the caregiver felt unsafe living with the boy when the father went on deployment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Limitations of the Study**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threats to Internal Validity:</th>
<th>The youth in the case study likely differs from non-participating youth in ways that are not measured but affect the outcome variables. For example, this youth had a history of mental health issues that are typically uncharacteristic of youth. Also, researchers’ subjectivity may have influenced the findings.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengths of External Validity:</td>
<td>Only one adolescent with a deployed parent was included in this study. No results were reported based on age, gender, ethnicity, SES, service member rank, service component, or service branch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threats to Construct Validity:</td>
<td>Researcher may influence responses, intentionally or unintentionally.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reviewed By:** Leslie Bosch

**Review Date:** 10/03/10
### Purpose of Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Purpose:</th>
<th>To examine aspects of spouse and child abuse among Army families, and to describe several characteristics of the violence perpetrators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Purpose:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Research Methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Design:</th>
<th>Quantitative: Comparison to non-matched military control group (non-offenders)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source/ Informant:</td>
<td>Other source: Data came from the Army Central Registry 2000-2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Outcome Variable:</td>
<td>Family problems (family violence)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Size</th>
<th>N = 465,100 Active Component Army soldiers (N = 10,864 Active Component Army soldier family violence offenders)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### Child Information

- **Age**: Not specified
- **Gender**: Not specified
- **Ethnic**: Not specified

#### Family Information

- **SES**: No income or education information was specified. No composite SES measure was used by the authors.
- **Gender of Deployed Parent**: Not specified

#### Military Information

- **Service Member Rank Composition**: 97% Enlisted
- **Service Component Composition**: 100% Active Component
- **Service Branch Composition**: 100% Army
- **Deployed From**: Not specified
- **Average Months Deployed**: Not specified
- **Deployment Stage(s)**: Not specified
- **Average Months Post-deployment**: Not specified
- **Characteristics of Deployment**: Not specified
- **Average Number of Previous Deployments**: Not specified
**Key Findings:**

Results showed that 61% of substantiated family violence offenders were spouse offenders, 27% were child offenders, and 12% were both spouse and child offenders.

The mean age of the Army family violence offenders was comparable to that of all Army soldiers (27.9 vs. 28.0 years). Compared to all Army soldiers, Army family violence offenders were: 1) more likely to be married (96% vs. 51%); 2) more likely to be male (89% vs. 84%); 3) less likely to be White (44% vs. 58%) and more likely to be Black (42% vs. 27%), but similarly likely to be Hispanic or of another racial/ethnic group (14% vs. 15%); 4) more likely to be enlisted rather than officers (97% vs. 86%); and 5) more likely to be in the higher salary pay grades (77% in grades E4 or higher vs. 71%).

A number of results related to differences among the 3 groups of offenders (i.e., spouse only, child only, both spouse and child) were also reported. For example, 25% of the soldiers in the child offender only group were female, compared to 5% in both of the other offender groups; soldiers who committed both spouse and child offenses were approximately one and a half times more likely than soldiers who committed child offenses only to have multiple child offenses.

Physical abuse was the most widespread form of spousal abuse. Five fatalities resulted from spouse abuse during the 5-year study period. Neglect was the most common offense against children. Twenty-two fatalities resulted from child abuse during the 5-year study period.

---

**Limitations of the Study**

**Threats to Internal Validity:**

Groups may have pre-existing differences that were not measured and other untested variables may be influencing results. For example, compared to nonoffenders, offenders may experience additional stressors such as mental health issues, marital dissatisfaction, or a lack of parental support. Also, without a pretest, there is no clear evidence of the direction of effects (i.e., that military deployment lead to an increase in
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>child maltreatment). Finally, the measure may have been flawed such that incidents of maltreatment may be under-reported.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengths of External Validity:</td>
<td>Only children with parents on active duty in the Army were included in this study.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No results directly related to children were reported. However, results related to Army offenders as compared to Army nonoffenders included the following: The mean age of the Army family violence offenders was comparable to that of all Army soldiers (27.9 vs. 28.0 years). Compared to all active duty Army soldiers, Army family violence offenders were: 1) more likely to be married (96% vs. 51%); 2) more likely to be male (89% vs. 84%); 3) less likely to be White (44% vs. 58%) and more likely to be Black (42% vs. 27%), but similarly likely to be Hispanic or of another racial/ethnic group (14% vs. 15%); 4) more likely to be enlisted rather than officers (97% vs. 86%); and 5) more likely to be in the higher salary pay grades (77% in grades E4 or higher vs. 71%).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threats to Construct Validity:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reviewed By:** Leslie Bosch  
**Review Date:** 07/19/2010
### Reference (APA Citation)


### Purpose of Research

**Main Purpose:** To (1) update the trends in child maltreatment in the Army Central Registry (ACR), (2) present severity data by type of maltreatment, and (3) compare cases of maltreatment by the sex of the victim and the sex of the parent perpetrator.

**Secondary Purpose:** None

### Research Methods

**Type of Design:** Quantitative: Description of adjustment / associations with no comparison (US Army trends were compared to US national trends without statistical analysis).

**Source/ Informant:** Other source: Data came from the Army Central Registry (ACR).

**Key Outcome Variable:** Family Problems (child abuse and maltreatment)

### Participants

**Sample Size**

N = 54,341 (total child maltreatments between 1990 and 2004)

**Child Information**

- **Age**: Children ranged in age from 0 to 18
- **Gender**: Not Specified
- **Ethnic**: Not Specified

**Family Information**

- **SES**: No income or education information was specified, and no composite SES measure was used.
- **Gender of Deployed Parent**: Not Specified

**Military Information**

- **Service Member Rank Composition**: Not Specified
- **Service Component Composition**: Not Specified
- **Service Branch Composition**: 100% Army
- **Deployed From**: Not Specified
- **Average Months Deployed**: Not Specified
- **Deployment Stage(s)**: Not Specified
- **Average Months Post-deployment**: Not Specified
- **Characteristics of Deployment**: Not Specified
Key Findings:

Among Army Service members, 90% of child maltreatment perpetrators were parents (56% were male and 44% were female). Male offenders were more likely to maltreat children (even excluding sexual abuse) than were female offenders. According to US national data for 2003, 79.7% of perpetrators were parents (58.2% were females and 41.8% were males). From 1990–2004, the overall rate of child maltreatment in the US Army declined. This trend in the US Army mirrors that of the US national figures, but with a more marked decrease in rates.

Neglect rates in the US Army decreased from a high point in 1991 to a low in 2000. However, from 2000 to 2004, neglect rates increased by 40%. Comparatively, the US national data showed little change in neglect rates over those times. Thus, during two large-scale deployments of the US Army to the Middle East (1991 and 2002–2004), the rates of neglect increased.

From 1990-2004, sexual abuse had the lowest rates in the US Army and the rate of sexual abuse decreased during this timeframe (no US civilian comparison provided).

It was interesting to note that on the average, each child victim had one case per year involving one maltreatment. This appears to be the opposite of what has been found in the US civil society in which most children are multiply maltreated (e.g., Ney et al., 1994).

Limitations of the Study

| Threats to Internal Validity: | Selected participants may differ from non-participants in a way that is not measured, for instance, there are likely cases of maltreatment that were not reported but might affect the interpretation of the data. Additionally, other untested variables may be influencing results. For example, compared to non-offenders, offenders may experience |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Number of Previous Deployments</th>
<th>Not Specified</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengths of External Validity:</td>
<td>Only children with parents in the Army and a report of maltreatment were included in this study. The rates of physical abuse and neglect were generally higher for boys than for girls up to the teenage years, when the rates reversed. Neglect rates were highest for the youngest children and decreased as age increased. Emotional abuse rates were similar for boys and girls up to age 11, but the rates for older girls were higher. No results were reported based on ethnicity, SES, Service member rank, or component.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threats to Construct Validity:</td>
<td>Constructs were confounded. The US national data may have included military service members, making it inappropriate to compare Army data and US national data.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reviewed By: Leslie Bosch
Review Date: 07/01/2010
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Purpose of Research**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Purpose:</th>
<th>To briefly summarize the findings of recent publications related to deployment of a family member to wars in Iraq and Afghanistan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Purpose:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Research Methods**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Design:</th>
<th>Literature Review</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source/ Informant:</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Outcome Variable:</td>
<td>Family Problems (compromised parenting, family adjustment, role ambiguity)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Participants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Size</th>
<th>Not Applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Age</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Gender</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Ethnic</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Information</td>
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<tr>
<td>• SES:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Gender of Deployed Parent</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Military Information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Service Member Rank Composition:</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Service Component Composition:</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Service Branch Composition:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Deployed From:</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Average Months Deployed:</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Deployment Stage(s):</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Average Months Post-deployment:</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Characteristics of Deployment</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Average Number of Previous Deployments</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Operations:</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reference | McFarlane, A. C. (2009)

| **Key Findings:** | Over a million children and their families have now experienced the stress of the deployment of a family member during the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Some veterans develop posttraumatic stress disorder as a consequence of their experiences. This condition drives many of the adverse changes in the families of returning veterans through the effects on intimacy and nurturance in their families due to the components of posttraumatic stress that include withdrawal, numbing, and irritability. When a partner/parent deploys, families and children may face the anxiety associated with role ambiguity. Although clinical literature about the developmental challenges facing children and concerning issues of family adjustment exists, there is a lack of systematic research on the topic of military families and the deployment cycle. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Limitations of the Study</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Threats to Internal Validity:</td>
<td>No Empirical Analyses or Evidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengths of External Validity:</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threats to Construct Validity:</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reviewed By: Leslie Bosch
Review Date: 07/15/10
### Purpose of Research

**Main Purpose:** To explore the consequences of parental deployment for adolescents and their families

**Secondary Purpose:** To identify potential strategies that may help adolescents cope with a parent's deployment

### Research Methods

**Type of Design:** Qualitative: Focus groups

**Source/ Informant:** Nondeployed Parent Child Teacher / Other School Personnel

**Key Outcome Variable:** Internalizing Behavior Problems Externalizing Behavior Problems Family Problems Peer Problems

### Participants

**Sample Size**

- N = 39 adolescents (4 focus groups);
- N = 24 parents (3 focus groups);
- N = 35 school personnel (4 focus groups)

**Child Information**

- **Age:** Adolescents ranged from 12 to 18 years (M = 14.6 years)
- **Gender:** 49% Boys
- **Ethnic:** 56.4% White 20.5% Black 12.8% Hispanic 2.5% Native American 2.5% Other

**Family Information**

- **SES:** No income information was specified. No educational information was specified. No composite SES measure was used by the authors.
- **Gender of Deployed Parent:** Not Specified

**Military Information**

- **Service Member Rank Composition:** Not Specified
- **Service Component Composition:** Not Specified
- **Service Branch Composition:** Navy, Army, Marines, and Air Force in 5 different
Reference: Mmari, K., Roche, K., Sudhinaraset, M., & Blum, R. (2009)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>states</th>
<th>Deployed From:</th>
<th>Not Specified</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Average Months Deployed:</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deployment Stage(s):</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Average Months Postdeployment:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Characteristics of Deployment</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Average Number of Previous Deployments</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key Findings:**

Short-term effects tend to be less severe and include initial loneliness and sadness about the parent’s departure. For example, one adolescent reported, “When my dad left, even before he left in the plane, I was crying as a little kid.” Additionally, having school staff who are familiar with military life and military culture may serve to buffer against the negative experiences that children may go through when a parent deploys. For instance, one parent whose son had a retired military Service member as a teacher called the teacher a “godsend” because her son, who experienced his father’s deployment to Iraq, was an “emotional wreck”.

During deployment, both parents and school personnel perceive an increase in adolescent externalizing behavior problems, particularly among boys. Reporters reasoned that externalizing behavior is the result of difficulty in expressing emotions. For example, one school staff member noted that prior to the Iraq war, “…you didn’t even notice that they were military kids. But I think in the past couple of years, we have seen a lot more behavioral problems and a lot more instability—a lot more problems because their parents have been pulled away from them.”

When asked about changes that they have had to make during deployment 71% of children and adolescents said that the biggest change they experienced was an increase in responsibility around the house. These responsibilities ranged from helping with chores to looking after younger siblings. For example, one adolescent reported “I know in my house, my mom started making me do all the laundry and I had to help her do the
Many parents and adolescents reported that the deployed parent’s return was more stressful than the initial departure. Some adolescents experience stress with trying to get to know their parent again. One adolescent said, “When your parents are gone for so long and then they’ll leave and you’ll be like 12 and then they come back and you’re like 14 and you have changed so much and you don’t really know them because you kind of forget little things about them and they don’t know you because you have grown up.”

Adolescents experience a range of responses when confiding in friends. Some report that friends are a meaningful source of support while others report that friends do not or can not understand what they are going through. Often adolescents with a deployed parent can seek support from other adolescents who have experienced deployment. Children with a deployed parent seem to be more comfortable discussing problems they are having with other military children rather than civilian children or school counselors. For example, one adolescent reported, “It’s easier to talk to your friends that are in the military and know what is going on, they feel the same way when their parents are gone, than talking to a guidance counselor, because all they can say is oh yeah I know how you feel, really they don’t understand at all.”

Some military children may be at risk for bullying as many parents and school personnel reported that children with deployed parents are “prime targets” for bullying, particularly among peers who are opposed to the Iraq war. Although an extreme case one parent reported that her son was attacked by another adolescent, “It was like this kid was insinuating that [deployed parent] was personally responsible for the war...”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Limitations of the Study</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Threats to Internal Validity:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
measured but affect the outcome variables. For example, youth who choose to participate in a study may be functioning better or worse than those youth who choose not to participate. Participants may have tried to respond in the “best” way. Interviewers may have asked leading questions or avoided important questions. Researchers may have assumed the meanings of words or phrases. Researchers may have overlooked unexpected findings. Researchers’ subjectivity may have influenced the findings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths of External Validity:</th>
<th>Only children between the ages of 12 and 18 were included in this study. No results were reported based on age, gender, ethnicity, SES, service member rank, service component, or service branch.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Threats to Construct Validity:</td>
<td>Constructs may not have been properly clarified or defined. Other aspects of the outcome may be missed if only one informant or measure was used. Respondents may be trying to respond in the “best” way. Researcher may influence responses, intentionally or unintentionally.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reviewed By:** Leslie Bosch  
**Review Date:** 10/03/10
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### Purpose of Research

| Main Purpose: | To examine emotional and behavioral symptomatology, effortful control, and coping strategies among youth in military families during a time of extended war |
| Secondary Purpose: | To examine maternal and paternal social support and emotional symptoms and behavioral problems among military youth |

### Research Methods

| Type of Design: | Quantitative: Description of adjustment/associations with no comparison, and comparison to non-matched military control group (nondeployed) |
| Source/ Informant: | Child |
| Key Outcome Variable: | Internalizing Problems (emotional symptoms)  
Externalizing Problems (conduct problems)  
Family Problems (parental support) |

### Participants

| Sample Size | N = 65 |
| Child Information | |
| · Age | Children ranged in age from 9 to 15 years, with a mean of 11.75 (SD = 1.56) |
| · Gender | 49% Boys |
| · Ethnic | 48% European American  
33% African American  
6% Biracial  
6% Other  
5% Latino  
2% Asian America |
| Family Information | |
| · SES: | Annual family incomes ranged from $10,000 to $90,000 (Median = $50,000 - $60,000).  
83% of Mothers and 74% of Fathers had a high school degree or equivalent.  
The authors did not provide an SES composite measure. |
<p>| · Gender of Deployed Parent | Of the deployed parents, 97% were Fathers. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Military Information</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Service Member Rank Composition:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Service Component Composition:</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Service Branch Composition:</td>
<td>100% Navy</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Deployed From:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Average Months Deployed:</td>
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<td>• Deployment Stage(s):</td>
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<td>• Characteristics of Deployment</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Average Number of Previous Deployments</td>
<td>1.83 (SD = 1.08, range = 1 to 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Operations:</td>
<td>Not Specified (data collected in Spring 2006)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key Findings:**

There were no differences between children with deployed parents and nondeployed parents, in terms of coping, parental support, emotional problems (e.g. worries or seems worried), or conduct problems (e.g. loses temper). Although children in the sample (both deployed and nondeployed parents) appeared to have higher rates of emotional and conduct problems than normed samples. For the entire sample, parental support and effortful control were associated with more positive outcomes and was equitable regardless of deployment status.

**Limitations of the Study**

**Threats to Internal Validity:**

Selected participants may differ from non-participants in a way that is not measured, but affected the outcome variables, and the groups (deployed parents vs. not deployed parents) may have pre-existing differences that were not measured.

Other untested variables may be influencing the results. For example, the "deployed parent" group was comprised of children with a parent who had been deployed in the last year, but only 2 had parents currently deployed. Current deployment status may have impacted results, causing the two groups (not deployed and "deployed") to be statistically similar.
|-----------|----------------------------------|

**Strengths of External Validity:**

Only children ages 9 to 15, attending a charter school located on a Naval Air Station - Joint Reserve Base were included in this study.

For the total sample, age was not related to the outcome variables.

For the total sample, girls reported more support seeking and emotional problems, while boys reported more effortful coping.

No results were reported based on ethnicity, SES, rank, or component.

**Threats to Construct Validity:**

Constructs were confounded. As previously mentioned, the "deployed parent" group consisted primarily of children whose parents had been deployed in the last year, but had returned; only 2 children had parents currently deployed. Additionally, children might be trying to respond in the "best" way.

Reviewed By: Stacy Hawkins

Review Date: 06/30/10

### Purpose of Research

**Main Purpose:** To provide support for a theoretical path model where military experiences have an indirect effect on child outcomes

**Secondary Purpose:** None

### Research Methods

**Type of Design:** Literature Review

**Source/ Informant:** Not Applicable

**Key Outcome Variable:** Family Problems (family adjustment, interaction quality, relationship quality)

### Participants

**Sample Size** Not Applicable

**Child Information**
- **Age** Not Applicable
- **Gender** Not Applicable
- **Ethnic** Not Applicable

**Family Information**
- **SES:** Not Applicable
- **Gender of Deployed Parent** Not Applicable

**Military Information**
- **Service Member Rank Composition:** Not Applicable
- **Service Component Composition:** Not Applicable
- **Service Branch Composition:** Not Applicable
- **Deployed From:** Not Applicable
- **Average Months Deployed:** Not Applicable
- **Deployment Stage(s):** Not Applicable
- **Average Months Post-deployment:** Not Applicable
- **Characteristics of Deployment** Not Applicable
- **Average Number of Previous Deployments** Not Applicable
- **Operations:** Not Applicable

### Key Findings:

Palmer reviews the literature on relocation, deployment, exposure to combat and PTSD, and
post-deployment reunion in an effort to provide support for a theoretical path model. Although the findings were mixed and rarely related to the current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, Palmer posits that military experiences have an indirect effect on child outcomes. In the model, parent-child interactions and relationships serve as a mechanism by which military risk and resilience factors impact children (e.g., PTSD decreases parent-child relationship quality and the lowered parent-child relationship quality leads to increased externalizing behavior problems, such as aggressive behavior). Treatment implications derived from the proposed pathway may include additional support from the military during times of increased stress to reduce parental stress, as well as efforts to ameliorate the potentially negative parent-child interactions through psychoeducation, parenting classes, and support groups for parents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Limitations of the Study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Threats to Internal Validity:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengths of External Validity:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threats to Construct Validity:</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reviewed By:</th>
<th>Leslie Bosch</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review Date:</td>
<td>07/15/10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reference  
(APA Citation)  
Effect of deployment on the occurrence of child maltreatment in military and  
nonmilitary families. American Journal of Epidemiology, 165(10), 1199-1206.  
doi:10.1093/aje/kwm008

Purpose of Research

Main Purpose:  
To examine the occurrence of child maltreatment in military and nonmilitary families before and during intense military operations in the Middle East

Secondary Purpose:  
None

Research Methods

Type of Design:  
Quantitative: Comparison to non-matched civilian control group

Source/ Informant:  
Other source: 2000–2003 Child Files for the state of Texas from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS).

Key Outcome Variable:  
Family Problems (child maltreatment)

Participants

Sample Size  
N = 147,982 total children (1,399 Military Children and 146,583 Civilian Children)

Child Information

• Age  
Children ranged in age from 0 to 17

• Gender  
Military Families: 49% Boys

• Ethnic  
Military Families: 47% Caucasian, non-Hispanic; 53% Other

Family Information

• SES:  
No income or educational information was specified.  
No composite SES measure was used by the authors.

• Gender of Deployed Parent  
Not Specified

Military Information

• Service Member Rank Composition:  
Not Specified

• Service Component Composition:  
100% Active Component

• Service Branch Composition:  
Not Specified

• Deployed From:  
Not Specified

• Average Months Deployed:  
Not Specified

• Deployment Stage(s):  
Not Specified

• Average Months Post-deployment:  
Not Specified
Key Findings:
The rate of occurrence of substantiated maltreatment in military families was twice as high in the period after October 2002 (the 1-year anniversary of the September 11th attacks), compared with the period prior to that date (rate ratio = 2.15, 95% confidence interval: 1.85, 2.50). Among military personnel with at least one dependent, the rate of child maltreatment in military families increased by approximately 30% for each 1% increase in the percentage of active duty personnel departing to or returning from operation-related deployment. The rate in civilian families was essentially static over this time period. These findings indicate that both departures to and returns from operational deployment impose stressors on military families and likely increase the rate of child maltreatment. Overall, child maltreatment is lower for children in military families compared to civilian families.

Limitations of the Study

Threats to Internal Validity:
Families included in this study may differ from non-participants in ways that were not measured and other untested variables may be influencing results. For example, compared to non-offenders, offenders may experience additional stressors such as mental health issues, marital dissatisfaction, or a lack of parental support. Also, without a pretest, there is no clear evidence of the direction of effects (i.e., that military deployment lead to an increase in child maltreatment). Finally, the measure may have been flawed such that incidents of maltreatment may be under-reported.

Strengths of External Validity:
Only children with parents on active duty were included in this study.

The rate of occurrence of child maltreatment
dropped with increasing age in both military and civilian families, with those younger than 4 years of age having the highest rate of maltreatment in both populations. No gender differences were found. Maltreated children in military families were more likely to be non-Hispanic Whites and aged less than 4 years than were children in civilian families. In both groups, non-Hispanic Whites had lower rates compared with all other race and ethnic categories.

No results were reported based on SES, Service member rank, or service branch.

| Threats to Construct Validity: | None |

<p>| Reviewed By: | Leslie Bosch |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Review Date:</th>
<th>07/02/10</th>
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</thead>
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**Purpose of Research**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Purpose:</th>
<th>To critically review studies that examine the types of child maltreatment and spouse abuse reported among military families, and compare the extent of family violence in military versus civilian populations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Purpose:</td>
<td>None</td>
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**Research Methods**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Design:</th>
<th>Literature Review</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source/ Informant:</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Outcome Variable:</td>
<td>Family Problems (child maltreatment)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Participants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Size</th>
<th>Not Applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Child Information**

- Age: Not Applicable
- Gender: Not Applicable
- Ethnic: Not Applicable

**Family Information**

- SES: Not Applicable
- Gender of Deployed Parent: Not Applicable

**Military Information**

- Service Member Rank Composition: Not Applicable
- Service Component Composition: Not Applicable
- Service Branch Composition: Not Applicable
- Deployed From: Not Applicable
- Average Months Deployed: Not Applicable
- Deployment Stage(s): Not Applicable
- Average Months Post-deployment: Not Applicable
- Characteristics of Deployment: Not Applicable
- Average Number of Previous Deployments: Not Applicable
- Operations: Not Applicable
Key Findings:

Few studies exist that examine family violence in military families and even fewer that compare family violence in military and civilian populations. Physical abuse and neglect are the most common forms of substantiated child maltreatment in military families, followed by sexual abuse and emotional abuse. In terms of intimate partner violence, physical abuse is the most common form of substantiated spouse abuse in military families. Studies comparing military and civilian families in terms of child maltreatment or spouse abuse show mixed results, with some reporting higher rates in the military and others finding lower rates in the military.

Limitations of the Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threats to Internal Validity:</th>
<th>No Empirical Analyses or Evidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengths of External Validity:</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threats to Construct Validity:</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reviewed By: Leslie Bosch
Review Date: 07/02/10
### Purpose of Research

**Main Purpose:** To compare the occurrence of child maltreatment in military and civilian populations

**Secondary Purpose:** None

### Research Methods

**Type of Design:** Quantitative: Comparison to non-matched civilian control group

**Source/Informant:** Other Source: Data came from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System

**Key Outcome Variable:** Family Problems (abuse, maltreatment, neglect)

### Participants

**Sample Size**
- N = 962 Military Cases
- N = 119,379 Civilian Cases

**Child Information**
- **Age:** Children ranged in age from 0 to 17
- **Gender:** Military Families: 51.5% Fathers
- **Ethnic**
  - Military Families: 45.5% Caucasian, non-Hispanic
  - 29.9% African American, non-Hispanic
  - 17.5% Hispanic
  - 7.0% Other, non-Hispanic

**Family Information**
- **SES:** No income or educational information was specified. No composite SES measure was used by the authors.
- **Gender of Deployed Parent**
  - Not Specified

**Military Information**
- **Service Member Rank Composition:** Not Specified
- **Service Component Composition:** 100% Active Component
- **Service Branch Composition:** Not Specified
- **Deployed From:** Not Specified
- **Average Months Deployed:** Not Specified
- **Deployment Stage(s):** Not Specified
- **Average Months Post-deployment:** Not Specified
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics of Deployment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Number of Previous Deployments</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Key Findings:**
The rate of occurrence of substantiated maltreatment was lower for children in military families compared with children in civilian families (5.05 vs. 7.89 per 1000 person-years). Neglect was the most commonly occurring maltreatment among military (and civilian) perpetrators. While all forms of maltreatment were lower in military families compared to civilian families, when maltreatment did occur, physical abuse was more likely to occur in military families compared to civilian families. Among military families, substantiated maltreatment had highest rates of occurrence among children under the age of 1, and for those who were African American (non-Hispanic).

**Limitations of the Study**

**Threats to Internal Validity:**
Families included in this study may differ from non-participants in ways that were not measured and other untested variables may be influencing results. For example, compared to non-offenders, offenders may experience additional stressors such as mental health issues, marital dissatisfaction, or a lack of parental support. Also, without a pretest, there is no clear evidence of the direction of effects (i.e., that military deployment lead to an increase in child maltreatment). Finally, the measure may have been flawed such that incidents of maltreatment may be under-reported.

**Strengths of External Validity:**
Only children with parents in the active component were included in this study. Compared with all other age groups, children under the age of 1 experienced the highest rate of occurrence of substantiated child maltreatment in military (and civilian) families.
Relative to children in civilian families, the rate for children in military families was significantly lower for all age groups, except 16- and 17-year olds. In this age group, children in military families were almost equally as likely as those in civilian families to experience substantiated maltreatment.

No gender differences were found: Females in military families were equally as likely as males to experience substantiated maltreatment.

African Americans of non-Hispanic ethnicity experienced the highest rates of occurrence of substantiated maltreatment among children in military (and civilian) families.

No results were reported based on SES, Service member rank, service branch, or component.

| Threats to Construct Validity: | None |

| Reviewed By: | Leslie Bosch |
| Review Date: | 06/30/10 |
### Reference (APA Citation)

### Purpose of Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Purpose:</th>
<th>To examine the unique and common predictors of child abuse potential for mothers and fathers in a sample of Active Duty Army members and their spouses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Purpose:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
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### Research Methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Design:</th>
<th>Quantitative: Description of adjustment / associations with no comparison</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source/ Informant:</td>
<td>Deployed Parent Caregiving Parent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Outcome Variable:</td>
<td>Family Problems (child maltreatment)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Size</th>
<th>N = 765 Parents (175 Fathers and 590 Mothers)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Age</td>
<td>Children ranged in age from 0 to 6 years, with an average of 28 months.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Gender</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ethnic</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• SES:</td>
<td>No income information was specified. Mothers' education: 11% Less than a high school degree; 44% High school diploma; 33% Some college; 12% College graduate or higher. Fathers' education: 1% Less than a high school degree; 52% High school diploma; 35% Some college; 12% College graduate or higher. No composite SES measure was used by the authors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Gender of Deployed Parent</td>
<td>93% Fathers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Service Member Rank Composition:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Service Component Composition:</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Service Branch Composition:</td>
<td>100% Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Deployed From:</td>
<td>CONUS and OCONUS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Average Months Deployed:</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deployment Stage(s):</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Months Post-deployment:</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Characteristics of Deployment</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Number of Previous Deployments</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations:</td>
<td>Not Specified (data collection dates not specified)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key Findings:**
Regression analyses indicated that there were both common and unique predictors of child abuse potential for mothers and fathers. Higher levels of depression, parental distress, and family conflict predicted abuse potential for both mothers and fathers. Low family expressiveness was predictive only for fathers, whereas marital dissatisfaction, low social support, and low family cohesion were predictive only for mothers.

**Limitations of the Study**

**Threats to Internal Validity:**
Selected participants may differ from non-participants in a way that is not measured, but affected the outcome variables. For example, parents referred to the New Parent Support Program (NPSP) may experience additional stressors such as mental health issues, marital dissatisfaction, or a lack of parental support as compared to parents who were not referred to the program, and thus did not participate. Also, without a pretest, there is no clear evidence of the direction of effects (i.e., that military deployment lead to an increase in child maltreatment).

**Strengths of External Validity:**
Only active duty Army parents with children between the ages 0 to 6 years who were receiving services through the Army NPSP were included in this study.

No results were reported based on child age, gender, ethnicity, or parents' SES, or rank.

**Threats to Construct Validity:**
The constructs may have been confounded by the fact that only parents already identified "at risk" and who were already receiving services as part of the NPSP participated in the study. Similarly, all participants were participating in the NPSP home visit program, which could have influenced outcome variables.
Additionally, other aspects of the outcome may be missed because only one informant or measure was used. For example, other measures of depression may have provided different results. Finally, parents may be trying to respond in the “best” way, minimizing perceived problems in their families.
### Purpose of Research

**Main Purpose:** To draw greater attention to the effects of deployment on service members and to provide an overview of recent literature on the impact of deployment on service members and military families.

**Secondary Purpose:** To provide a conceptual perspective, a model of family stability, that may help inform understanding of the impact of deployment on families.

### Research Methods

**Type of Design:** Literature Review

**Source/Informant:** Not Applicable

**Key Outcome Variable:** Family Problems (model of family stability)

### Participants

**Sample Size:** Not Applicable

**Child Information**
- **Age:** Not Applicable
- **Gender:** Not Applicable
- **Ethnic:** Not Applicable

**Family Information**
- **SES:** Not Applicable
- **Gender of Deployed Parent:** Not Applicable

**Military Information**
- **Service Member Rank Composition:** Not Applicable
- **Service Component Composition:** Not Applicable
- **Service Branch Composition:** Not Applicable
- **Deployed From:** Not Applicable
- **Average Months Deployed:** Not Applicable
- **Deployment Stage(s):** Not Applicable
- **Average Months Postdeployment:** Not Applicable
- **Characteristics of Deployment:** Not Applicable
- **Average Number of Previous Deployments:** Not Applicable
- **Operations:** Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom
Key Findings:

Deployment and reintegration are major life events that can disrupt global family stability such as changes in residences or schools, as well as disrupt molecular family stability such as changes in daily routines. These disruptions can create stress in families that undermines family functioning.

Limitations of the Study

Threats to Internal Validity: No Empirical Analyses or Evidence
Strengths of External Validity: Not Applicable
Threats to Construct Validity: Not Applicable

Reviewed By: Gabriel Schlomer
Review Date: 09/30/10