

FAMILY LIFE ATTITUDES OF CAREER UNITED STATES ARMY
OFFICERS STATIONED IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

by

MARGARET VIRGINIA WILSON CLARK

B. S., Kansas State University, 1965

3735

A MASTER'S THESIS

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Department of Family and Child Development

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Manhattan, Kansas

1970

Approved by:

Marjorie Stith
Major Professor

LD
2668
T4
1970
C58
C.2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	ii
Chapter	
I. INTRODUCTION	1
II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE	2
III. PROCEDURE	16
Instrument Methodology	
IV. FINDINGS	23
Description of Subjects Responses	
V. DISCUSSION	54
VI. CONCLUSIONS	61
LIST OF REFERENCES	64
APPENDIX A	66
APPENDIX B	69
APPENDIX C	73

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It is indeed a pleasure to acknowledge the guidance, patience and understanding given to me by my major professor, Dr. Marjorie Stith, and the counsel of Dr. Ruth Hoeflin and Dr. Stephan Bollman.

Special thanks are extended to Colonel Ralph Wright USA and the Army officers of the Military Science Department, Kansas State University, for their taking part in the pilot study and for their constructive critique of the instrument used.

I am especially indebted to Major General Charles P. Stone USA and the Army officers stationed in the Republic of Vietnam who participated as subjects, for without their enthusiastic cooperation this study would not have been possible.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The military community of today is unlike that of thirty years ago. Coates and Pellegrin (1965) reported that in the past the military installation represented a community founded on the common military occupation. The military community was strengthened on the one hand by isolation from civilian community affairs and on the other by the self-sufficient nature of the military post. Janowitz (1960, p. 178) stated:

The realities of the profession pervaded family and social life, and, in turn, the military community was comprehensively organized to assist family relations. The result was not only relative social isolation, since military families tended to have more contact among themselves than with outsiders, but also a powerful esprit de corps among professional officers. The problem of choosing between work and family life did not exist.

In the old army and navy, service families lived almost exclusively within the military community. The children of military personnel associated with one another and had few contacts with the civilian community. Military wives spent their time with other military wives. Social life, parties, dances, visiting and mutual aid in time of need took place primarily within the military community. Sons of military families entered the military profession. Often, daughters married military men. According to Janowitz and Little (1966), there was in the military community a strong sense of

social solidarity which offered extensive mutual assistance to its member families. Thus, the military community was a style of life.

However, according to Janowitz (1960), the recent organizational revolution in the military establishment altered social relations in the military community and the enlarged military community weakened its social cohesion. These two factors caused four major changes in the military community style of life.

First, the civilian pattern of separation of work and residence became more frequent. Military families no longer live exclusively on post. Married military personnel, like their civilian counterparts, travel to and from work. The increased size of the armed forces created a shortage of on-post housing forcing military families to live in the civilian community. Therefore, wives and children of military men have few direct day-to-day contacts with the military post and little knowledge of its functioning. Organizational changes demand that an increasing number of military personnel be assigned to radar posts and missile sites, and to civilian institutions--government, research, industrial and educational--away from military communities which provide support facilities such as medical care, commissaries, post exchanges and government housing.

Second, because the military force increased in size, the military community is no longer the small, isolated village it once resembled. Rather, it resembles more the impersonal urban metropolis in its social characteristics. The social backgrounds of military personnel are more

varied than in the past. Large numbers of men who otherwise would not have had contact with the military community are part of it. A greater number of personnel with a variety of economic, religious, ethnic and racial backgrounds make up the military community including the officer corps. No longer are officers, for example, members of families with a long history of military careers.

Third, the contemporary military establishment has a large number of civilians (i.e., civil service employees engaged in custodial, secretarial, managerial and research positions) whose presence further dilutes the military community. The presence of women, both military and civilian, also has a diluting effect on the military community because traditionally the military profession had the solidarity of an all-male fraternity.

A fourth factor which adds to the breakdown in the feeling of community among the military is the fact that many military occupations are quite similar to civilian occupations. Within the armed forces, there is occupational specialization similar to the civilian occupational structure. A commander, for example, could see his job of commanding a large number of troops as similar to that of an executive managing a corporation. Military men could identify themselves with civilian occupations, thus with a non-military way of life.

It must be assumed that the military family was shaped in part by these older ways of military organization and living, and, in turn, was affected by the changes which have come to the military establishment.

Once it was believed that the officer's wife could help advance her husband's career. Janowitz (1960) stated that the involvement of the officer's wife in her husband's career further strengthened the military community by helping the wife to accept the inconveniences of military life because she was better able to understand these inconveniences. In contrast, the contemporary Army wife, isolated from the military community as a result of organizational changes and increased size of the military, may be less likely to sacrifice willingly.

With the changes which occurred within the military community, that is, the separation of work and residence, the increased size of the military community, the increased number of civilians within the military establishment and the similarity between military and civilian occupations, there was a breakdown in the feeling of a strong sense of social solidarity among the military men along with an increase in role conflict. Also, the contemporary military wife, isolated from the military community, was less likely to understand or to accept the inconveniences of military life.

It would be profitable, then, to ask how the military man views his family. How does he see his relationship to it? How does he feel about his role as husband and parent? What are his feelings about his wife's role as wife and mother? Because military life requires frequent movement from one military installation to another which results many times in husband-father absence, what are his feelings about the effects of geographical mobility and husband-father separation upon his family? This study

was undertaken to explore such questions. Fifty career Army officers were asked to respond to twenty incomplete sentences in an attempt to tap their perceptions and feelings in regard to family life, their own roles in the family, and roles of other family members.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Coates and Pellegrin (1965) noted that with the changes occurring within the military community, there were a number of pressing problems for the military family. The authors discussed two areas which caused hardships and inconveniences: the removal of family residence from the military post and the increased mobility of military units.

Janowitz and Little (1966) commented on a third problem area: role conflict. Such conflict is experienced by many military men because of the attraction to an alternative civilian career, obligations of family, and cross pressures created by civilian community contacts.

These problems, which may be peculiar to, or certainly exaggerated for, the military family, likely have an impact on the father's view of himself, his family and relationship within the family.

Family problems due to off-post residence. Coates and Pellegrin (1965) referred to Department of Defense statistics which showed that less than 20 percent of service families lived in government housing facilities. Of the families who did, only a small proportion lived in service-supplied housing of adequate quality. The remaining 80 percent who lived in off-post, nongovernment housing frequently faced acute problems of high rents,

low quality facilities and long distances from the military post.

Coates and Pellegrin (1965) stated that the housing developments which grew up around military bases furnished the military family with a form of community life and the opportunity for contacts with persons of similar interests or backgrounds. However, these housing developments lacked the stability of established communities because the developments lacked the institutions which give stability to community life, such as churches, schools, neighborhood and community clubs and organizations.

This lack of government housing facilities, causing numbers of military families to leave the post and reside within the civilian community, has resulted in a breakdown in the common culture of the military community. This, in turn, has created a new situation in which it was necessary for the military family to fit into the civilian community--many times in the role of temporary residents--and make a satisfying and meaningful life. There has been no systematic study as to the manner in which military families have handled this problem, nor of the effects of this temporary-resident-noncivilian role upon perception of family roles and interaction.

In a study (Lindquist, 1952) of the effects of Strategic Air Command (SAC) requirements and routines upon the family life of SAC personnel, 52 wives of both officers and airmen were extensively interviewed during the summer of 1951. Most of the SAC families had lived in the civilian community for a period of at least two years. None of the families had been in the host community (civilian community near the military instal-

lation) less than six months and many had lived there for almost three years.

Lindquist reported that neither the men nor the women of the SAC families interviewed were attracted to or participated in any civic, social, school or church activities in the civilian community. If neighborhood groups or bridge clubs existed, the interviewed women had no knowledge of them. When facilities were available on a military post close by, these families participated in community activities on the military post rather than within the civilian community.

Family problems due to increased mobility of military men. Besides the problems faced by the military family because of off-post residence, Coates and Pellegrin (1965) addressed their comments to the problems resulting from the increased mobility of the military man and his family. While a normal tour of duty at a given military station for officers, for example, could be as long as three years, usually changes in duty stations were more frequent. Temporary duty assignments (TDY) to service schools or to other stations for special training were frequent and increased the mobility of servicemen.

One problem resulting from the high rate of mobility was the problem of establishing a home. Usually, it consisted of rental housing, frequently at high rental rates. Although the government normally provided for movement of household goods and transportation costs for family members, there were always the out-of-pocket expenses, such as cleaning materials, loss

of perishable foods, clothing replacement because of climate change, and food and lodging in transit which added to the financial burden of the service family.

Lindquist (1952), in her study of the SAC family, found that temporary duty assignments (TDY, or sometimes referred to as unaccompanied tours because the family does not accompany the military man to the military station) of the husband and permanent change of station (PCS moves) from one military installation to another brought many complications for those families. The women were left with most of the responsibilities associated with moving. Because their husbands had to fly off to the new duty assignment in advance of the family, the women made all the arrangements necessary before leaving their residence. The Air Force bore the actual cost of moving the household goods from one installation to another. The women, however, bore the anxieties and responsibilities. Because little notice was given the families to move, preparation for the move was telescoped into a few days. It was the women who experienced the anxiety over unpaid bills, mounting expenses and disposal of "extras." There was little division of labor between husband and wife during times of moving. The comments of one officer's wife pointed up the problems which many of the women had.

In the nine years that my husband has been in the Air Force we have had 13 homes and I've not counted the times that I've gone home to stay when my husband went overseas. We've lived in New York and we've been in Texas; we've been up and down the California coast and we've had a year on Guam; we've had three "homes" here, so we have had our share of being moved around. It's a good thing that the baby wasn't born earlier for children complicate going from place to

place, and when they reach school age, transfers at any time are hard on them. . . .

There are some ways in which moving could be made easier for families. Sometimes we are notified only two days in advance. Sometimes we have two weeks. But if there could be a notice three weeks or a month in advance, it would help very much. Such a simple thing as stocking up on food often comes just before I find that we are going to be transferred. It's not only inconvenient, but it's costly, too. Another thing that bothers me very much is getting the last bills paid. Sometimes we actually don't have the money because the move comes after our checks have been used for other expenses. Sometimes it's a matter of not getting the bills before we leave. . . .

Then of course there's the matter of finding a suitable place near the base to which we have been transferred. As soon as we learned that we were coming here, we got in touch with a cousin who lived here and she rented a place for us that was the best she could find. It wasn't satisfactory though and, as soon as we could, we moved into an apartment and stayed there four months (Lindquist, 1952, p. 61).

Even though the Lindquist study was conducted on families whose husband-fathers were members of the Strategic Air Command, one of the more mobile parts of the armed forces, it showed the nature of the problems faced by all military families in perhaps a lesser degree. Such mobility, on short notice and with wives necessarily assuming great responsibilities, may affect the military man's perception of his role in his family.

Another problem encountered by the military family resulting from the increased mobility rate of military men was the situation of changing from one school to another for the children which, in turn, may cause anxieties on the part of the parents. Janowitz and Little (1966) stated that the educational experience of military children was a sequence of schools of uneven quality, often contributing to apathy and retardation

of the child in the classroom.

Coates and Pellegrin (1965) reported that for the military child grade-level adjustments were often necessary because of regional differences in school standards. The military child gained in experiences from travel but could have encountered emotional problems associated with frequent movement.

Lindquist (1952) found that some wives of SAC personnel were glad to have their children live in different sections of the country and to make new friends, however, regional differences in schools was considered a pre-eminent disadvantage.

The kind of mobility to which the military family is subjected also necessitates a great deal of father-absence during the child-rearing years of the family. Thomes (1968), in a recent article on children with absent fathers, reviewed some of the previous findings on the effects of father-absence. She related that Tiller (1957), and Lynn and Sawrey (1959) studied 40 young boys in the families of Norwegian sailors using projective doll play and found them to be more dependent and to manifest more conflict about masculine identification than boys whose fathers were present.

In the United States, both Bach (1946) and Sears (1951) used projective techniques in a study of 190 children. Fantasy behavior of boys in father-absent families was found to be lacking in aggression.

Stolz (1954) studied 19 war-separated families shortly after the fathers returned home. She reported that the children, whose fathers were

away during the pregnancy of the mother and came home after the child was at least one year old, felt emotionally distant toward the father. These fathers rejected their first born children and both the father and the child had a high level of anxiety.

Leichty (1960), using the Blacky picture test, reported that 33 young males who were separated from their fathers during World War II when the boys were between the ages of three and five showed strong oedipal intensity and tended to choose someone other than their fathers as their ego-ideal.

Crain and Stamm (1965) studied two groups of second-grade children to test the hypothesis that regular prolonged absence of the father affects the child's perceptions of both father and mother. Generally, no significant differences were found between the 22 father-present children of civilian families and the 30 father-absent children of Navy families in their perceptions of father and mother as sources of authority and love.

Gabower (1960) compared 15 children of Navy officers who were referred for treatment of behavior problems with a matched control group. Through home interviews with the parents and children, she found that the children in the behavior group, more often than those in the control group, were characterized by: lack of spontaneity in their responses to most subjects discussed in the inquiry; fewer useful attributes acquired from the experiences of living in a number of different places; greater difficulty in relating to other children and making friends in new communities;

lower than average age-grade status in school; and conscious difficulty in accepting the father's absence from the home.

Largely, these studies dealt with the behavior of children in military families after a period of separation from their fathers. None of these researchers explored the father's attitudes toward his family or his role in it.

Role conflicts. According to Janowitz and Little (1966), the roots of role conflicts for the military man were the attraction of an alternative civilian career, obligations to family, and cross pressures created by civilian community contacts.

First, the revolution in military technology increased the transferability of skills between military and civilian jobs. For military men who had no specific technical skills, general managerial experience in the military organization was applicable to civilian occupations. Often the acquisition of a civilian occupational skill occurred when the military man was in residence at a civilian university and exposed to the opportunities of civilian careers.

Second, obligations to family generated role conflict for the military man. Military life involved routine transfers from one installation to another. The military man anticipated disruption to family life, personal expenses, father-absence for prolonged periods of time and the uncertainty as to the availability of adequate family housing at the destination. These elements

of military life pronounced the differences between civilian and military ways of life.

Third, Janowitz and Little (1966) stated that cross pressures created by the civilian community contacts caused role conflict for the military man. In the past, most military families lived on-post. The military community had a strong sense of solidarity and offered extensive assistance to the families. With the shortage of on-post housing, many military families were forced to find housing within the civilian community. Often, as temporary residents, and usually as tenants, the military families were subjected to economic exploitation. Their unique experiences and somewhat esoteric way of life was in sharp contrast to their civilian neighbors. Living in two worlds--military and civilian--the military family tended to compare its lot with that of its civilian neighbors. The result was that many times the family experienced a sense of dissatisfaction.

Of the three causes for role conflict experienced by the military man described above, Janowitz and Little (1966) stated that the primary factor in the turnover of military personnel was the conflict between military occupation and the attraction of civilian opportunities. The turnover was greatest where there existed the greatest similarity between military and civilian skills.

In view of the changes which have taken place within the military community, the unique character of the problems faced by military families, the tie between professional and nonprofessional aspects of military life,

and because there appeared to be a dearth of literature on family life studies on the military family, it seemed imperative to explore attitudes of the military man toward his family.

This descriptive study explored the attitudes of the military man toward his family, himself, family member roles, and his feelings about the effects of geographical mobility upon his family.

CHAPTER III

PROCEDURE

Instrument

To explore family life attitudes of career officers of the United States Army who were separated from their families because of assignment to a military tour of duty in the Republic of Vietnam, an incomplete sentence blank was used.

The incomplete sentence blank was adapted from the Parent Form of the Kell-Hoeflin Incomplete Sentence Blank (Hoeflin and Kell, 1959). The Kell-Hoeflin ISB (Parent Form) consists of 20 sentence stems and was designed to measure attitudes toward family, home, and childhood on a continuum ranging from positive satisfying feelings to negative unsatisfying ones. Hoeflin and Kell (1959) assumed that the subject in completing the sentence would reflect something of his own personality, his fears, desires, wishes. This instrument form was decided upon because the subject was free to respond according to his own feelings and point of view. The instrument was simple to administer, it did not appear to threaten the subject, it took little time, and it could be given equally well to an individual or to a group.

The incomplete sentence blank used (Appendix A) consisted of 20

sentence stems. Eleven stems were taken from the Kell-Hoeflin ISB (Parent Form). They were:

1. OUR FAMILY
2. AS A PARENT
5. OBEDIENCE
6. OUR CHILDREN SHOULD NOT
9. I WISH OUR CHILDREN WOULD
10. BEING A MOTHER
11. DISCIPLINE
14. MAKING HIGH GRADES IN SCHOOL
16. AS A PARENT I DISLIKE
19. BEING A FATHER
20. MAKING DECISIONS IN THE HOME

Sentence stems which appear in the Kell-Hoeflin ISB (Parent Form) but omitted from the instrument used in this study were:

3. MY MOTHER
4. BEING A CHILD
7. IF MY FATHER
8. WHEN I WAS A TEEN-AGER
12. TEEN-AGERS
13. MY FATHER
15. PUNISHMENT
17. A DEMOCRATIC FAMILY
18. IF MY MOTHER

Five items (3, 7, 8, 13, 18) were omitted because they referred to family of orientation rather than to family of procreation which was the object of this investigation. Item 4 was revised to "Being a military child." Other items had to be omitted to keep the number of sentence stems to a total of 20.

In order to explore roles in the family of procreation in light of the problems found to be characteristic of military families, the following sentence stems were used in place of original stems omitted:

- 3. MY WIFE
- 4. BEING A MILITARY CHILD
- 7. IF I
- 8. WHEN I AM AT HOME
- 12. SEX
- 13. AS A HUSBAND
- 15. PCS MOVES
- 17. UNACCOMPANIED TOURS
- 18. IF MY WIFE

Hoeflin and Kell developed a seven category scoring scale for classification of those responses which expressed feeling. The seven-point scale placed responses on a continuum from positive to negative. However, the writer of this study did not use this scoring scale. The 20 sentence stems were categorized into seven areas in order to examine the attitudes of the subjects. The seven categories together with the sentence stems in

each one are listed below.

Family life:

1. OUR FAMILY
20. MAKING DECISIONS IN THE HOME

General perceptions of self:

7. IF I
8. WHEN I AM AT HOME

Husband role:

12. SEX
13. AS A HUSBAND

Parent role:

2. AS A PARENT
16. AS A PARENT I DISLIKE
19. BEING A FATHER

Wife role:

3. MY WIFE
10. BEING A MOTHER
18. IF MY WIFE

Child role:

4. BEING A MILITARY CHILD
5. OBEDIENCE
6. OUR CHILDREN SHOULD NOT
9. I WISH OUR CHILDREN WOULD

11. DISCIPLINE

14. MAKING HIGH GRADES IN SCHOOL

Husband-family mobility:

15. PCS MOVES

17. UNACCOMPANIED TOURS

These categories allow some examination of role definitions within the family and therefore role conflict, as well as the question of father-absence and family mobility.

All responses within each of the seven categories were examined and similar responses were grouped together as subcategories. Responses which did not seem to fall into any subcategory of similar statements were designated miscellaneous. Sentence stems not completed were reported as omissions. Because the writer found no subcategories of similar responses to sentence stem: OUR CHILDREN SHOULD NOT (#6) and to sentence stem: I WISH OUR CHILDREN WOULD (#9), those sentence stems were deleted from analysis.

All sentence stems were self-explanatory except for two which employed terms unfamiliar to those unaccustomed to military terminology. For the purpose of this study, the following definitions are given.

"PCS moves" (permanent change of station) refers to the transfer of military personnel from one permanent station to another. Usually, the military man and his family travel to the new military duty assignment concurrently. At times, however, the wife must make the move alone after

her husband has reported to the new duty station.

"Unaccompanied tours" refers to transfer or assignment of military personnel to military stations without the service man's family. All subjects in this study were stationed in the Republic of Vietnam during May, 1968, and were unaccompanied by their families.

The incomplete sentence blank contained instructions which read: "Complete these sentences to express your real feelings toward family life. Be sure to make complete sentences." A cover sheet introducing the writer to the subject and stating the purpose of the study accompanied each incomplete sentence blank (Appendix A).

No names or identifying characteristics of the subjects were required. However, the subjects were asked to state their age, Army branch (Army specialty), years in service, months in the Republic of Vietnam, years married, ages and sex of children.

Prior to the administration of the incomplete sentence blank to the subjects in the Republic of Vietnam, the instrument was pretested to determine if similar responses would emerge of eight United States Army officers of the Military Science Department, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, during April, 1968.

Methodology

The investigator wrote a letter to the Commanding General of the 4th Infantry Division (Headquarters near Pleiku, The Republic of Vietnam)

requesting his cooperation in the selection of 25 career officers who were separated from their families because of assignment to a military tour of duty in The Republic of Vietnam. The writer's husband, stationed at Headquarters, Provisional Corps, Vietnam (subsequently 24th U. S. Corps, near Phu Bai, The Republic of Vietnam), was also asked to select 25 U. S. Army officers for this project. Each of the 50 subjects met the following criteria: career officers with five or more years of service, married, father of one or more children.

Each contact officer was mailed 25 incomplete sentence blanks with instructions and cover sheets introducing the writer to the subjects and stating the purpose of the study. One hundred percent return was received through the mail by the investigator before the suggested due date. The responses were studied, grouped, and labeled by the writer.

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS

Description of Subjects

Subjects were United States Army officers who were separated from their families because of assignment to a military tour of duty in the Republic of Vietnam. Fifty subjects selected were career officers with five or more years service, married and fathers of one or more children.

The ages of the subjects ranged from 26 years to 49 years. There were ten subjects between the ages of 26 and 29; there were 33 subjects between the ages of 30 and 39; and 7 subjects were 40 years old or older. The median age was 36 years.

The subjects' age at marriage ranged from 16 years to 36 years. Six subjects were married between 20 and 25 years of age, and 12 subjects were married between 26 and 36 years of age. The median age at marriage was 23 years.

The number of years married ranged from 2 to 23 years. Twenty subjects were married between 2 and 9 years; 19 subjects were married between 10 and 15 years; and 11 subjects were married between 16 and 23 years. The median years married was 11.

The 50 subjects were fathers of 120 children; 45 boys and 85 girls.

The number of children per subject ranged from 1 to 11. Twenty-five subjects had one or two children; 18 had 3 children; 5 subjects had 4 or 5 children. One subject was the father of six children and another subject was the father of 11 children. The median number of children was 2.5. Of the 120 children, two girls were stepchildren of one subject.

The number of years that the subjects had served in the military ranged from 5 to 26. Twenty subjects had between 5 and 10 years service; 18 had between 11 and 16 years; 10 had between 17 and 22 years; and 2 subjects had between 24 and 26 years in the military service. The median years in service was 12.

At the time of the study, the subjects had been stationed in the Republic of Vietnam from between 1 and 18 months. The median number of months in the Republic of Vietnam was nine.

The officers represented several Army branches. There were 21 Infantry officers, 7 Armor officers, 6 Military Intelligence Corps officers, 4 Engineer Corps officers, 3 Artillery officers, 3 Signal Corps officers, 3 Quartermaster Corps officers, 2 Ordinance Corps officers and 1 Transportation Corps officer.

Responses

Treatment of the data involved setting up seven categories derived from the sentence stems. They were: family life, general perception of self, husband role, parent role, wife role, child role, and husband-family

mobility. All responses within each main category were analyzed by grouping similar responses together as subcategories. Responses which did not seem to fall into any subcategory of similar statements were designated miscellaneous. Sentence stems not completed were reported as omissions.

Family life. This main category was comprised of two sentence stems: OUR FAMILY (#1) and MAKING DECISIONS IN THE HOME (#20). A list of the subcategories dealing with family life, together with the number and percentage of subjects responding is given below.

<u>Subcategories</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
OUR FAMILY (#1)		
Close satisfying unit	46	92
Concern about family	2	4
Miscellaneous	2	4
MAKING DECISIONS IN THE HOME (#20)		
Husband and wife	25	50
Whole family	15	30
Husband only	5	10
Wife only	2	4
Miscellaneous	2	4
Omission	1	2

Almost all of the subjects (92 percent) described their families as a close satisfying unit. They perceived that their families were happy,

enjoyed doing things together and were the most important aspect of their lives. Family life was related to the military profession by four officers, each with 15 or more years in the military service, by stating that they enjoyed military life with its various assignments in all parts of the world and that their families were military and benefitted from the resulting closeness. "Family reunion in July will be the most wonderful day of my life," was expressed by one officer.

Concern about their families because of a conflict between military and family obligations was reported by two subjects. One officer, married for three years, stated that "Life is a relatively untried affair. Numerous separations have caused a great deal of consternation." Another subject, with 13 years service and married for ten years, stated that his "family came first before the profession."

There were two responses which were labeled miscellaneous. A 29-year-old officer, with seven years service and the father of two pre-school children, defined family as "the basic element in our society and the most important social unit within our civilization." Another subject, father of five children, ten years of age and older, stated that his family "is divided in attitude and outlook on life."

In response to MAKING DECISIONS IN THE HOME (#20), 80 percent of the subjects considered decision-making in terms of both husband and wife or the whole family ("joint affair"). For five subjects, decision-making was considered a "normal" function of the father, while two subjects

reported that their wives made the decisions in the home. Two responses were reported as miscellaneous. They were ". . . is not different from making decisions at work"; ". . . is no problem at all."

General perception of self. This main category was comprised of two sentence stems: IF I (#7), a conditional phrase to evoke desires, wishes or fears; and WHEN I AM AT HOME (#8). A list of the subcategories dealing with general perception of self, together with the number and percentage of subjects reporting, is given below.

<u>Subcategories</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
IF I (#7)		
Concern about family	18	36
Satisfaction with life and family	11	22
Satisfaction with profession	7	14
Parent-child relations	5	10
Miscellaneous	5	10
Omissions	4	8
WHEN I AM AT HOME (#8)		
Enjoy family	39	78
Enjoy privacy or hobbies	9	18
Miscellaneous	1	2
Omission	1	2

In response to the conditional phrase, IF I, 36 percent of the subjects (18) felt concern about their family relationships in their perceptions of themselves. The concern appeared to be based on the husband-father separation from the family due to professional obligations and, for four subjects, the fear of death of themselves. Concern over husband-father separation was sufficient enough for two subjects to consider resignation from the Army. Several of the responses expressing concern follow below.

IF I . . . would never be separated from my family for long periods of time, my family would be happier.

- . . . return to my family, I don't desire to be separated from them again.
- . . . hadn't volunteered for Vietnam, my family would have been happier but I would have been dissatisfied in failing to do my duty.
- . . . had it to do over again, there would be many improvements. If I had to come to Vietnam again, I would resign from the Army.
- . . . had another chance to make the decision to remain in the service, I would not do so because of the heavy strain on family life.
- . . . had to do it over considering family life alone, I would have gotten out of the Army after the first five years.
- . . . had it to do over, I would marry later in life; a junior officer on troop duty can not devote the time to home life that the family deserves.
- . . . had to do it over, I would get married as a Second Lieutenant or wait until I was a Colonel.

The four responses referring to fear of death were as follows:

IF I . . . should die, I would want my wife to marry as soon as possible for her own and the needs of the children.

- . . . die, my family would become too much of a burden for my wife.
- . . . am killed in combat, after the initial shock, my family will manage to carry on.
- . . . were to die or be killed, I would hope that my wife would remarry for the sake of the children, especially the baby. A man's guidance and love is needed in these tender years.

Satisfaction with life and family was reported by 11 subjects (22 percent). One subject stated, "If I were to marry and rear a family all over again, I'd do it the same way with the same Mrs. G." Several subjects were nonspecific in their responses. Typical of such responses is the following: "If I had to do it all over again, I would without any hesitation."

Satisfaction with choice of career was reported by seven subjects (14 percent). Patriotism and a job with responsibility were mentioned by two subjects as satisfactions.

Parent-child relationships were referred to by five subjects (10 percent) in their general perception of themselves, while three subjects referred to their role as guide and teacher, and two subjects commented on their role as disciplinarian.

There were five responses which did not seem to fall into any of the subcategories and were considered miscellaneous. They were:

- IF I . . . were not married, I would have no compunction about sleeping with anyone who attracted me.
- . . . had only gone further in school, things would be a lot better.
- . . . have a bad day at work, I should repair my disposition before arriving home.

. . . don't return from the office near the normal schedule, I normally inform my wife at the earliest possible time.

. . . had it all to do over again, I probably would not do as well.

In response to sentence stem WHEN I AM AT HOME (#8), 78 percent of the subjects (39) felt that life was enjoyable. Their enjoyment was found in the time spent with their families, in activities in which all members of the family could participate and in a general feeling of contentment. To compensate for time spent away, seven subjects felt the need to spend maximum time with their families when at home. Some of their comments were as follows:

WHEN I AM AT HOME . . . I try to provide as much attention to my wife and son as possible to make up for the long separations.

. . . I enjoy the family to the fullest. The past few years haven't afforded much family time.

. . . I try to devote time to the family.

. . . my family comes first.

Enjoyment in working on hobbies, studying or having time to be completely alone was reported by nine subjects.

Husband role. This main category was comprised of two sentence stems: AS A HUSBAND (#13) and SEX (#12). A list of the subcategories dealing with the husband role, together with the number and percentage of subjects reporting, is given on the following page.

<u>Subcategories</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
AS A HUSBAND (#13)		
Close interpersonal relationship	20	40
Provider	11	22
Concern about family	10	20
Parent	2	4
Self-criticism	2	4
Miscellaneous	1	2
Omissions	4	8
SEX (#12)		
Husband-wife relationship	23	46
Sex education for children	17	34
Descriptive comments	7	14
Miscellaneous	3	6

In response to AS A HUSBAND (#13), 40 percent of the subjects (20) wrote comments which reflected a close interpersonal relationship between husband and wife. Typical of their feelings were the following responses:

AS A HUSBAND . . . I enjoy having a woman pamper me and making me feel like I'm the most important thing that has happened to her.

. . . I am faithful and loving and loyal to my wife and children.

. . . I have only the greatest respect for my wife and the magnificent manner in which she has taken my place.

. . . I owe my wife happiness and all the love she requires as a woman.

One officer, married for 10 years, wrote, "I have grown closer to my family while in Vietnam."

Concern about their families based on the conflict between professional and family obligations was expressed by ten subjects (20 percent).

Typical of their feelings are the following statements.

AS A HUSBAND . . . I know that the Army will require more of my time in the form of overseas, unaccompanied tours than would a civilian job.

. . . I have too frequently put the Army ahead of my family.

. . . I feel that the Army hinders family life by separations and lack of off-duty time.

. . . I miss being in Vietnam because no one can replace this year of being separated.

. . . I do not enjoy long separations overseas.

. . . I do not have as much time as I would like with my family.

. . . I have had very little time in the raising of my family because of the military life.

. . . I hate to leave my wife to run the family.

As a husband, 11 subjects (22 percent) viewed themselves as the family provider. A 32-year-old officer, "I pride myself in being a good provider."

Responsibility toward their children was referred to by only two subjects. Self-critical statements were made by two subjects. They were:

AS A HUSBAND . . . I am probably less than successful.

. . . My wife tells me I don't talk to her enough.

One response was considered miscellaneous. It read: AS A HUSBAND "I feel extramarital sex is not to be condoned under any circumstances or excuse, although the urge and opportunity present themselves on occasions of some frequency."

In response to SEX (#12), almost half of all subjects (46 percent) referred to sex within the husband-wife relationship. Typical statements follow.

SEX . . . is hampered by family life in that there is too much work for mother and sometimes too many little people around when privacy is needed.

. . . is an important part of marriage.

. . . is not to be considered vulgar but something wonderful to be enjoyed by man and wife.

. . . is meant only for husbands and wives and then only for one another.

Sex was related to their military profession by two subjects. They wrote: SEX "is a very important aspect in a military family," and ". . . has remained a constant binder between my wife and me despite its being influenced by tensions on the job and frequent separations." One subject felt that while sex was important in marriage, it was not the most important part of the husband-wife relationship.

Sex education for children was referred to by 34 percent (17) of the subjects. However, most of these responses also referred to sex as part

of the husband-wife relationship. For example some of the responses read:

SEX . . . is basic to marriage and should be explained to the children as a natural act as well as a very strong influence in life.

. . . has been an important facet of our marriage and will be openly discussed when my daughters are older or when questions are asked.

. . . should be taught by both parents, not one or the other.

. . . is the golden reward for a man and his wife after a hard day's work, but it is also an everyday, every hour fact of life in any family, and should be discussed, taught and enjoyed in its right place at the proper time.

. . . and the young girl is a matter requiring damn careful handling.

There were seven (14 percent) descriptive responses to SEX within neither the husband-wife subcategory nor the sex education subcategory. Some of the comments were: SEX "is the most over-discussed subject in America and most of the problems are due to over-discussing"; ". . . is wholesome"; ". . . is extremely good"; ". . . relieves pressure."

Reported as miscellaneous, there were three (6 percent) responses best described as flippant. They were: "is rare in the central highlands (of Vietnam)"; ". . . is my favorite pastime"; ". . . is the best thing that's come along lately."

Parent role. This main category was comprised of three sentence stems: BEING A FATHER (#19); AS A PARENT I ENJOY (#2); AS A PARENT I DISLIKE (#16). A list of the subcategories dealing with the parent role, together with the number and percentage of subjects reporting, is given.

<u>Subcategories</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
BEING A FATHER (#19)		
Responsible satisfying role	36	72
Concern about family	5	10
Difficult task	1	2
Miscellaneous	4	8
Omissions	4	8
AS A PARENT I ENJOY (#2)		
Companionship with wife and children	21	42
Observing development of children	14	28
Teaching and guiding	11	22
Providing economically	3	6
Miscellaneous	1	2
AS A PARENT I DISLIKE (#16)		
Actions of others disturbing my children	17	34
Father-absence	9	18
Behavior of children	9	18
Actions of other parents toward their children	7	14
Responsibility	4	8

No dislikes	1	2
Omissions	3	6

In response to BEING A FATHER (#19), 36 subjects (72 percent) viewed the parent role as responsible and satisfying. However, five subjects (10 percent) felt concern about their families based on husband-father separation because of military requirements. Their comments were:

BEING A FATHER . . . I constantly worry about the family while I am in Vietnam.

. . . is a wonderful experience. I only regret I can't spend more time at it.

. . . as well as a military man requires a large amount of tact and love to make a desirable atmosphere for our children.

. . . on an unaccompanied tour places extra burden on my wife.

. . . is a wonderful task if only I would be given the time to practice it.

A 32-year-old officer, with eleven years of service time and the father of three school children, felt that being a father "at times is a difficult task to perform."

There were four responses classified as miscellaneous. They were:

BEING A FATHER . . . I have been careful not to try to mold my son in my image; I want him to be what he wants, not what I want.

. . . in a military family is no different than being a father in a civilian family.

. . . I would like to see my son serve in one of the military services of his choice.

. . . is something no one can explain unless he is one.

In response to AS A PARENT I ENJOY (#2), 21 subjects (42 percent) stated that they enjoyed the companionship which they had with their wives and children. Fathers of preschool children enjoyed playing with both their daughters and their sons. Fathers of school children mentioned that they participated in activities such as scouting and little league. Fathers whose children were in their teens generally stated that they enjoyed talking with and listening to their children. One father, whose children ranged in age from 18 months to 15 years, wrote that he enjoyed "sharing the experiences of our children whether it be a walk with the twins (18 months old), a camping trip with the boys (15 and 12 years old) or playing with the older girls (13 and 8 years old)."

Enjoyment in observing their children develop was reported by 14 subjects (28 percent). It appeared that these fathers were referring to the pleasure derived simply from the fact of having children and from the role of child-rearer. For example, one father stated that he enjoyed "the expressions of joy our children show daily and of watching them develop and discover the world about them." Another subject wrote that he enjoyed "watching my daughter grow and develop and relish my part in the process."

For 11 subjects, whose children ranged in age from 10 months to 13 years, enjoyment was stated in terms of being a teacher and guide to their

children. These fathers reported that they enjoyed taking the children to new events which their children had never seen before, helping their children with their homework and offering usually unwanted advice, and having curious children who are eager to learn. Generally, fathers of preschool children stated that they enjoyed guiding their children in their development. One father mentioned that he hoped he would be able to teach his son what he needed to know in the time the father would have with the son.

AS A PARENT, enjoyment in being the economic provider was reported by three subjects, while one subject saw parenthood as a difficult task.

One response designated miscellaneous read: "AS A PARENT I ENJOY living."

In response to AS A PARENT I DISLIKE (#16), most subjects directed their comments to factors which appeared to interfere with their own child-rearing practices and to father-absence.

Actions of others which they felt were disturbing to their own children were reported by 17 subjects (34 percent). Typical of their feelings were the following statements:

AS A PARENT I DISLIKE . . . neighbors or friends who do not control their children, thereby, allowing them to set bad examples for my children.

. . . the bad influences so prevalent in the civilian community.

. . . the over-organization of children's activities.

. . . the atmosphere in our country (both in and

out of the service) in which I must raise my children, morally, mentally and physically.

. . . the pressures of community living overseas where minor disciplinary problems are distorted as a result of a fear that the Army or country will get a bad name.

Father-absence was mentioned by 18 percent of the subjects (9). One subject, the father of eleven children ranging in age from between two months and 20 years, stated that as a parent he "disliked being away from my family so much and, therefore, envy my civilian neighbors."

As a parent, nine subjects (18 percent) expressed that they disliked the behavior of children who were "disrespectful," "spoiled," and "allowed to run wild." A father of two teenagers stated that he disliked "for my children to be associated with or express a desire to participate in off-the-wall groups such as 'flowerchildren'." Another father of teenagers wrote that he disliked "long hair on boys and loud popular music that the children enjoy."

Actions of other parents toward their children were mentioned by seven subjects (14 percent). Some of their responses follow.

AS A PARENT I DISLIKE . . . seeing other parents abusing the privilege of being a parent.

. . . parents who take no interest in their family.

. . . the practice of excessive permissiveness by other parents

Responsibilities associated with parenthood were expressed by four

subjects (8 percent). Their responses read:

AS A PARENT I DISLIKE . . . the thought of having too many children.

. . . having to punish.

. . . unplanned or unscheduled activities
requiring my presence.

. . . some of the responsibility.

A 39-year-old father wrote that, as a parent, he disliked "not too much."

Wife role. This main category was comprised of three sentence stems: MY WIFE (#3); BEING A MOTHER (#10); and IF MY WIFE (#18), a conditional phrase to evoke desires, fears, or wishes. A list of the subcategories dealing with the wife role, together with the number and percentage of subjects reporting, is given below.

<u>Subcategories</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
MY WIFE (#3)		
Companion	13	26
Mother	11	22
Attitude of wife toward military profession	11	22
Manager	9	18
Personal attributes of wife	6	12
BEING A MOTHER (#10)		
Responsible satisfying role	22	44

Difficult role	5	10
Particularly difficult for Army wife	16	32
Omissions	7	14

IF MY WIFE (#18)

Relationship with wife	16	32
Personal attributes of wife	12	24
Attitude of wife toward military profession	10	20
Needs of wife	7	14
Omissions	5	10

In response to MY WIFE (#3), 13 subjects (26 percent) viewed their wives in the role of companion to themselves. Some of their comments follow.

MY WIFE . . . is attractive, a remarkably able mother in the care of our children, and a wonderful companion, as all couples do, we too, have our problems.

. . . is a patient, understanding person who gives of herself for both her husband and child.

. . . is the finest thing that ever happened to me, the brightest spot in my life.

. . . loves for me to assist her or even be present in the kitchen when she prepares meals.

. . . is the greatest thing which has happened to me and the type all service men should have.

Their wives were viewed in the mother role by 11 subjects (22 percent) with statements such as the following:

MY WIFE . . . sometimes loses patience too easily with the children.

. . . is considered by me to be a wonderful mother.

. . . is a dedicated mother.

. . . is a wonderful mother and a hard working, resourceful person.

The attitude of their wives toward the military profession was commented on by 11 subjects (22 percent). Of these, ten subjects felt that their wives enjoyed military life. Typical of their feelings are the following responses:

MY WIFE . . . is a good mother, manages the household budget efficiently, enjoys military social life and has been a wonderful asset during my military career.

. . . is a military child and likes the life, and she accepts the problems that come with being a military family.

. . . has never complained about forced separations. She feels, and I agree, it strengthens the family ties.

. . . enjoys military life and likes military people.

. . . possesses the special set of characteristics required in a good "Army" wife, thank God.

One subject, married for three years, wrote that his wife "is definitely discouraged with Army life. She simply cannot accept the separation."

For nine subjects (18 percent), the role of wife was viewed as manager of family affairs, particularly during subjects' absences, while six subjects (12 percent) described personal attributes of their wives with terms such as "wonderful," "quiet woman," "most feminine," and "almost perfect."

In response to sentence stem BEING A MOTHER (#10), 22 subjects perceived the role of mother as responsible and satisfying. Some of the subjects suggested that being a mother required patience to teach, understanding, love, and an ability to communicate with one's children at all ages.

However, five subjects responded with the idea that being a mother was a difficult role. Motherhood was viewed as particularly difficult for the Army wife, by 16 subjects (32 percent), principally because of husband-father absence. Some of their responses read:

BEING A MOTHER . . . and the wife of a career soldier possesses many varied problems that bring out the best and worst in a woman.

- . . . is a great responsibility for a military wife because of the husband's absences. She must be independent to a degree.
- . . . in a military family is a tough job.
- . . . (and wife) in the Army is probably one of the loneliest and most difficult tasks (if not the most difficult) for any woman anywhere.
- . . . in a military family is more demanding than in a civilian family.
- . . . and father creates great burdens on my wife.
- . . . in the military requires much more initiative and self-dependence than in civilian life.
- . . . while the father is away is a difficult and trying task which my wife manages exceptionally well.
- . . . in an Army family requires more skill as she must constantly shift roles from being mother to being both mother and father and back again.

In response to sentence stem IF MY WIFE (#18), a conditional phrase intended to evoke fears, wishes or desires, 16 subjects (32 percent) wrote about their relationships with their wives which was interpreted as reflecting subjects' need for their companion wives. One subject wrote that if his wife "doesn't enjoy an avocation of mine, I lose interest because I want us to enjoy things together." Other responses read:

IF MY WIFE . . . didn't love me as much as she does, I could never be a professional soldier.

. . . was the most beautiful woman in the world, I could not love her more than I do now.

. . . were single, I'd marry her.

Fear of death of, or separation from, their wives was felt by five subjects (10 percent). They wrote:

IF MY WIFE . . . were to leave me or expire, it would break my heart.

. . . should die, I am afraid that I would be completely at a loss between family and Army life.

. . . were to expire, I would not remarry.

. . . should leave me, I shall never remarry.

. . . ever left me, my life wouldn't be worth living.

Personal attributes of their wives were mentioned by 12 subjects (24 percent). They felt that their wives were strong persons who kept the family together, good decision-makers, patient and understanding persons who helped make military life a satisfactory life, and extremely capable individuals without whom unaccompanied tours would be impossible.

Responding to IF MY WIFE, ten subjects wrote in terms of their wives' attitudes toward the military profession. Of these, five subjects reported a willingness to resign from the Army if their wives suggested it. One subject felt that if his wife could not adapt to military life, his life as an officer would be most difficult, while two subjects reported that if their wives had their wishes fulfilled, these subjects would be civilians. One subject, with 17 years service, wrote that if his wife "continues to insist, I will retire from the service at 20 years to seek employment that causes fewer, or at least shorter, separations."

The wish to fulfill the needs of their wives was mentioned by seven subjects. Mentioned were wife's need for male companionship during subject's absence, wife's wanting to be in Republic of Vietnam with husband, and wife's wanting to work. Two subjects wrote that if their wives wanted "anything," they would obtain it.

Child role. This main category was comprised of four sentence stems: BEING A MILITARY CHILD (#4); OBEDIENCE (#5); DISCIPLINE (#11); MAKING HIGH GRADES IN SCHOOL (#14). A list of the subcategories dealing with the role of the child, together with the number and percentage of subjects reporting, is given below.

<u>Subcategories</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
BEING A MILITARY CHILD (#4)		
Advantage	21	42
Advantage and disadvantage	15	30

BEING A MILITARY CHILD (Con't)

Disadvantage	11	22
Miscellaneous	2	4
Omission	1	2

OBEDIENCE (#5)

Necessary	36	72
A means, not an end	11	22
Miscellaneous	2	4
Omission	1	2

DISCIPLINE (#11)

Necessary for growth and development of children	32	64
Necessary in family	14	28
Responsibility of father	3	6
Omission	1	2

MAKING HIGH GRADES IN SCHOOL (#14)

Not an end in itself	24	48
Important and encouraged	22	44
Miscellaneous	3	6
Omission	1	2

In response to BEING A MILITARY CHILD (#4), 42 percent of the subjects (21) viewed being a child in a military family to be an advantage.

The advantages mentioned were generally that it broadened a child's

education by traveling and learning to make new friends frequently. Subjects whose children were preschoolers anticipated that making new friends and traveling would be beneficial to their children. Apparently reflecting his observations of military children, one subject stated that being a military child "seems to be an advantage. They have a much broader education than children in civilian life." This subject's children were seven months and 27 months old.

However, 30 percent of the subjects (15) felt that being a military child had both advantages and disadvantages. Traveling and learning to adjust to change, broader education and greater understanding of the world and varied experiences were mentioned as advantages. Disadvantages cited were disruption to education, insecurity and father-absence, and lack of life ties with friends and schools.

Being a military child was viewed only as a disadvantage by 22 percent (11) of the subjects. Insecurity due to moving, father-absence, deprivation of lifelong friendships and making new friends frequently were seen as disadvantages. Two responses were grouped as miscellaneous. They were:

BEING A MILITARY CHILD . . . carries responsibilities without the privileges of rank.

. . . puts a child in a unique position.

All the subjects seemed to see the military child role as quite a different one from the nonmilitary child role.

In response to OBEDIENCE (#5), almost three-fourths of the subjects

(72 percent) stated that obedience of children to parents was important and should be stressed early in child-rearing. Obedience was related to the military way of life by four subjects. For example, a 31-year-old father of an infant son wrote, "Obedience is a must. I live with it day in and day out. My children must learn it and respect it." Another subject wrote, "Obedience is easier to instill in children of military families."

For 22 percent of the subjects (11), obedience in itself was viewed as a means and not an end. They mentioned that, rather than obedience, respect and mutual love and understanding were important. Some of these responses follow below:

OBEDIENCE . . . should be flexible.

- . . . is necessary, but should not be overdone. The child must be allowed sufficient latitude to develop his self-confidence. The obedience should come through love rather than punishment.
- . . . within any environment must come from respect and understanding.
- . . . is best learned by the parents setting the example.

Two responses were classified as miscellaneous. They were: OBEDIENCE "I assume you refer to children here. Mine are usually obedient. Like most children in today's world they fluctuate based on the tone of attitude used. I have seen worse", "I . . . I tend to be permissive, my wife authoritarian. It makes for a certain balance in our home."

In response to DISCIPLINE (#11), 64 percent of the subjects (32) felt that discipline was necessary for growth and development of children.

Three subjects viewed discipline as self-discipline. Their responses follow:

DISCIPLINE . . . is learned.

. . . should be taught through leadership rather than through physical punishment.

. . . for the children requires discipline for the parents.

Discipline was related to the military way of life by two subjects. They wrote:

DISCIPLINE . . . is more important to a military family because of the constant moves.

. . . in military children is more rigid due to the Army regulations they have to live under while growing up.

For 28 percent of the subjects (14) discipline was felt to be necessary in the family and that it was the responsibility of both parents, while three subjects viewed discipline as "the father's responsibility."

In response to MAKING HIGH GRADES IN SCHOOL (#14), 48 percent of the subjects (24) felt that academic achievement for the child was not important. Learning for the joy of learning; doing one's best, unhampered by fear of low grades; value of outside-the-home and school activities such as clubs, sports and weekend travels; and understanding of basic concepts were considered important. Only one subject referred to the geographical mobility of the military family when he stated, "MAKING HIGH GRADES IN SCHOOL is desirable but temperance must be used when children change school systems frequently." However, academic achievement was felt to be important by 44 percent of the subjects (22).

There were three responses grouped as miscellaneous. They were:

MAKING HIGH GRADES IN SCHOOL . . . came rather easy.

. . . has not come to the fore as a subject of importance in my household because of the ages of my children.

. . . has been no problem for my children.

Husband-family mobility. This main category was comprised of two sentence stems: PCS MOVES (#15) and UNACCOMPANIED TOURS (#17). A list of the subcategories dealing with husband-family mobility, together with the number and percentage of subjects reporting, is given below.

<u>Subcategories</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
PCS MOVES (#15)		
Enjoyed but caused problems	18	36
Not enjoyed and caused problems	16	32
Enjoyed and looked forward to	15	30
Omission	1	2
UNACCOMPANIED TOURS (#17)		
Hardship	25	50
Difficult but beneficial	13	26
Accepted as way of life	10	20
Omissions	2	4

In response to PCS MOVES (#15), 36 percent of the subjects (18) felt that they enjoyed these moves but that they caused problems. They mentioned that PCS moves offered new experiences, were fun, and that they were a means to visit relatives and recreational spots enroute to the new duty station. Problems associated with PCS moves were that these moves caused instability because of disruption to the entire family, particularly to children who must leave friends already made, and fear, felt by one subject, of substandard quality of schools for the children at the destination.

For 32 percent of the subjects (16), PCS moves were viewed as not enjoyable and that they caused problems for the entire family. Most frequently mentioned were the problems of disruption to the family, frequency and cost. For example, disruption to the family was stated in the following responses.

PCS MOVES . . . are hectic.

. . . definite hardship.

. . . traumatic experience, at best.

. . . create a turbulence in a family's life which at times becomes very difficult to cope with by all concerned.

. . . upsetting.

Tied in with the disruption to the family were the problems of high frequency and high cost of the moves. Typical of the subjects' feelings are the following responses.

PCS MOVES . . . are becoming more work and more frequent.

- . . . are hell, cost too much, move too often, rent is too high, makes you want to get out of the service.
- . . . are a financial setback to an Army family.
- . . . are very costly no matter how much money is paid.
- . . . costly, too frequent and sad.

One subject, whose children were 1, 12, and 13 years old, felt that PCS moves were hardships especially for the children for they "have to look for a new group of friends and the time of year makes a difference on how easily they will be accepted by the right group."

In spite of the disadvantages mentioned by most of the subjects, 30 percent (15) of the subjects felt that they and their families enjoyed and looked forward to these moves. They made no mention of disadvantages. These subjects felt that the moves opened new horizons for them and offered opportunities for them and their families to meet new people and new challenging experiences. Also, they felt that the moves were not disruptive to children, were accepted as part of Army life, were welcomed by their wives and that they were sometimes blessings.

In response to UNACCOMPANIED TOURS (#17), half of all subjects felt that these tours were a definite hardship. The subjects mentioned that unaccompanied tours were becoming too frequent and too costly, and that they may be the reason for one subject, with 11 years in service, to leave the service if they become "common place." For seven subjects,

unaccompanied tours were viewed as causing an increased burden and added responsibility for their wives. A 39-year-old father of 11 children wrote, "Unaccompanied tours in a combat area are unpleasant for the husband and wife causing much worry." A 33-year-old father of three children wrote, "Unaccompanied tours create problems for my wife which causes concern to me which detracts from the quality of my work performance."

However, 13 subjects (26 percent) felt that unaccompanied tours of the husband-father were difficult on the family but were beneficial as well. The benefits mentioned were that the military wife played a greater role in the family and, as such, did not become depressed at being a housewife; that unaccompanied tours served to make all parties realize how much they depended upon one another; that unaccompanied tours allowed each mate to accomplish private desires unhampered, and that, for four subjects married for ten years or less, unaccompanied tours helped the marriage relationship.

Unaccompanied tours of duty were viewed as part of the military profession by ten subjects (20 percent). However, two of these subjects felt that these tours, although necessary, caused disruption to the family and added hardships for their wives.

CHAPTER V

DISCUSSION

Many of the elements of the companionship family, as described by Burgess, Locke and Thomes (1963), were found in the responses of the officers. The companionship family in modern society is marked by emphasis on intimate interpersonal association as a primary function. Other characteristics of this type family are giving and receiving of affection; assumption of equality of husband and wife; democracy in decision-making in the family including a voice by the children; personality development of family members as an objective; freedom of self-expression; and the expectation that the greatest happiness was to be found within the family.

As indicated in their responses, 92 percent of the subjects felt their families were close satisfying units in which, for 80 percent of the subjects, decision-making was a democratic process with equal participation of both husband and wife and a voice by the children.

In describing themselves, 22 percent of the subjects expressed satisfaction with their family life and 14 percent of the subjects reported that they were satisfied with their choice of profession. In addition, 10 percent of the subjects referred to the parental role in their general

perception of themselves. However, 36 percent of the subjects stressed concern about their families because of husband-father separation caused by professional requirements. Another concern was fear of death of themselves and its impact on family welfare. It might be expected that men in combat would experience fear of death. For these subjects who are career officers, separation from their families is often coupled with exposure to loss of life in combat areas in the Republic of Vietnam. This is one dimension of the military family which demands closer examination. For 96 percent of the subjects, enjoyment of family was a major activity when at home. To compensate for time spent away, seven subjects felt the need to spend maximum time with their wives and children.

As a husband, 40 percent of the subjects perceived that they had a close interpersonal relationship with their wives, while 22 percent viewed themselves as the family provider. Responsibility toward their children was referred to by 4 percent of the subjects and 4 percent of the subjects were critical of themselves as husbands. Here again, conflict between professional and family obligations was highlighted with 20 percent of the subjects making specific reference to husband-father separation. Perhaps this accounts for the fact that, in the role of husband, 22 percent of the subjects saw themselves as the family provider. Sex was referred to as part of the husband-wife relationship by 46 percent of the subjects and as a facet of life to be taught to their children by 34 percent of the subjects. Descriptive or flippancy phrases were used by 20 percent of the

subjects in their reference to sex.

As a parent, 72 percent of the subjects saw fatherhood as a satisfying and responsible role. Almost all of the subjects (92 percent) considered themselves a companion to their wives and children. They found joy in being with their children, watching them develop, and teaching and guiding them. Enjoyment in being the economic provider was mentioned by three officers, while one father saw parenthood as a difficult task. Again, concern about their family relationships was emphasized by five subjects who reported that, because of husband-father separation due to military obligations, it was difficult for them to perform the role of parent. They felt that this inability to adequately perform the parental role placed an extra burden on their wives. When specifically referring to problems found in parenthood, 66 percent of the subjects directed their comments to factors outside the home which interfered with their own child-rearing practices. Responsibilities associated with parenthood were referred to by four subjects, while one subject saw no problems as a parent. However, 18 percent of the subjects viewed father-absence due to military requirements as a problem.

The subjects perceived their wives to be a companion first, a mother second, and manager of family affairs third. The role of motherhood was seen by 44 percent of the subjects as responsible and satisfying, while 10 percent of the subjects saw it as a difficult task. Being a mother in a military family was viewed as a particularly difficult role by 32 percent of

the subjects because husband-father absence created an extra burden and added responsibilities for their wives. Emotional need for their wives, including fear of death of, or separation from, their wives, was felt by 32 percent of the subjects. Again, this points up that fear of death as a problem facing the career military man as a family member needs further investigation. Personal attributes of their wives were described by 36 percent of the subjects, while 14 percent of the subjects wanted to fulfill any needs of their wives. This specific reference to wanting to fulfill wife's needs may be generated by a sense of inadequate husband-role performance created by conflict between military and family obligations. In describing the wife role, 15 subjects referred to their wives' attitude toward the military profession. Only four subjects reported a negative attitude. However, five subjects stated willingness to resign from the Army if their wives suggested it. These statements may account for the conflict between professional and family obligations which the subjects felt.

Being a military child was felt by 72 percent of the subjects to be an advantage, at least in part, because the child gained in experiences from travel. Father-absence and deprivation of lifelong friendships were viewed as disadvantages by 22 percent of the subjects. Obedience to parents and discipline within the family were mentioned as necessary for growth and development of children. Obedience was related to the military way of life by four subjects. For 48 percent of the subjects, academic

achievement was not an end in itself, but rather personality development of the child was important; while 44 percent of the subjects considered academic achievement important. In general, child-rearing practices were expressed along traditional lines. The fathers were firm, but also perceived themselves as kind, loving and understanding.

Mobility of the military family through PCS moves was regarded as enjoyable by 66 percent of the subjects even though half of them felt that the moves were disruptive to their families and one subject feared possible substandard quality of schools for the children at the destination. Possibly, these officers and their families have learned to successfully cope with the disruptions caused by moving. On the other hand, 32 percent of the subjects emphatically stated that PCS moves caused problems of disruption to the family, were too frequent and too costly. For these subjects, moving seemed to be a major problem.

Unaccompanied tours of duty of the husband-father were viewed by 76 percent of the subjects as definite hardships, principally because they created extra burdens for their wives. Again, the military man is in conflict between professional and family obligations which probably causes his sense of inadequate husband-father role performance. However, ten officers accepted unaccompanied tours as part of the military way of life, although two officers felt that husband-father absence caused added hardships for their wives.

It was apparent in the responses of most officers that they related

their family life to the military profession. It seemed that they felt that the military community was different from the nonmilitary community and, in turn, the military family from the nonmilitary family. Typical of their feelings are the following responses:

OUR FAMILY . . . is military and benefits from the resulting closeness.

AS A PARENT I ENJOY . . . the security that being a career officer provides.

MY WIFE . . . possesses the special set of characteristics required in a good "Army" wife, thank God.

BEING A MILITARY CHILD . . . is something my children enjoy and has definitely broadened their education in ways not available to the average nonmilitary child.

OBEDIENCE . . . in a military child far exceeds that of others.

BEING A MOTHER . . . in the military requires much more initiative and self-dependence than in civilian life.

DISCIPLINE . . . is an extremely desirable trait among military children because of the frequent changes in their environment.

SEX . . . is a very important aspect in a military family.

BEING A FATHER . . . as well as a military career man requires a large amount of tact and love to make a desirable atmosphere for our children.

These officers inferred that they and their families felt part of the common military community and accepted the inconveniences of military life. If they had the decision to make again, seven officers stated that they would still choose the military profession. Being a wife and mother in a military family was felt to be a satisfying role. During husband-father absence, the

military wife exhibited more independence and initiative than her civilian counterpart. The mobility of the military family was regarded by 30 percent of the officers as necessary to and expected in the military profession.

CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSIONS

Family life attitudes of 50 United States Army officers stationed in the Republic of Vietnam were explored through use of an incomplete sentence blank adapted from the Kell-Hoefflin Incomplete Sentence Blank (Parent Form). Generally, the subjects were satisfied with their choice of career, and companionship with their wives and children was highly valued. Fatherhood was seen as a responsible satisfying role in which the subjects found joy in being a companion to their children. They viewed their wives as a companion, a mother to their children and manager of family affairs. The advantages of being a military child were felt to outweigh the disadvantages as the child profited from travel experiences. Child-rearing practices, for the most part, were expressed along traditional lines. Geographical mobility of the family was viewed by a majority of subjects as having both advantages and disadvantages.

Several officers expressed concerns about their families; fear of death of themselves; husband-father absence; and the effects of geographical mobility. Fear of death of themselves was reported in terms of its impact on family welfare.

Husband-father absence was seen as creating extra burdens for the

military wife and a sense of inadequate husband-father role performance by the officers. There was an emphasis on spending maximum time with their wives and children when at home to compensate for time spent away.

Willingness to resign from the Army if a wife suggested it was stated by five subjects. This evidence may show the subjects tried to compensate for what they perceived as an inadequate family role performance. Also, mobility, for these subjects, occurred too frequently, was too costly, and created disruption to the family.

This exploration of family life attitudes of Army officers separated from their families due to assignment to a military tour of duty has illuminated certain areas and brought to light problems on which more information would be desirable.

1. The expectations of the military wife for her husband regarding his role as husband and parent.

2. Child-rearing practices and attitudes.

3. Pressures which cause conflict between professional responsibilities and family obligations.

4. Emotional strains caused by separation and the hazards of the profession, particularly during periods of separation.

It would be profitable to study relationships within the military family during stages of mobility. Suggested areas of study internal to the family are: patterns of divisions of labor between husband and wife and the responsibilities assumed by each; the giving and receiving of

affection for continued individual development and satisfaction; the decision-making process for short and long-range goals; communication system; the role of relatives and consumption patterns. External to the family, suggested areas of study to gain insight to relationships within the military family during stages of mobility are: pressures of the job on the military man; effects of availability of adequate housing at the destination and adequacy of income.

Because companionship was highly valued, it would also be profitable to explore how the wife's emotional needs are met during husband-father separations. Does she return to her family of orientation for emotional support or does she remain at her present residence and participate in community activities? How does she, and the children, maintain communication with the absent husband-father? When the emotional needs of the wife are met, she is then better able to meet the needs of the children for their continued development.

The fact that this 1968 exploration was conducted on officers who were separated from their families due to military obligations, subjects' statements may have been a biased description of their feelings. Any follow-up study should include equal numbers of husband-father present and husband-father absent subjects. Indeed, any later study should include a greater number of subjects than 50 who were studied in this exploration.

LIST OF REFERENCES

- Bach, George R. Father-fantasies and father-typing in father-separated child. Child Development, 1946, 17, 63-79.
- Burgess, Ernest W., Locke, Harvey J., and Thomes, Mary M. The family: from institution to companionship. (3rd ed.) New York: American Book Company, 1963.
- Coates, Charles H., and Pellegrin, Roland J. Military sociology: a study of American military institutions and military life. University Park, Maryland: Social Science Press, 1965.
- Crain, Alan J., and Stamm, Caroline S. Intermittent absence of fathers and children's perceptions of parents. Journal of Marriage and Family, 1965, 27, 344-347.
- Gabower, Genevieve. Behavior problems of children in Navy officers' families. Social Casework, 1960, 41, 177-184.
- Hoeflin, Ruth, and Kell, Leone. The Kell-Hoeflin Incomplete Sentence Blank: youth-parent relations. Monographs of Society for Research in Child Development, 1959, 24, Serial No. 72, No. 3.
- Janowitz, Morris. The Professional Soldier. New York: Free Press, 1960.
- Janowitz, Morris, and Little, Roger. Sociology and the military establishment. (Rev. ed.) New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1965.
- Lindquist, Ruth. Marriage and family life of officers and airmen in a Strategic Air Command wing. Air Force Base Project, Technical Report No. 5. Institute for Research in Social Science. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 1952.
- Lynn, David B., and Sawrey, William L. The effects of father-absence on Norwegian boys and girls. Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology, 1959, 59, 258-262.
- Sears, Pauline S. Doll play aggression in normal young children: influence of sex, age, sibling status, father's absence. Psychology Monographs 1951, 65, 6. (No. 323)

Stolz, Lois M. Father relations of warborn children. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, 1954.

Thomes, Mary M. Children with absent fathers. Journal of Marriage and Family, 1968, 30, 89-96.

Tiller, P. O. Father absence and personality development in children in sailor families: a preliminary research report. In N. Anderson (Ed.), Studies of the Family. Vol. 2. Gottingen: Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht, 1957. Pp. 115-137. (Original not seen.)

APPENDIX A

1 May 1968

To complete a requirement for the Master's degree at Kansas State University, Department of Family and Child Development, I plan to study the attitudes of professional officers toward family life. Because I am an Army wife and a former Army nurse, I am indeed interested in the professional officer's attitudes toward family life. I seek your cooperation in this study.

Attached is an incomplete sentence blank. No names or identifying characteristics are required.

Please complete the sentences to express your real feelings about family life.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Margaret V. Clark
(Mrs. Eldon L. Clark)
Graduate Student

Approved:

Marjorie Stith, Ph.D., Head
Department of Family and Child
Development

Enclosure

INCOMPLETE SENTENCE BLANK

Fill In:

Age_____ Army branch_____ Yrs Service_____ Months in Vietnam_____

Yrs Married_____ Ages of children: Boys_____, _____, _____, Girls _____, _____, _____

Complete these sentences to express your real feelings toward family life.
Be sure to make complete sentences.

1. Our family
2. As a parent I enjoy
3. My wife
4. Being a military child
5. Obedience
6. Our children should not
7. If I
8. When I am at home
9. I wish our children would
10. Being a mother
11. Discipline
12. Sex
13. As a husband
14. Making high grades in school
15. PCS moves
16. As a parent I dislike
17. Unaccompanied tours
18. If my wife
19. Being a father
20. Making decisions in the home

APPENDIX B

Description of Subjects

Subj. No	Age	Army Branch	Years Service	Mos. in Vietnam	Years Married	Age of Sons	Age of Daughters
1	34	Arty	11	9	9	4	7, 6
2	36	Inf	18	16	16	12	14, 8
3	35	Arm	13	9	3	18 mos	
4	36	Arm	12	5	15	13, 10	
5	35	Inf	15	1	8	6	2
6	33	Eng	12	1	12	10	9, 5
7	33	Inf	11	10	8		7, 5, 3
8	27	Eng	8	4	2		10 months
9	37	Inf	10	5	18	10	11
10	32	Eng	9	10	6 $\frac{1}{2}$		5, 2
11	39	Inf	17	10	14	12	
12	31	Arm	7	10	8	2	
13	29	Inf	8	6	4 $\frac{1}{2}$		3, 1
14	38	Inf	16	9	12	10, 1	6
15	39	Art	17	10	14	13, 8	11, 9, 6
16	26	Inf	9	4	7		6, 5, 4
17	27	Inf	8	9	8		2
18	31	Inf	8	10	3	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	
19	32	Inf	13	10	10		8
20	26	Art	5	8	5	3	9 months
21	32	Inf	10	10	4		3

Subj. No	Age	Army Branch	Years Service	Mos. in Vietnam	Years Married	Age of Sons	Age of Daughters
22	33	Arm	10	4	5		1
23	29	Arm	10	9	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	10
24	27	Arm	5	10	5		2
25	36	Eng	15	11	10	7	9, 4
26	32	Inf	11	10	11	10, 5	8
27	41	Qm	19	5	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	12	
28	49	Ord	26	2	17		21, 18, 15
29	32	Ord	9	10	9	8	6, 5
30	47	Inf	17	10	22	18	16
31	41	Sig	22	11	17	15, 12	13, 8, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
32	29	Sig	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	11	7	10, 8, 4
33	37	Sig	16	11	8		7
34	40	Qm	9	3	18	17, 11, 10	14, 13
35	44	Inf	24	6	18	15	13, 7
36	29	Inf	8	18	6		5, 4, 3
37	29	Inf	6	18	6		4
38	33	Mi	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	11	9, 2 mo	6
39	39	Mi	18	1	3	7 mo	27 mo
40	43	Mi	21	1	18		15, 11
41	37	Mi	14	10	13	12	11, 7, 3
42	36	Mi	9	4	15	1	13, 12

Subj. No	Age	Army Branch	Years Service	Mos in Vietnam	Years Married	Age of Sons	Age of Daughters
43	39	Inf	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	13	10, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
44	33	Qm	10	7	11		8, 7, 3
45	39	Inf	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	23	16, 11	20, 15, 14, 10, 8, 5, 2, 2 mo., 2 mo.
46	37	Mi	16	11	15.9	13, 11	15, 9
47	38	Inf	15	10	10	5	9, 7
48	39	Arm	15	11	19	18	7
49	36	Trans	11	5	12.9	9	12, 3
50	36	Inf	15	10	14	8	12

Army Branch Abbreviations

Arty-----Artillery

Inf-----Infantry

Arm-----Armor

Eng-----Engineer Corps

Qm-----Quartermaster Corps

Ord-----Ordnance Corps

Sig-----Signal Corps

Mi-----Military Intelligence Corps

Trans---Transportation Corps

APPENDIX C

1. OUR FAMILY:

1. is a close knit group of distinct individuals in which, fortunately, few partialities exist.
2. is a close knit group that enjoys a variety of activities together while not neglecting diversified social activities with community groups.
3. is going to grow.
4. is well adjusted to military life.
5. I'd say our family has the usual likes and dislikes. Very close. Hate to be separated.
6. is self sustaining being made of responsible individuals.
7. is a closely knitted unit.
8. is the most important thing in our lives.
9. is a close affectionate unit.
10. is relatively close emotionally and very active. It is one of good health and a joint family effort by both my wife and myself.
11. has always enjoyed assignments in various parts of the world after the initial trauma of the move.
12. is one who tries to share our openness with one another. It is a happy family because we share our lives and happiness with one another.
13. is the basic element in our society and the most important social unit within our civilization.
14. enjoys being together and traveling.
15. means more and more to me as I have progressed up the Army rank structure.
16. is developing into a fine household.
17. is a happy one when I am at home or with them.

18. life is a relatively untried affair. Numerous separations have caused a great deal of consternation.
19. comes first, before the profession.
20. is the main focal point of our lives, the prime source of meaning and joy.
21. is very happy together.
22. will be a happy group.
23. my wife, myself, son and daughter have always been quite close.
24. is considered in all decisions.
25. enjoys a very close relationship and has become closer since this separation.
26. enjoys doing things together.
27. is closely knit.
28. has the normal ups and downs and is basically a happy one.
29. leads a hectic, noisy, busy life and thoroughly enjoys every minute of it together.
30. wife and I enjoy military life and seeing all parts of the world.
31. is a very closely knit unit bound by love, understanding, mutual respect, and consideration of one another as individuals.
32. holds for me the whole basis for citizenship in society and ultimately our family's real happiness.
33. is a closely knit family who enjoys doing things together.
34. is divided in attitude and outlook on life.
35. is a happy one.
36. is closely knit, and enjoys doing things together.
37. is a very happy one.

38. is a closely knit group in which each individual depends on the other individuals in the group for comfort, peace of mind, and the general feeling of a whole person.
39. is very happy--probably because I waited until age 36 to marry.
40. is a very close family and all of our recreational activity is done as a family group.
41. have fun, like each other and go to church together.
42. is a happy one. We all work together as a team. We enjoy taking trips and outings together.
43. enjoys service life, the moves, making new friends and seeing old friends again.
44. is unified more by religion than by any other factor.
45. is a happy and cheerful union.
46. is happy, enjoys family life and likes to do things together.
47. reunion in July will be the most wonderful day of my life.
48. is a very close knit family.
49. is closely knit and continually participates in activities as a family.
50. is military and benefits from the resulting closeness.

2. AS A PARENT I ENJOY:

1. being the head of the household, and "leading," if you will, the little people.
2. providing for the family and assisting the children grow into mature adults yet insuring they enjoy the pleasures of childhood.
3. watching my boy grow and learn. I hope I can teach him what he needs to know in the time I will have with him.
4. my wife and children.
5. home life. Raising kids is great fun although perplexing at times.
6. playing with the children and watching them develop.
7. being with my children.
8. watching and helping our little girl grow up.
9. watching my children grow.
10. the opportunity of seeing my two girls grow, marveling at their development and particularly in providing for them.
11. participating in scouting with my son.
12. watching and guiding our child in his development and sharing in the decisions that affect his life.
13. living.
14. taking my children to new events they have never seen before.
15. the children when they undertake projects and are able to complete them satisfactorily.
16. home life with my children.
17. playing with my little girl and trying to give her things I did not have, also love.
18. observing my son develop and learn.

19. the security that being a career officer provides.
20. watching my children grow up.
21. playing with children and teaching them to perform new exercises.
22. playing with my daughter.
23. watching my children mature and learn as they grow older.
24. the closeness of my family.
25. the rewards of having a wonderful family.
26. helping the children with their homework.
27. being with my son.
28. doing things with the whole family.
29. having curious children that are eager to learn.
30. seeing the children grow up.
31. sharing the experiences of our children whether it be a walk with the twins, a camping trip with the boys, or playing with the older girls.
32. the expressions of joy our children show daily and of watching them develop and discover the world about them.
33. watching my daughter grow and develop and relish my part in the process.
34. having the children successfully participate in activities.
35. being with my family.
36. teaching my children and offering usually unwanted advice to them.
37. teaching my daughter through exposure to new experiences.
38. the deep companionship of my children as they work and play in learning about life.

39. watching the day-to-day changes in my children. They are fascinating.
40. being with my children.
41. watching the children develop physically, mentally and spiritually.
42. the feeling of pride when I am complimented on the behavior or looks of my children.
43. being with the family, doing things together, watching the children progress.
44. being with my family and enjoy seeing the learning processes of the children.
45. talking to my children, hearing their views, each one different on a given subject.
46. having the children (and being with them).
47. being with my children as much as possible.
48. listening to them talk about things they did.
49. participating in activities with my children i.e., scouting, little league.
50. watching my children develop and assisting in that development.

3. MY WIFE:

1. sometimes loses patience too easily with the children.
2. is a good mother, manages the household budget efficiently, enjoys military social life and has been a wonderful asset during my military career.
3. is a military child and likes the life. She accepts the problems that come with being a military family.
4. has never complained about forced separations. She feels and I agree it strengthens the family ties.
5. hates housework. Loves the Officers' Wives Club, etc. Devoted to the kids.
6. is unsurpassed in family management and in directing the children.
7. is a quiet woman, not given to "Army style" entertainment.
8. is considered by me to be a wonderful mother.
9. is the most wonderful woman God ever created.
10. is attractive, a remarkably able mother in the care of our children, and a wonderful companion, as all couples do, we, too, have our problems.
11. does not enjoy activities involving the children.
12. is a patient, understanding person who gives of herself for both her husband and child.
13. is the finest thing that ever happened to me, the brightest spot in my life.
14. is a wonderful mother and good wife who believes in high moral character and religion.
15. works extremely hard to keep a neat and well ordered house and home.
16. enjoys doing things for me and the children.

17. is wonderful.
18. is definitely discouraged with Army life. She simply cannot accept the separation.
19. adjusts well to the life of an officer's spouse.
20. enjoys the military society.
21. is a wonderful wife and mother.
22. loves for me to assist or even be present in the kitchen when she prepares meals.
23. has the strength and understanding to manage our household in my absence.
24. has done a magnificent job of running our house and affairs in my absence.
25. is the greatest thing which has happened to me and the type all servicemen should have.
26. has done wonders with motivating the children's schoolwork.
27. holds the family together.
28. does not particularly care to keep house but she makes up for that in many other ways.
29. is the best thing that ever happened to me. I'd marry her again if I had the decision to make over again.
30. enjoys participating in social activities on a military post.
31. is my life.
32. is the other half of my life which brings to me the real beauty and happiness of living.
33. seeks my advice in most matters but has my confidence in handling our personal affairs and raising our daughter while I'm away from home.
34. is too lenient with the children in direct contradiction to my views.

35. tries to agree on our disciplinary approach.
36. enjoys military life and likes military people.
37. is a dedicated mother.
38. by necessity, is an extremely understanding woman and very capable of handling family affairs on her own initiative.
39. is the most feminine woman I have ever known.
40. has adapted well to the military life.
41. is almost perfect.
42. is a wonderful mother and a hard working, resourceful person.
43. has a big job especially when we're separated such as now.
44. is a very capable administrator for family affairs.
45. is a lovable, wonderful, hard working person giving up things in life that the children may have the little things they want.
46. is a wonderful mother, devoted wife, honest.
47. is the most wonderful wife in the world.
48. is a very good wife and mother.
49. is a most exceptional person, carrying out her responsibilities as a wife and mother in a most devoted and understanding manner.
50. possesses the special set of characteristics required in a good "Army" wife, thank God!

4. BEING A MILITARY CHILD:

1. probably has advantages that outweigh the disadvantages if both the parents enjoy their way of life. We do.
2. is something my children enjoy and has definitely broadened their education in ways not available to the average non-military child.
3. my child will have the advantage of travel and of learning to adjust to change, but it will be disruptive to his education.
4. not applicable.
5. this has advantages in that I feel my kids are more advanced for their ages and are more knowledgeable than their civilian counterparts. I do feel that being a military child has had any adverse effect on them.
6. has more broadening advantages than disadvantages of insecurity.
7. I became used to constant moves and the possibility of family separation.
8. I believe my daughter will benefit by traveling and learning to make new friends.
9. can give a child a feeling of insecurity.
10. has a distinct advantage of travel and continual readjustment on the part of the child to his new friends and environment. This advantage stimulates and develops his maturity.
11. my son has learned how to quickly make new friends among his peer group.
12. and subject to an ever changing environment the home and parent relationship take on even greater importance, it must be stable to make up for the insecurity caused by moving from friends and familiar environment.
13. can have advantages, however, also present are serious disadvantages such as problems of insecurity and of absence, at times, of a father's guidance.

14. has advantages of a broader education and greater understanding of the world, but unfortunately misses the life ties with friends and schools.
15. our children have a broader background than others.
16. has many drawbacks.
17. my daughter will grow up in a better and broader environment.
18. myself, I appreciate the plight of my family. The mother also makes or breaks the family.
19. can have as many advantages as disadvantages.
20. affords many varied experiences but makes it difficult to form a place in the social structure.
21. should be beneficial to our daughter.
22. my daughter will have benefit of travel which will assist her education.
23. has drawbacks, however, understanding and supervision will produce a well rounded child.
24. has definite advantages as well as some disadvantages.
25. is perhaps one of the most educational environments a child could have.
26. provides the child with experiences which otherwise he would not undergo.
27. is at times most difficult especially during periods of family separation.
28. has advantages gained from travel and meeting other people.
29. has broadened my children's outlook on the world and made them interesting people.
30. I expect more of my son when living in a civilian community.
31. deprives the child of the lifelong friendship one derives as a member of a permanent community.

32. can be one of the greatest, most beneficial experiences any child can undergo, but only if the parents are devoted to the task of real parenthood.
33. provides an opportunity for world travel which most children don't have.
34. carries responsibilities without the privileges of rank.
35. puts a child in a unique position.
36. is difficult when continually having to move away from friends.
37. helps one develop a broad background.
38. requires a boy or girl to be flexible in his/her thoughts and actions.
39. seems to be an advantage. They have a much broader education than children in civilian life.
40. has been an advantage to my children in that it has broadened their outlook on life.
41. has advantages and disadvantages.
42. is probably difficult in that moves are frequently made and new friends are constantly being made.
43. has many advantages such as travel.
44. requires continual adjustment to new surroundings, people and other situations.
45. is hard because of the short duration spent in a single location.
46. has advantages and disadvantages, i.e., travel--lack of lasting friendships; maturity--see too much too early; recreation on Army posts--frequent absence of father.
47. often more advantages than disadvantages.
48. has lots of advantages and some disadvantages.
49. broadens a child's perspective of life.
50. has its pitfalls but is rewarding.

5. OBEDIENCE:

1. must be taught and required at a very early age--later it may be tempered with reasoning and more self determination. (It is hard to teach your wife.)
2. is commanded rather than demanded in our family with emphasis on courtesy and respect for others.
3. is a prerequisite for children. There are many things to be learned and obedience is the way to starting a child on the right path.
4. omission.
5. I assume you refer to children here. Mine are usually obedient. Like most children in today's world they flucuate based on the tone of attitude used. I have seen worse.
6. is mandatory for developing responsibility.
7. in children is best gained by mutual respect.
8. is only one of the many things you must teach your child.
9. is necessary.
10. is of great importance but the need for obedience must be matched with an understanding on the parents' part as to the real meaning of the order to the child.
11. I tend to be permissive, my wife authoritarian. It makes for a certain balance in our home.
12. is born out of respect for the authority or the person issuing the instructions and an understanding of why something or someone should be obeyed. A child must learn obedience but this must not be hammered into him.
13. is important and should be stressed in child rearing, however, independent thinking and courage of conviction is equally important.
14. must be demanded in early life and understood through reasoning later in childhood.

15. is mandatory with the children.
16. is a must in my household.
17. is taught but must also be learned.
18. is a must. I live with it day in and out. My children must learn it and respect it.
19. is easier to instill in children of military families.
20. should be taught to children.
21. is required of children.
22. must be taught children and insisted upon by parents.
23. with understanding is most important in our family.
24. must be taught and then expected.
25. in a military child far exceeds those of others.
26. is best learned by the parents setting the example.
27. is way of life.
28. should be stressed right through high school.
29. is necessary if children are to grow into responsible, happy adults.
30. is stressed at all times by me but my wife is quite lax in this subject.
31. must be demanded by parents as it is one of the primary factors in the development of a personality which included respect, understanding and mutual cooperation.
32. within any family environment must come from respect and understanding.
33. to parental guidance and acceptable social standards must be encouraged and enforced by parents at all times.
34. is of prime importance but not observed.

35. is important but should be approached in a reasonable manner.
36. is absolutely necessary but not always realized in the children.
37. is required for good child development.
38. is a trait which we have tried to instill in our children with better than average success.
39. is necessary, but should not be overdone. The child must be allowed sufficient latitude to develop his self-confidence. The obedience should come through love rather than punishment.
40. is a most important trait in children.
41. should be flexible.
42. is one thing I demand of my children. Without obedience children will do most things that parents do not approve of.
43. is necessary and must be a requirement by both parents.
44. is of prime importance to family harmony.
45. is a must in a family as large as ours for control and cooperation.
46. can be painlessly instilled in a child.
47. should be required early in life.
48. should be taught at home.
49. is required of all our children and they fully realize the importance of this principle.
50. is an absolute requirement tempered with explanation whenever possible.

6. OUR CHILDREN SHOULD NOT:

1. be permitted to dominate or dictate any situation but should be allowed to plan limited functions, such as the supper menu on his birthday.
2. have difficulty adjusting to adult life.
3. be pushed into things, however, they must have time to themselves to develop on their own.
4. omission.
5. be overly pampered and indulged. Mine are at times.
6. lie.
7. be without either parent for any great length of time.
8. grow up to feel that they are superior to others.
9. become too attached to me.
10. ever become a part nor be subjected to an altercation between my wife and me, particularly at their age.
11. be isolated when the opportunity presents itself to integrate the children into a civilian community.
12. be allowed to witness family arguments. They should enter into family decisions if possible.
13. be subjected to the long periods of an absent father, particularly every other year.
14. be deprived of the best education possible even in foreign countries on military duty.
15. be subjected to constant moves and upheavals.
16. marry until they receive a college education.
17. be ashamed of their parents.
18. be forced to accept only the serviceman's outlook or lot in life. We plan to educate them partially in Europe.

19. be either encouraged or discouraged in following the military as a career for themselves.
20. have a life with no challenge.
21. be allowed too much freedom too early.
22. be given a completely free reign.
23. be allowed to make decisions until they can assume responsibility for their actions.
24. take advantage of our love and trust.
25. be placed in a position to suffer in school due to the military moves caused by reassignments.
26. be biased by the attitudes of parents.
27. expect everything.
28. have any problem getting along anywhere.
29. squabble amongst themselves.
30. have difficulty in adjusting to adult life, due to the many PCS's and people they have met all over the USA.
31. be without responsibilities to the family, home and to each other.
32. be disrespectful to others, but instead they should learn to respect the rights of others when that right is due.
33. be allowed to grow up without understanding obedience, a close parent-child relationship and an ability to independently cope with their own problems.
34. expect to participate in all social affairs.
35. have any problems in getting along with others.
36. play in others' houses unless invited in.
37. be neglected.

38. be permitted the complete freedom which is prevalent in today's society.
39. be overdisciplined. This too often leads to lack of confidence in one's self, and confidence is the single most important factor of success in any field.
40. have difficulty in facing up to life.
41. copy the faults that I or my wife have.
42. feel neglected because they have a happy home life, they are loved, well provided for and we have a family relation with God.
43. be allowed to run free but rather must learn to be responsible citizens.
44. to be upset by situations which seem to threaten their security such as frequent, disruptive moves.
45. be always trying to get out of housework.
46. (I draw a blank).
47. be without their father for extended periods of time.
48. be turned loose and allowed to run wild.
49. be afraid of us, should respect us and contribute to home management when they can, i.e., house chores.
50. believe that they can obtain their desires by playing off one parent against the other.

7. IF I:

1. should die I would want my wife to marry as soon as possible, for her own and the needs of the children.
2. omission.
3. can influence my children to something I think they are suited for, I will do it.
4. were home, I wouldn't be answering this questionnaire--sorry.
5. had it all to do over, there would be many improvements. If I had to come to Vietnam again I would resign from the Army.
6. did not serve in Vietnam I would feel unpatriotic.
7. die, my family would become too much of a burden for my wife.
8. had to do it again, I would marry the same woman under the same circumstances.
9. am killed in combat, after the initial shock, my family will manage to carry on.
10. could be given one bit of guidance as a father, I would want that guidance to reflect my proper role in stimulating the educational development of my children as they mature.
11. hadn't volunteered for Vietnam my family would have been happier but I would have been dissatisfied in failing to do my duty.
12. omission.
13. were not married I would not have compunction about sleeping with anyone who attracted me.
14. omission.
15. had to do it over considering family life alone I would have gotten out of the Army after the first 5 years.
16. had the chance to become a bachelor I would turn it down.
17. had only gone further in school things would be a lot better.

18. had to do it over again, I would get married as a 2nd lieutenant or wait until I was a colonel.
19. had it to do over again, I would still choose the military as a career.
20. could be assured of space on an aircraft I would take leave to see my wife.
21. were home life would be more pleasant.
22. have a bad day at work, I should repair my disposition before arriving home.
23. had it all to do over, I would still choose the Army as my career.
24. had the chance I wouldn't change my family one bit.
25. have the choice to live in a military life and raise a military family all over again, I wouldn't change it.
26. were home now we'd be going on a picnic and swimming.
27. had to start over again I believe I would proceed as I have to date.
28. could repeat any part of the past 10 years, I would stress a higher degree of mother-father coordination in disciplinary matters.
29. had a 9-5 job without responsibility or authority, I would be bored; I think my children and wife appreciate the importance of my work to our lives together.
30. were to leave the Army, my wife would be real unhappy.
31. return to my family, I don't desire to be separated from them again.
32. were to marry and rear a family all over again, I'd do it the same way with the same Mrs. G.
33. don't return from the office near the normal schedule, I normally inform my wife at the earliest possible time.
34. had it to do over, I would marry later in life; a junior officer on troop duty can not devote the time to home life that the family deserves.
35. omission.

36. take time to explain reasons to my daughters, they seem to respond better.
37. were home now I would be very happy.
38. had another chance to make the decision to remain in the service, I would not do so because of the heavy strain on family life.
39. had not married, I would be an extremely happy man. Having married, however, and becoming a father, I could not conceive of being permanently without my wife and children.
40. was beginning my career again, knowing that which I know now I would choose the military.
41. had it all to over again, I would probably would not do as well.
42. were to die or be killed, I would hope that my wife would remarry for the sake of the children, especially the baby. A man's guidance and love is needed in these tender years.
43. had it to do again I'd still select a military career.
44. would never be separated from my family for long periods of time, my family would be happier.
45. had to do it all over again, I would without any hesitation.
46. could name one goal for which my children should strive, it would be that their adult lives be as happy as mine (marriage and family).
47. had the authority to change the Vietnamese tour to ten months I would do so.
48. had to do over I think I would do the same thing.
49. was not married, I would indeed have an empty life by comparison.
50. had it to do over again, I would.

8. WHEN I AM AT HOME:

1. I sometimes need a quiet retreat and to be left alone.
2. life is very enjoyable and full.
3. I like to spend most of my time with my family.
4. I enjoy just being with the family.
5. we love good stereo music, some TV programs and re-doing antiques. Love to have company and play cards.
6. I have little time to myself.
7. my recreation is my children.
8. my wife makes me feel like I own the world.
9. with my wife and children I am most happy.
10. I probably tend to study too much or concentrate too much on individual hobbies and not spend the time I should with my family.
11. I try to provide as much attention to my wife and son as possible to make up for the long separation.
12. omission.
13. I relax and feel comfortable and at ease.
14. my children have a tendency to become spoiled, but not so when I'm away on military duty.
15. I am exhausted from working 7 days a week when I was working in the Pentagon.
16. I enjoy being alone with my wife and children.
17. I enjoy my family.
18. I enjoy the family to the fullest. The past few years haven't afforded much family time.
19. I am a husband first and a soldier second.

20. I enjoy playing with my son.
21. I try to devote time to the family.
22. I like to participate in family affairs and to include the family in my affairs.
23. I like to spend time with my children.
24. my family comes first.
25. I try to enjoy the children and family as much as possible.
26. the children do not leave me for a minute.
27. I desire to remain there with little or no temporary duty elsewhere.
28. I like to work on projects in the basement workshop.
29. my wife has projects lined up for me to do; if she doesn't I discover I get bored and restless.
30. discipline is good.
31. we devote our time to the necessary work around the house and the recreational pursuits enabling participation by the maximum number of participants.
32. I like to have my whole family close around me so I can be told about every little and big event of their day.
33. I enjoy doing what my family wants to do.
34. I like to relax and study rather than "putter" around the house.
35. I enjoy certain amount of time as a family group.
36. I usually want peace and quiet.
37. I enjoy doing things as a family.
38. our family participates in social affairs as a family as much as practical.
39. I enjoy playing with my children but I do appreciate a couple of hours a day to be completely alone.

40. I am always ready to stay there.
41. I am content.
42. I enjoy my family.
43. I'm happy.
44. I enjoy reading which draws me away from the family at times.
45. I feel so at ease and my life is complete.
46. I prefer to stay at home as much as possible.
47. I enjoy being with my family.
48. everything runs smoothly.
49. my wife and I share in managing the children and household and participate in the many activities of the children.
50. I attempt to shoulder the bulk of the discipline.

9. I WISH OUR CHILDREN WOULD:

1. grow up to love their parents but not be dependent upon them.
2. omission.
3. omission.
4. take advantage of the family's travels and learn through them.
5. grow up to be understanding citizens.
6. mature to be responsible citizens.
7. have the same advantages in life my mother and father were able to give
8. not have to grow up in a world full of violence and hate toward fellowman.
9. grow up to be healthy, happy and prosperous.
10. learn to appreciate the fine arts but at the same time gain an appreciation for all activities around them as they grow.
11. grow up in a world in which armies were unnecessary but such utopian dreams are, I'm afraid, wishful thinking.
12. omission.
13. have a good life, free from worry, danger and heartaches.
14. select and become interested in a hobby that could last for a lifetime.
15. not bicker with each other.
16. develop into normal children and not like the set that is now popular.
17. take advice and use it not throw it aside.
18. show a great deal of initiative and imagination as they grow up.
19. remain their sweet selves.

20. go to bed on time.
21. grow up to be fine young people.
22. all be as precious as I consider the first to be.
23. take the time to finish school and to choose their career wisely.
24. always remain close to the family.
25. mature with the same manners they have now.
26. learn to get along with each other a bit better.
27. do his best at all times.
28. pick their friends more carefully.
29. grow up and be like us.
30. enjoy Army life as much as my wife and I do.
31. continue to demonstrate the inquisitive nature which has resulted in the four elder children doing exceptionally well in their studies.
32. learn more rapidly the rights and wishes of other family members.
33. grow up with a respect for others, a pleasing personality, and an ability to fully enjoy life.
34. aspire for military careers or wed military men.
35. omission.
36. learn to pick up after themselves.
37. be more careful.
38. be more responsive to the wishes of their parents.
39. my children, so far, are all I wish them to be.
40. watch less television.
41. always respect the feelings of other people.

42. cooperate a little more in selection of clothes. I don't quite agree with skirts so short.
43. continue to progress as they have.
44. become more concerned with putting their things away after they finish playing.
45. help around the house more than they do.
46. help their mother more.
47. omission.
48. stay the same as they are.
49. grow up in the image of my wife as to me she personifies the mature, understanding and well rounded adult.
50. continue as they are, healthy and happy.

10. BEING A MOTHER:

1. is probably more difficult than most men appreciate, but it's the role women want, fortunately my wife included.
2. and the wife of a career soldier possesses many varied problems that bring out the best and worst in a woman.
3. is a great responsibility for a military wife because of the husband's absences. She must be independent to a degree.
4. omission.
5. according to my wife this is a perplexing job but worth it.
6. is an awesome responsibility.
7. omission.
8. has made my wife realize the joys of life.
9. in a military family is a tough job.
10. my wife exercises a tremendous influence on our girls and is remarkably capable.
11. in an Army family requires more skill as she must constantly shift roles from being a mother to being both mother and father and back again.
12. omission.
13. (and wife) in the Army is probably one of the loneliest and most difficult tasks (if not the most difficult) for any woman anywhere.
14. is no doubt a tiresome, frustrating, but rewarding and self-satisfying job.
15. my wife constantly worries about the children and their deportment.
16. is a demanding chore, however, it should not be looked on as a chore.
17. my wife devotes much time in making our daughter happy.

18. is difficult under any circumstances. As an Army wife it's twice as hard.
19. in a military family is more demanding than in a civilian family.
20. is more difficult for an Army wife.
21. is a most important task.
22. is the greatest thing going, according to my wife.
23. and father creates great burdens on my wife.
24. has apparently satisfied my wife.
25. not applicable.
26. is a difficult task when the father is away.
27. is a privilege.
28. who also works has some disadvantages for the children not only when they are young but also on into high school.
29. has been a great source of pride to my wife; she is thoroughly involved with the children and enjoys having them.
30. keeps my wife busy especially when I am overseas.
31. is probably the most exasperating but rewarding experience a human can have.
32. is the most demanding, important position in society and men should never forget this truth.
33. requires patience, understanding, love and an ability to communicate with one's children at all ages.
34. requires patience to teach.
35. omission.
36. not applicable.
37. is a great challenge.

38. in the military requires much more initiative and self-dependence than in civilian life.
39. is not the sacred state most Americans seem to feel it is. It is a natural thing from which both mother and father should derive happiness as well as the children.
40. is difficult, particularly with teen-age children.
41. --how should I know?
42. must be a joy.
43. of a military family is a difficult job but provides much self satisfaction.
44. in a military family is more demanding and requires more initiative than more geographically established mothers.
45. while the father is away is a difficult and trying task which my wife manages exceptionally well.
46. is perhaps the most responsible job around yet the least appreciated.
47. of military children is very demanding.
48. is very difficult, I would imagine.
49. is extremely rewarding and requires a tremendous amount of effort, patience, wisdom and love to be a successful one.
50. is an exceptionally demanding role.

11. DISCIPLINE:

1. must be fast and fair and mandatory for lack of obedience, but an innocent child wrongly punished must be apologized to.
2. is applied as a form of guidance always in the positive, punishment on the other hand is applied for breeches of discipline.
3. is needed in children but it must be fair and they must understand the reasons for it.
4. is rare in our family. The children are very mature for their ages.
5. all families should have discipline, both for the parents and the children. At times it is lacking at my home.
6. must be administered promptly and with meaning.
7. in a family is important.
8. is still another factor considered important in raising a child.
9. should be tempered with mercy and justice.
10. in our home is moderate.
11. is necessary to an ordered social system, however, the minor rebellions of children in such things as long hair should be tolerated as expressions of independence.
12. omission.
13. is a necessity and should be an equal (or almost equal) responsibility of father and mother.
14. with reasoning and understanding is best.
15. is probably too strong in our household.
16. in our home is strict.
17. is a must.
18. some think it the same as obedience.

19. is more important to a military family because of the constant moves.
20. often varies more with the parents' needs than the child's behavior.
21. is necessary in developing children.
22. is necessary.
23. has been my responsibility except when I am away.
24. is essential.
25. in military children is more rigid due to the Army regulations they have to live under while growing up.
26. must be started early and be consistent.
27. is learned.
28. can be too harshly enforced, but there must be discipline.
29. is to be metered out by the parent discovering the infraction; there are no "hatchet men" in our family.
30. is a problem when I am away for a year on short tours.
31. is as necessary to proper personality development as obedience but must be administered equitably for maximum effectiveness.
32. must be tempered with firmness, guided with patience, and never over done but always administered with love.
33. is necessary for proper development and understanding of social relationships.
34. for the children requires discipline for the parents.
35. reasonable discipline is applied.
36. and the enforcement thereof is much different between soldiers and children.
37. should be applied justly.

38. is an extremely desirable trait among military children because of the frequent changes in their environment.
39. should be through leadership rather than through physical punishment. Spankings are necessary but they should be administered cautiously.
40. is the father's responsibility.
41. should be understood and not confused with punishment.
42. is the key to raising children and this should be exercised early.
43. is necessary and must be agreed upon by both parents.
44. is a responsibility every parent has to insure that the children will become responsible citizens capable of living harmoniously in our society.
45. is necessary to mold a good character.
46. is a must for a happy family and should be ingrained at the earliest possible age.
47. is necessary in order to maintain harmony in the family.
48. is very important and should be taught at home.
49. is axiomatic to becoming an adult and as such should begin early in a child's life, however, should be administered with love and fairness.
50. should be administered immediately, objectively and with explanation.

12. SEX:

1. is definitely hampered by family life; too much work for mother and sometimes too many little people around when privacy is needed.
2. is spoken of frankly; no birds and bees or stork stories.
3. is basic to marriage and should be explained to the children as a natural act as well as a very strong influence in life.
4. rare in the central highlands.
5. it's here to stay. I feel that children should be educated progressively at home and in school on all sex matters. This baloney about the stork, etc., is sheer idiocy.
6. is a problem yet to come.
7. in my family has become less important since marriage.
8. should not be considered vulgar but something wonderful to be enjoyed by man and wife.
9. is my favorite pastime.
10. plays a very important role in our family and will probably be discussed with ease as our family grows.
11. has remained a constant binder between my wife and me despite its being influenced by tensions on the job and frequent separations.
12. is a vital part of married relationship. Sex has to be mutually satisfying to both partners as an intimate overture of love for husband to wife and wife to husband. Sex must be accompanied with love, understanding and a desire to satisfy the other partner.
13. is the best thing that's come along lately.
14. is secondary in a good marriage.
15. is generally discussed on a par with the children's ages.
16. is an open subject in our household.

17. is wonderful but in the first few years it will hold a marriage but after it is love and that will continue the marriage.
18. is a beautiful thing and should be treated as such.
19. is the most over-discussed subject in America and most of the problems are due to over-discussing.
20. is something no marriage should be without.
21. is an important part of marriage.
22. is not a taboo subject in our home.
23. has been a most important factor in our marriage.
24. education is essential to each child.
25. is a very important aspect in a military family.
26. should be taught by both parents, not one or the other.
27. is wholesome.
28. and the young girl is a matter requiring damn careful handling by her parents.
29. is meant only for husbands and wives and then only for one another.
30. is extremely good.
31. is one of the four cornerstones of marriage. The other three are love, understanding and respect.
32. is the golden reward for a man and his wife after a hard day's work, but it is also an everyday, every hour fact of life in any family, and should be discussed, taught and enjoyed in its right place at the proper time.
33. when practiced in a mutually agreed manner greatly enhances the security of both partners as well as the marriage.
34. has not been an essential factor for us for several years.
35. have attempted to explain to our older children.

36. has been an important facet of our marriage and will be openly discussed when my daughters are older or when questions are asked.
37. is great.
38. receives free and unbiased discussion in our home so that our children are completely knowledgeable of their role in the family as they mature.
39. is one of the greatest joys available to mankind. It is not sacred, nor should it be so treated. Sex is the most easily come by "commodity" in the world. A wife who uses it only to gain her selfish ends will wind up finding she has been replaced as an outlet for her husband's sexual drive.
40. is important but not the most important part of a husband-wife relationship.
41. relieves pressure.
42. should be a fulfilling and rewarding experience.
43. is an important part of marriage and I've found it to be delightful.
44. is important as an expression of love between husband and wife.
45. relaxes tension and nervousness after a long hard day when we are together, otherwise it is something I look forward to when I return.
46. is beautiful. Not something to deny or giggle about. Children should be told about the facts of life and their questions answered.
47. is great.
48. is one of the important parts of life.
49. should not be shrouded in secrecy from children but should be fully explained in the proper perspective in accordance with their age and quite often in reply to an earnest and inquiring question.
50. is a personal matter and each person should be allowed access to sex information on demand in order to develop the required information basis for normal adjustment.

13. AS A HUSBAND:

1. I sometimes feel I am considered by my wife too frequently in the FATHER role and not enough in the SWEETHEART role. (This is improving.)
2. I am head of the family.
3. I know that the Army will require more of my time in the form of overseas, unaccompanied tours than would a civilian job.
4. omission.
5. I try to provide a good living and make the most of what life has to offer. There are good days and bad. Not perfect but close.
6. I have been able to provide the minimum essential needs of living plus.
7. I keenly feel the responsibility toward my children.
8. I enjoy having a woman pamper me and making me feel like I'm the most important thing that has happened to her.
9. I am faithful and loving and loyal to mywife and children.
10. I recognize my responsibility to my family and particularly to my wife.
11. I have too frequently put the Army ahead of my family.
12. omission.
13. I feel extramarital sex is not to be condoned under any circumstances or excuse, although the urge and opportunity present themselves on occasions of some frequency.
14. my main concern is security for my family.
15. I feel that the Army hinders family life by separations and lack of off-duty time.
16. I feel very dedicated toward my wife.
17. I must provide for my family.

18. I have only the greatest respect for my wife and the magnificent manner in which she has taken my place.
19. I pride myself in being a good provider.
20. there are many pleasures and comforts I enjoy that are not known to a bachelor.
21. one must care for his family.
22. I must provide my family with love as well as material benefits.
23. I feel I don't devote enough time to my wife and family.
24. I couldn't ask for a better wife.
25. I have grown closer to my family while in Vietnam.
26. I feel that I do everything that I can to help bring up the children.
27. I miss being in Vietnam because no one can replace this year of being separated.
28. I enjoy family life.
29. I am proud of the woman I married; I enjoy my responsibilities and the sense of accomplishment in raising a family.
30. I do not enjoy long separations overseas.
31. I must always be cognizant of the responsibility the title entails.
32. I owe my wife happiness and all the love she requires as a woman.
33. I have responsibilities to provide for my family in order to make their life as pleasant as possible.
34. I am probably less than successful.
35. Omission.
36. I consider it my duty to keep care of my family.
37. I enjoy doing things to please my wife.

38. I feel it is my duty to keep my wife fully informed of all items which may affect her, me, or both of us.
39. I am extremely proud of and in love with my wife.
40. my wife tells me I don't talk to her enough.
41. there are many more advantages than disadvantages.
42. there is no greater life.
43. I do not have as much time as I would like with my family.
44. I have the basic responsibility for the welfare of my family.
45. I've had very little time in the raising of my family because of the military life.
46. I am completely happy with my marital life. I only hope I am able to project this satisfaction to my wife and children.
47. omission.
48. I hate to leave my wife to run the family.
49. I feel the husband and wife should share in the management of the house.
50. I regret the prolonged absences.

14. MAKING HIGH GRADES IN SCHOOL:

1. may come easy to one of my daughters and hard to the other which means my wife and I are going to have to be careful with our praise.
2. is encouraged, however, no enticement is offered to excel but consistent high marks are rewarded.
3. is not a must for children, but I do expect them to do their best and will help them all I can. The important thing is for them to learn and not be hampered by a fear of low grades.
4. came rather easy.
5. this can be overdone. If mine make average grades I'll live with it although I would like them to be educated rather than play a "numbers game."
6. is not all important; development is the criterion.
7. is not as important as understanding the lessons.
8. is not that important if the child is doing the best he/she can.
9. is an admirable goal for a student.
10. has always been a drive behind my education and I still feel that it is important. All too often grades of poor quality are excused where as the actual problem is work or motivation.
11. is necessary and generally in our society and materialistic country stands for the "mark of the man," however, it should not become an obsession at the expense of normal growth.
12. omission.
13. is important and generally emphasized in our society.
14. should not be of so much importance as to cause children to give up outside activities such as clubs, sports and weekend travels.
15. should not be stressed as much as it is, only to do the best of their ability.

16. will be an important part of our children's education.
17. was not one of my good traits, but now can see how important it is.
18. is fine if the child has the interest and ability. Otherwise, I can't get excited about it.
19. is probably more important than most parents will admit.
20. is a goal but not an end.
21. is important if a child has the native ability.
22. should be encouraged.
23. is not as important as the understanding or lessons learned by my children.
24. is encouraged.
25. is of course considered important but more important is retaining what has been learned.
26. is important what is learned is more important.
27. is a goal for some students.
28. was never stressed too heavily in our home. I would place more emphasis on this if I had to do anything over again.
29. is the first indication that a person will work hard at the task before him and shows a fine sense of duty and ambition.
30. is stressed but only on an individual basis. We do not compare one child to the other.
31. is a noteworthy goal but is not as important as overall intellectual and personality development.
32. is an individual ability as well as an individual responsibility that must be encouraged by all members of the family.
33. is not as important as being subjected to a high quality, diversified educational program.

34. is desirable for persons who are capable.
35. is important but not overly stressed.
36. are not as necessary as putting forth a concerted effort.
37. is a worthwhile goal.
38. is strongly encouraged of my children as they are quite capable in this endeavor.
39. has not come to the fore as a subject of importance in my household because of the ages of my children.
40. has been no problem for my children.
41. is not the key to success or happiness.
42. I feel are not a necessity but do feel and stress the importance of a well rounded education. If the basic concepts can be grasped that is most important.
43. is desirable but temperance must be used when children change school systems frequently.
44. is important if the children are capable of it, however, emphasis is placed in our family only in doing their best (which is high grades).
45. is a mark of intelligence but not a sign that a child has common sense.
46. comes more naturally to some children than to others and is not necessarily indicative of a child's native intelligence or potential.
47. is fine if the child has the ability.
48. isn't always important.
49. is not paramount--most important is that the child has tried his or her best.
50. should be encouraged rather than demanded.

15. PCS MOVES:

1. have all been good for us and we look forward to them.
2. possess special problems, however, the entire family looks forward to them.
3. can be disruptive or can be made to be an adventure for the children. The difficult times comes when they are older and have ties.
4. after 12 years are not looked forward to.
5. these are hell. Cost too much. Move too often. Rent is too high. Makes you want to get out of the service.
6. are becoming more work and more frequent.
7. don't really disturb the children.
8. are welcomed by us because it opens a new horizon for us.
9. are fun when they are made together.
10. are delightful means to break a routine that generally develops after 3 years and are normally eagerly welcomed by both my wife and me.
11. mean leaving close friends and lots of hard work but I look forward to new challenges and new scenery. My wife doesn't share my enthusiasm.
12. omission.
13. are good and bad. Good for the change; bad for the effect on the family and the resulting instability.
14. are tiring but are looked forward to due to leave enroute to grandparents, beaches, etc.
15. are a financial setback to an Army family.
16. are smooth because my wife is an organizer.
17. are very costly no matter how much money is paid.

18. please me greatly, but aren't conducive to peace and tranquility in the family.
19. are probably harder on the children than on the parents.
20. are disruptive, but exhilarating.
21. come too often.
22. at best, are hectic.
23. have always been during school vacations and have not had any affect on our children.
24. cause a definite hardship.
25. are not always desired and they are an accepted drawback of a military family life.
26. are a traumatic experience at best!
27. were enjoyed during our earlier years.
28. are no great problems unless the area schools are below standards.
29. are hectic, but our children look forward to them with great anticipation because they will see new places, meet new friends.
30. are welcomed by my wife.
31. although somewhat undesirable in view of the size of my family, are a challenge in that it stimulates the family to adjust to a new environment and make new friends.
32. should be an acceptable and well explained part of any Army family life. Due to the frequent changes of residence an Army family requires greater closeness and togetherness.
33. are difficult on the family but offer new experiences and challenges.
34. disrupt the children but the broadened exposure is beneficial; it is less difficult for younger children.
35. seem to be accepted by all of our family as a way of life.

36. are interesting and afford an opportunity to meet new people.
37. if well planned, can be lots of fun.
38. create a turbulence on a family's life which at times becomes very difficult to cope with by all concerned.
39. are always nervewracking with a family but they are better than staying in one place.
40. sometimes cause problems for children as they hate to leave friends.
41. pull our family together.
42. do create hardships especially for the children, i.e., they have to look for a new group of friends and the time of year makes a difference on how easily they will be accepted by the right group.
43. are difficult and much too frequent.
44. have been so frequent that they have been disruptive to the entire family causing unnecessary conflicts with the family.
45. during the summer (non-school months) is agreeable.
46. are upsetting, costly, too frequent and sad.
47. provide new experiences for the entire family.
48. sometimes is a blessing.
49. are looked upon as a new and challenging experience by all the members of the family.
50. are the distressing prelude to enjoying new surroundings.

16. AS A PARENT I DISLIKE:

1. neighbors or friends who do not control their children thereby allowing them to set bad examples for my children.
2. omission.
3. the extreme organization of children which seems to be prevalent in the U. S. these days. Children should be let alone at least part of the time and spend only some of it in organized play or sports.
4. having to leave my children at their ages I feel they need a father's guidance.
5. having my kids sick. Others correcting them when I'm around. Very touchy about my kids. Also hate to whip them but I do.
6. the bad influences so prevalent in the civilian community.
7. being separated from my family.
8. seeing other parents abusing the privilege of being a parent.
9. unaccompanied tours.
10. any semblance of rank structure in the civilian environment of the military community.
11. the pressures of community living overseas where minor disciplinary problems are distorted as a result of a fear that the Army or country will get a bad name.
12. omission.
13. the atmosphere in our country (both in and out of service) in which I must raise my children, morally, mentally, and physically.
14. the current trend toward too much student freedom and independence.
15. parents who take no interest in their family.
16. parents who fail to keep their children informed about everyday life.
17. having a baby sitter.

18. not being with my child.
19. the term "military brat."
20. the thought of having too many children.
21. other parents telling us how to train our child.
22. unruly or disrespectful children.
23. children who are allowed to run wild, without proper supervision and discipline.
24. "spoiled" children.
25. the current "freedom" enjoyed by teenagers.
26. teachers who separate school work from the interest of the parents.
27. enforced separation.
28. having to punish.
29. having to deal with undisciplined children of other parents who do not care how they act.
30. long hair on boys and loud popular music that the children enjoy.
31. children who are disrespectful and undisciplined.
32. seeing children neglected.
33. other parents who withhold discipline for the excuse that the child's personality will be damaged.
34. unplanned or unscheduled activities requiring my presence.
35. omission.
36. interference in raising my children.
37. seeing children suffer.
38. being separated from my children for a whole year.

39. advice on raising my children.
40. other children who misbehave in my home.
41. some of the responsibility.
42. for my children to be associated with or express a desire to participate in off the wall groups such as "flower children."
43. the over-organization of children's activities.
44. whining that children are so prone to engage in.
45. being away from my family so much and therefore envy my civilian neighbors.
46. being taken away from my family to work long hours so a superior can make points on his efficiency report. War is another story.
47. being away from my children for extended periods of time.
48. not too much.
49. being told how to discipline my children by in-laws.
50. the practice of excessive permissiveness by other parents.

17. UNACCOMPANIED TOURS:

1. are very difficult on the wife but it tends to make you appreciate each other more.
2. are perhaps harder on the wife but in retrospect they prepare the wife for a greater role in the family. Therefore, there are less military wives that are depressed at being just housewives.
3. are harder on the wife and children than on me.
4. are something which must be expected in this type of career.
5. the most undesirable aspect of the military. Creates too many hardships for all concerned and they come too often.
6. are coming too close together to be enjoyed.
7. will be the reason I leave the Army, should they become commonplace.
8. are a hardship on both partners but then there is always the excitement of being together again.
9. are an unbearable hardship.
10. are a fact of life and will, without question, erode the unity of a weak family and strengthen the strong ones.
11. place difficult strains on the best of military families but they also serve to make all parties realize how much they depend on one another.
12. omission.
13. are for the birds (UNLESS YOU ARE EXTRA-MARITALLY SEX MINDED).
14. are bad but necessary and in most cases allows military personnel to accrue some savings for future use.
15. are a necessary evil, but place an undue hardship on the wife.
16. in most cases are helpful toward a happy marriage.
17. are hard on marriages and wives grow to be independent.

18. are professionally the best but the separation from family does untold damage.
19. in the end result probably strengthens the family union.
20. are terrible.
21. mean frequent honeymoons.
22. are the greatest hardships on our family life.
23. are quite hard on my wife. She endures both the worries of mother and father.
24. are not looked forward to.
25. can go either way; they can strengthen the love in the family or they can wreck it.
26. put a great deal of responsibility on the mother.
27. should be held to the minimum.
28. are for the birds--they are rough on wives and husbands.
29. are part of the job; my wife realizes this and has done an outstanding job of managing the family; she has kept my morale very high.
30. create all kinds of problems for my wife on day-to-day decisions.
31. are necessary and to be expected in the military profession.
32. are extremely difficult experiences but with the proper attitude a family that really loves one another can turn it into a beneficial and valuable experience.
33. although disruptive to family life, are accepted as an inevitable part of the military profession.
34. are an inconvenience to the family but can be profitably utilized by each mate to accomplish private desires unhampered.
35. omission.
36. while hard on families I find they act as a catalyst to the marriage itself.

37. are enjoyed by few military personnel.
38. create additional hardships for the distaff side of the military family.
39. help keep a marriage from going stale.
40. are the only serious problems in a military career.
41. are rough on everyone.
42. I don't mind these tours if you are gainfully busy and things at home do not get out of hand. I would not want to have one every two years however.
43. are necessary but not wanted.
44. create problems for my wife which causes concern to me which detracts from the quality of my work performance.
45. in a combat area are unpleasant for the husband and wife causing much worry.
46. are for the birds. Too frequent, too expensive, not the "normal way of life."
47. are a must in time of way.
48. is the worst part of being in the service.
49. are difficult for a closely knit family to adjust to.
50. are difficult but probably better than a continual series of shorter absences.

18. IF MY WIFE:

1. really knew me she would be shocked and disillusioned. (But I put up a very good front.)
2. had her way, she would be here in Vietnam.
3. really wanted me to get out of the service, I would think twice about it but would probably get out.
4. is the greatest.
5. would do her hair instead of going to the beauty shop each week, it would please me. I consider it laziness, she says it's a luxury.
6. were perfect, I probably wouldn't love her so much.
7. asked me to leave the service, I would honor her request.
8. needs anything, she has but to ask.
9. were to leave me or expire, it would break my heart.
10. were to answer this questionnaire, she would agree strongly with #4, 6, 9, 15, and 16. She would disagree on #14 feeling that grades of less importance.
11. continues to insist, I will retire from the service at 20 years to seek employment that causes fewer or at least shorter separations.
12. omission.
13. were unfaithful I would kill her and my faith in marriage; the family structure and the future in our country would be destroyed.
14. omission.
15. should die, I am afraid that I would be completely at a loss between family and Army life.
16. were to expire I would not remarry.
17. omission.
18. had her way, I would be a civilian.

19. was unable to adapt to military life my life as a career officer would be most difficult.
20. wanted me to leave the service, I would do so.
21. were sick, I would care for her.
22. doesn't enjoy an avocation of mine, I lose interest because I want us to enjoy things together.
23. was a weaker woman she probably could not keep our family as tightly knit as we are.
24. doesn't show interest in what I'm doing, I tend to lose interest.
25. didn't like the military service or my career I'd have to resign.
26. were not a good organizer, I don't know what I'd do!
27. wants something I will do my best to obtain it.
28. and I could have more time and the money to do more things together we would have a lot more fun.
29. read this she would not be at all surprised. I have told her all of these things many, many times.
30. did not enjoy Army life, I would request relief from active duty.
31. were to ask me what I think are primary attributes, I would say, "patience, understanding, beauty and your loving nature."
32. didn't love me as much as she does I could never be a professional soldier.
33. is faced with making decisions on her own she does so with the family interest in mind.
34. desires, she may seek male companionship while I am on an unaccompanied tour.
35. omission.
36. wants to work, I'll discourage but not forbid it after the children are in school.

37. wants to work she may.
38. was not so understanding, our life as a military family would not be such a satisfactory life.
39. should leave me, I shall never remarry.
40. ever left me, my life wouldn't be worth living.
41. had any brains she would have not married a military man.
42. was the most beautiful woman in the world I could not love her more than I do now.
43. were single I'd marry her.
44. omission.
45. could only take it easy at home, life would be so much easier for both of us.
46. had had her wish fulfilled, we'd have been civilians after Korea.
47. omission.
48. didn't worry so much.
49. and I could spend longer than the usual 2 years at one station we feel it would be far more desirable and would facilitate the children's education more.
50. were not extremely capable, unaccompanied tours would be impossible.

19. BEING A FATHER:

1. is a role I am becoming more accustomed to as my children grow older and turn to me for answers and help.
2. is enjoyable but has its ups and downs.
3. is a responsibility which can be enjoyable, but which can never be taken lightly.
4. omission.
5. the greatest thing that ever happened to me.
6. is a joy.
7. my family is the thing I prize most in the world.
8. is an experience all men should have.
9. is the greatest honor and privilege that God can bestow upon man.
10. means more than the average person realizes. To me it along with being a husband is the most important task I have.
11. I have been careful not to try to mold my son in my image. I want him to be what he wants, not what I want.
12. omission.
13. is difficult and, at times, frustrating, however, it is also rewarding and satisfying.
14. makes life much more enjoyable and important.
15. I constantly worry about the family while I am in Vietnam.
16. is a joy that I love.
17. is the greatest thing that has ever happened to me.
18. is a wonderful experience. I only regret I can't spend more time at it.
19. in a military family is no different than being a father in a civilian family.

20. is not difficult.
21. is a real experience.
22. is a tremendous responsibility and one that must be willingly accepted.
23. is one of the most joyous occasions a man can ever know.
24. is a most rewarding experience and carries tremendous responsibility with it.
25. is one of the joys of the service, and a badly needed outlet from the military duty side.
26. at times, is a difficult task to perform.
27. is a blessed challenge.
28. is rough at times but in the over all I enjoy it.
29. is a tough row to hoe, but rewarding.
30. I would like to see my son serve in one of the military services of his choice.
31. is an awesome but rewarding responsibility.
32. and a husband has been the most rewarding, tremendous experience I've ever had.
33. requires patience, understanding, love, an ability to communicate with one's children at all ages and the ability to be firm in disciplinary matters.
34. is the first responsibility after Army responsibilities.
35. omission.
36. has been the most important event of my life.
37. has been full of new experience.
38. as well as a military career man requires a large amount of tact and love to make a desirable atmosphere for our children.

39. is the most fulfilling of a man's experiences.
40. is a wonderful experience.
41. is rewarding.
42. is the greatest thing that ever happened to me.
43. is a wonderful and challenging experience.
44. on an unaccompanied tour places extra burden on my wife.
45. is a wonderful task if only I would be given the time to practice it.
46. is fun, a task filled with contrasting responsibilities and emotions requires one to be an amateur, sometimes silent psychologist.
47. omission.
48. is something no one can explain unless he is one.
49. is both extremely rewarding and challenging, involving a tremendous amount of responsibility.
50. is my greatest pleasure.

20. MAKING DECISIONS IN THE HOME:

1. has to be a joint venture in most cases and parents must be very careful not to change the other's decision where a child's request is concerned. When in doubt, confer.
2. is shared by all.
3. is no different from making decisions at work.
4. is a mutual thing, both my wife and I discuss any major decisions prior to activating them.
5. I make the decisions in my house. My wife is satisfied with this. Like all women she likes to be dominated.
6. is a 50/50 proposition between husband and wife.
7. is a joint affair.
8. is done by both my wife and myself if at all possible.
9. should be shared by both husband and wife.
10. is generally a joint project. I normally make the decision on major expenditures. My wife makes those relative to the home.
11. should be the product of mutual agreement by parents. Frequent separations and long working hours often preclude this and force the wife to make decisions on her own.
12. omission.
13. should be a joint responsibility, however, the husband should not thrust uncalled for responsibility on the wife and should be man enough to make decisions. The wife should be able to ask for and receive a decision from the husband.
14. is treated as a family affair.
15. should be a mutual affair between husband and wife.
16. is a mutual agreement between my wife and I.
17. is a two-way deal, usually talked for a good sound decision.

18. is by necessity a responsibility of my wife. That is not the way she or I want it but she's there and I'm not.
19. should be a joint effort through discussion by husband and wife.
20. is a cooperative effort through discussion by husband and wife.
21. is a dual responsibility of the husband and wife.
22. is a joint responsibility of the husband and wife.
23. is my job, however, much discussion is accomplished prior to the decision.
24. is a joint venture.
25. should be a joint affair but I believe that the final decision should come from the husband.
26. is the responsibility of the father.
27. should come about after considering the views of all concerned.
28. is no problem at all.
29. is a joint husband-wife operation includes much discussion and give and take.
30. are usually made by me if not overseas.
31. may be either a parental or a familiar responsibility depending upon the decision to be made and whom it will affect.
32. requires both the wife and the husband. The large expense decisions must however be made by the breadwinner. Each decision should be thoroughly discussed before it is made by both partners.
33. should be arrived at jointly after a complete discussion and understanding of the circumstances.
34. should be a joint agreement but if one parent makes the decision the other must respect it.
35. my wife and I try to agree on all important decisions.

36. I feel is a joint effort, but mainly the responsibility of the man of the house.
37. is a task to be shared by both partners.
38. is accomplished by discussion of all concerned and then the final decision made by me.
39. is my responsibility. My wife's recognition of this has helped considerably to making ours a happy marriage.
40. is a joint responsibility for the father and mother.
41. is shared but is not necessarily equal.
42. are the responsibility of both husband and wife, and a common ground must be established.
43. is a responsibility of both parents.
44. is a cooperative effort between husband and wife primarily, with specific areas of the household decided upon by one partner. Children are encouraged to make decisions on their problems,
45. has been a job of my wife's for many years, someday soon to be turned over to me.
46. is a father-mother affair; father has the last word (believe it or not) in major decisions. All have their say.
47. should be shared by husband and wife.
48. is a normal function for a father.
49. is, in most cases, a mutual (husband and wife) action.
50. should be a coordinated action with the authority residing in the parents and ultimately with the father.

FAMILY LIFE ATTITUDES OF CAREER UNITED STATES ARMY
OFFICERS STATIONED IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

by

MARGARET VIRGINIA WILSON CLARK

B. S., Kansas State University, 1965

AN ABSTRACT OF A MASTER'S THESIS

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Department of Family and Child Development

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Manhattan, Kansas

1970

Family life attitudes of 50 United States Army officers stationed in the Republic of Vietnam were explored through use of an incomplete sentence blank adapted from the Kell-Hoeflin Incomplete Sentence Blank. Generally, the officers were satisfied with their choice of career, and companionship with their wives and children was highly valued. Fatherhood was seen as a responsible satisfying role in which the subjects found joy in being a companion to their children. They viewed their wives as a companion, a mother to their children and manager of family affairs. The advantages of being a military child were felt to outweigh the disadvantages as the child profited from travel experiences. Child-rearing practices, for the most part, were expressed along traditional lines. Geographical mobility of the family was reported by a majority of subjects as having both advantages and disadvantages.

Several officers expressed concerns about their families; fear of death of themselves; husband-father absence; and the effects of geographical mobility. Fear of death of themselves was reported in terms of its impact on family welfare.

Husband-father absence was reported as creating extra burdens for the military wife and a sense of inadequate husband-father role performance by the officers. There was an emphasis on spending maximum time with their wives and children when at home to compensate for time spent away. Several subjects stated willingness to resign from the Army if a wife suggested it. This evidence may show the subjects tried to compensate

for what they perceived as an inadequate family role performance. Also, mobility, for these subjects, occurred too frequently, was too costly and created disruption to the family.

This exploration of family life attitudes of Army officers separated from their families due to assignment to a military tour of duty has illuminated certain areas and brought to light certain problems on which more information would be desirable.

1. The expectations of the military wife for her husband regarding his role as husband and parent.
2. Child-rearing practices and attitudes.
3. Pressures which cause conflict between professional responsibilities and family obligations.
4. Emotional strains caused by separation and the hazards of the profession, particularly during periods of separation.