

Deployment Fact Sheet

Deployed Servicemembers

- Nearly 1.7 million U.S. troops have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan since September 2001. More than 592,000 have been deployed more than once. [Department of Defense, 1/31/2008]
- More than 464,797 service members in the National Guard and Reserves have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001. One-quarter have been deployed more than once. [Department of Defense, 1/31/2008]
- A third of the troops deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan have served at least two tours in a combat zone. About 70,000 have been deployed three times. Tours have routinely been extended to 15 or 18 months, some even to 22 months. [*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, 8/04/2007]
- 100% of the Army's available active duty combat brigades have served at least a 12-month tour in Iraq or Afghanistan. [*Washington Post*, 9/14/06]

Their Families

- There are 1.2 million children of members of the Armed Forces, including more than 153,000 children of members of reserve components. [Rep. Solomon Ortiz (D-TX), 9/2007]
- 700,000 children in the U.S. have at least one parent deployed overseas for military duty. Having a primary caretaker in a war zone can be one of the most stressful events a child can experience. [American Psychological Association Report, 2/27/2008]
- About 39% of the children of deployed parents are age 1 and under, 33% are between the ages of 6 and 11, and about 25% are between the ages of 12 and 18. [Virginia Tech *Research Magazine*, Winter 2006]
- Researchers have found that when deployments escalated, children in military families were twice as likely to be abused or neglected. The largest proportion of abuse cases involved the non-military caretaker at home. [*Journal of Epidemiology*, May 2008]
- Children of deployed service members experience a broad range of reactions to the stress of family deployment, including anger, sadness, fear, confusion and feelings of abandonment, loss, anxiety, and depression. These reactions can lead to significant problems such as school absenteeism and failure, social isolation, family emotional abuse and violence, psychosomatic medical complaints, and depression. [American Academy of Pediatrics]
- Many military family members say that when entering a second or third deployment, they carry unresolved anxieties and expectations from the last deployment(s). While they may have gained knowledge of resources available to them, those whose service member deployed multiple times say they are more fatigued and increasingly concerned about their family relationships. ["The Cycles of Deployment Report," National Military Family Association, 3/29/06]
- Although challenged by the demands of deployment, families noted they are proud of their service member and their service to our country. ["The Cycles of Deployment Report," National Military Family Association, 3/29/06]