



## **Blue Star Families Launches 2013 Military Family Lifestyle Survey**

*National survey of military families will detail stressors, successes after 10 years of war*

*All current and veteran service members and their families are encouraged to participate and let their voices be heard*

Washington, D.C. (November 1, 2012)—Blue Star Families, a national non-profit organization supporting military families, today launched their 2013 Military Family Lifestyle Survey to gain insight on the major issues facing military families. All current and former members of the armed forces and their families are encouraged to complete the survey and contribute their voices to the description of today's military life. The 2013 Military Family Lifestyle Survey is available at <http://bluestarfam.org/survey> and will be open into December 2012.

The 2013 Military Family Lifestyle Survey is the fourth annual survey conducted by Blue Star Families, and previous results have informed local and national policy, and have been referenced by civilian and military officials at all levels, including the White House and First Lady Michelle Obama.

“As our forces draw down from over a decade of continuous war, the effects of such extended conflicts and the strain it puts on military families will become even more apparent. To adjust to the changing needs and concerns of military service members and families, and to design programs and policies that support our services members and families, policy makers need a thorough understanding of those concerns,” said Dr. Vivian Greentree, director of research and policy for Blue Star Families. “That’s what the Blue Star Families survey provides. We encourage all military families and service members to participate and have their voices be heard.”

In addition to extensive multiple choice questions on a wide range of issues, the Blue Star Families surveys also offers participants opportunities to suggest programs or policies, elaborate on certain issues, and voice concerns in their own way through a series of open ended questions. “Every year we received thousands of good ideas, heart felt stories and thought-provoking suggestions that add another layer to the survey results and really help bring them to life,” said Dr. Greentree.

For this survey, Blue Star Families is honored to have the assistance of the following partner organizations: the American Red Cross, the United Service Organizations (USO), the Armed Forces YMCA, Hiring Our Heroes, Military.com, Military Spouse Magazine, Association of the United States Army (AUSA), Service Nation, the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC), the Military Spouse Corporate Career Network (MSCCN), Military Officer’s Association of America (MOAA), National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), Operation Homefront, Our Military Kids, Points of Light, the Reserve Officers Association (ROA), Student Veterans of America (SVA), National Military Family Association (NMFA), the Veterans Innovation Center and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). The wide distribution of this survey

through our partners and others in the military community greatly contributes to the high level of response, and will help this survey reach a comprehensive sample of military personnel and their families.

The results of the 2013 Military Family Lifestyle Survey will be announced in spring 2013.

**About Blue Star Families**

Blue Star Families is a national, nonprofit network of military families from all ranks and services, including guard and reserve, with a mission to support, connect and empower military families. In addition to morale and empowerment programs, Blue Star Families raises awareness of the challenges and strengths of military family life and works to make military life more sustainable. Membership includes military spouses, children and parents as well as service members, veterans and civilians.

To learn more about Blue Star Families, visit <http://www.bluestarfam.org>.

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