

2002 Survey of Spouses of Activated National Guard and Reserve Component Members

10 June 2003





Briefing Outline

- Project Overview and Methods
- Survey Findings:
 - Demographics
 - Pre-Activation Preparedness
 - Post Activation Coping
- Focused Analyses:
 - Advance Notice of Activation
 - Income Fluctuations
- Predicting Spouse Preparedness
- Predicting Spouse Ability to Cope During Activation





Project Overview

- Sponsor: OASD/RA
- Purpose:
 - To conduct a follow-up of the 1999 Survey of Families of Deployed National Guard and Reserve Component Members
 - To assess the needs and concerns of National Guard and Reserve families prior to and during activation
 - To assess the status of family support initiatives and programs
 - To gather data from spouses of National Guard and Reserve members who have been activated since 11 September 2001





Survey Design and Development

- The 2002 survey instrument, a revised version of the 1999 survey, included additional demographics and questions on healthcare and Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves (ESGR)
- The 2002 survey development included a pretest with 3 focus groups and a cognitive lab
- The final survey instrument comprised one open ended and 57 multiple choice questions





Survey Sample Selection

- A random sample of 7,658 spouses of activated National Guard and Reserve members was selected from a population of 29,673, representing six National Guard and Reserve components
- The sample was stratified by component and size of deployment
- Sample size was determined by calculating the number of surveys necessary to obtain 95% confidence +/- 5% for each cell, with an expectation of an overall 35% response





Survey Administration (cont.)

 Survey mailings and administration took place on the dates indicated below.

Survey Administration Schedule		
Prenotification Letter	August 16, 2002	
First Wave Surveys	August 23, 2002	
Thank You/Reminder Postcard	September 3, 2002	
Second Wave Surveys	September 30, 2002	
Survey Administration Completed	November 4, 2002	





Survey Response

Surveys Mailed		7,658
Surveys Returned		4,002
Invalid Surveys		128
Not on Active Duty	109	
■ Divorced	6	
■ Incomplete Surveys	13	
Respondent Sample Size		3,874
Overall Response		56 2%

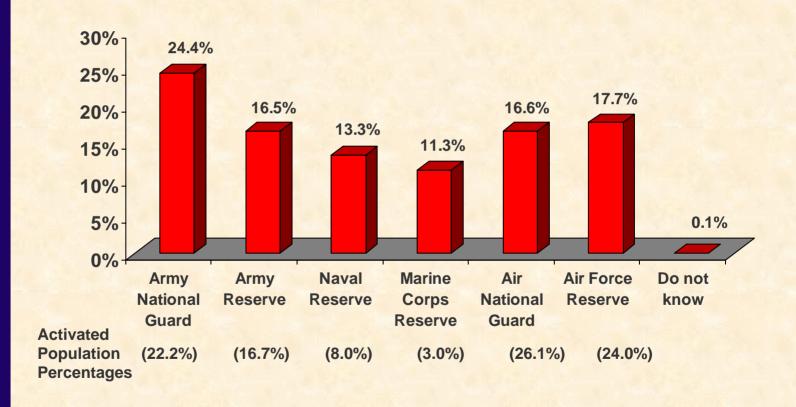




Sample Demographics

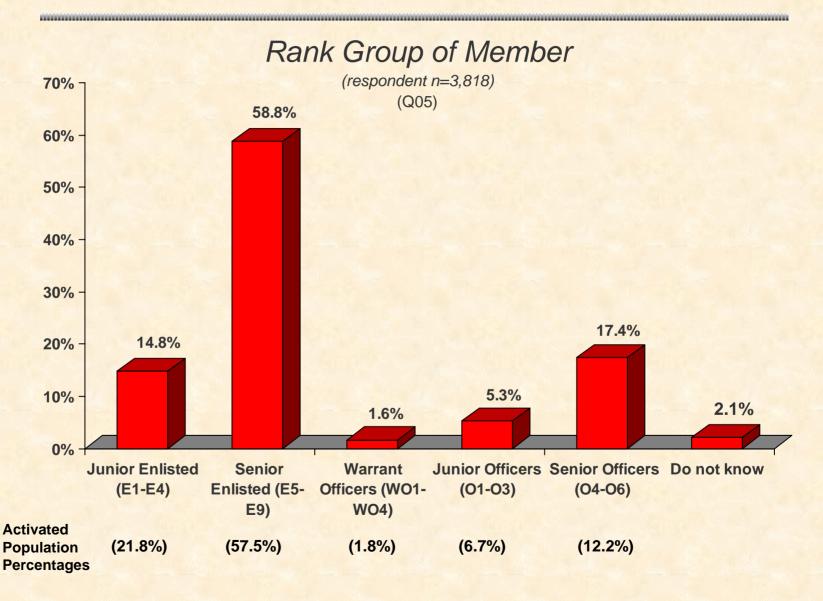
Component of Member

(respondent n=3,859) (Q04)







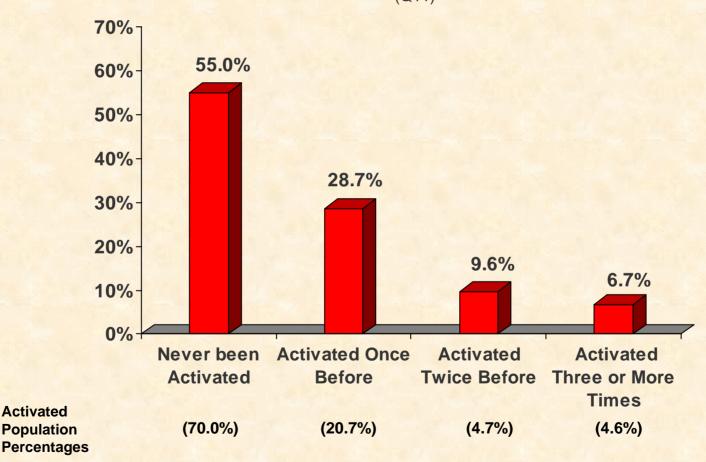






Previous Activation Experience of Member

(respondent n=3,816) (Q11)



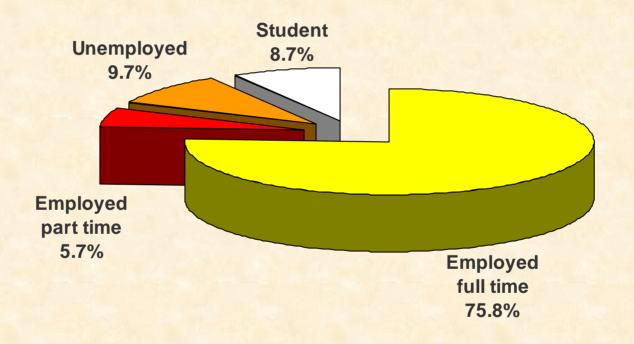


Activated



Civilian Employment Status of Member*

(respondent n=3,703) (Q18**)





^{*} Respondents may be included in more than one category.

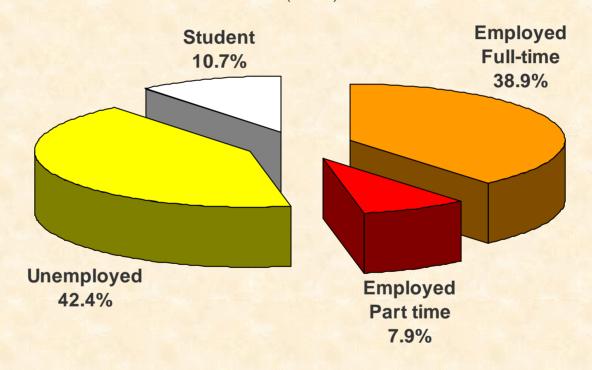


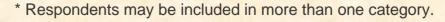
^{**} Response categories were collapsed into four primary categories of employment.



Civilian Employment Status of Member's Spouse*

(respondent n=3,777) (Q17**)





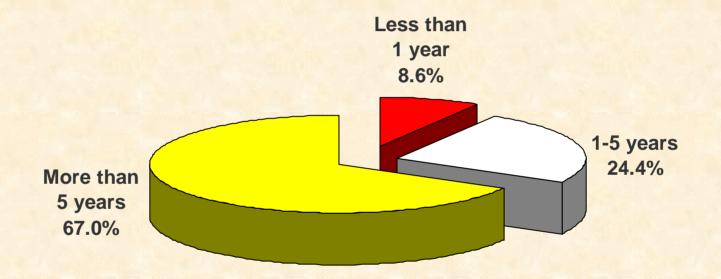
^{**} Response options were aggregated into four primary categories of employment.





Length of Marriage

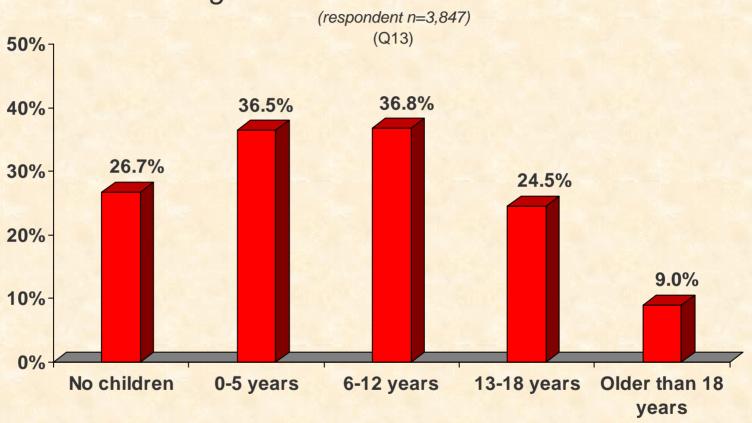
(respondent n=3,861) (Q08)











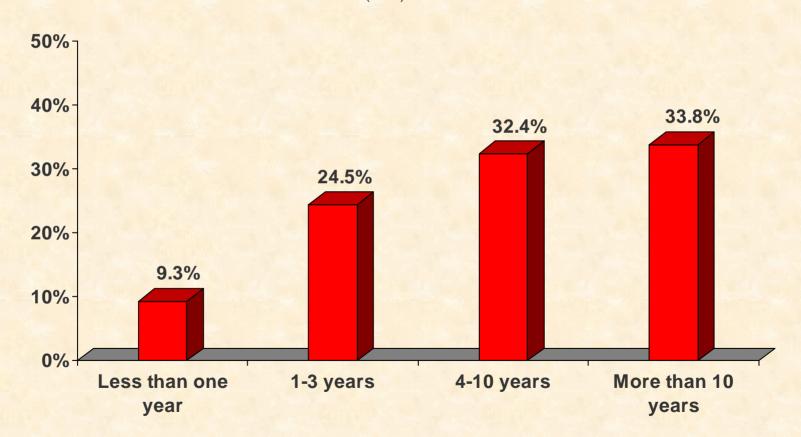
^{*} Percentages do not add to 100% as respondents may have children in more than one age group.





Length of Time Residing in Present Community

(respondent n=3,856) (Q20)







Pre-activation Preparedness

Advance Notice of Activation: Spouse Awareness

(respondent n=3,834) (Q26)

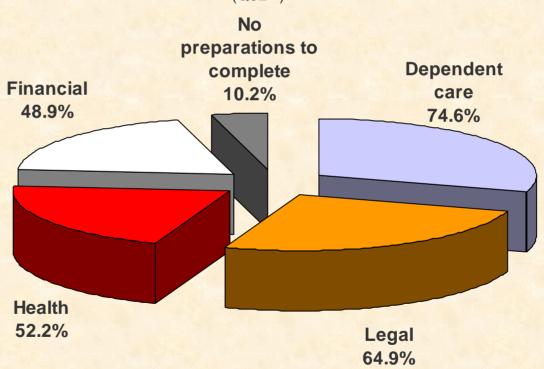


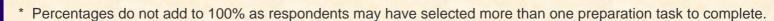




Types of Preparation Tasks to be Completed Before Activation*

(respondent n=3,811) (Q32**)





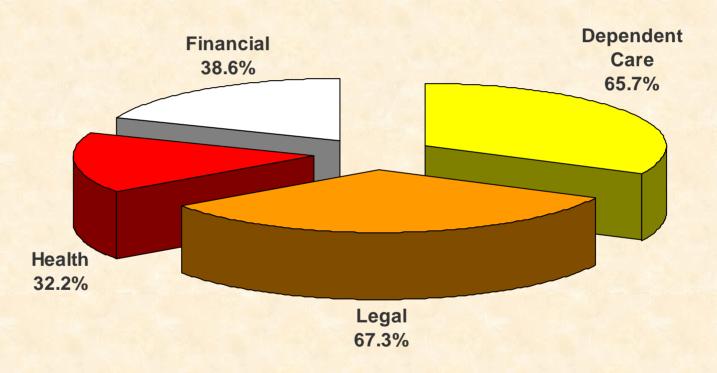
^{**} Response options were aggregated into four categories or types of preparation tasks to be completed before activation.

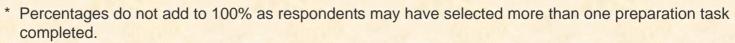




Types of Preparation Tasks Completed Before Activation*

(respondent n=2,662) (Q33**)





^{**} Response options were aggregated into four categories or types of preparation tasks to be completed before activation.

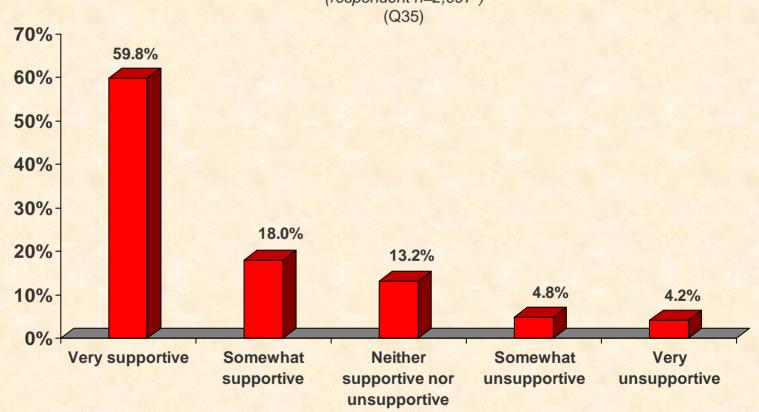


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Supportiveness of Employer to Allow Completion of Pre-activation Tasks

(respondent n=2,097*)



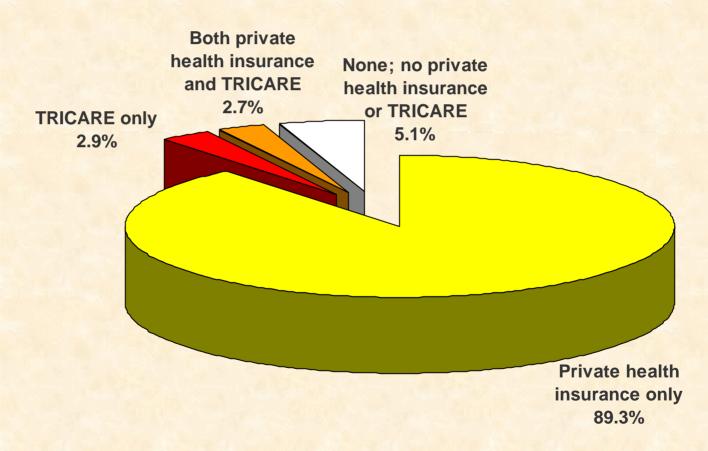
^{*} Respondent n includes only employed spouses who needed to take time off from work.





Health Insurance: Family Coverage Prior to Activation

(respondent n=3,666) (Q29 prior to activation)

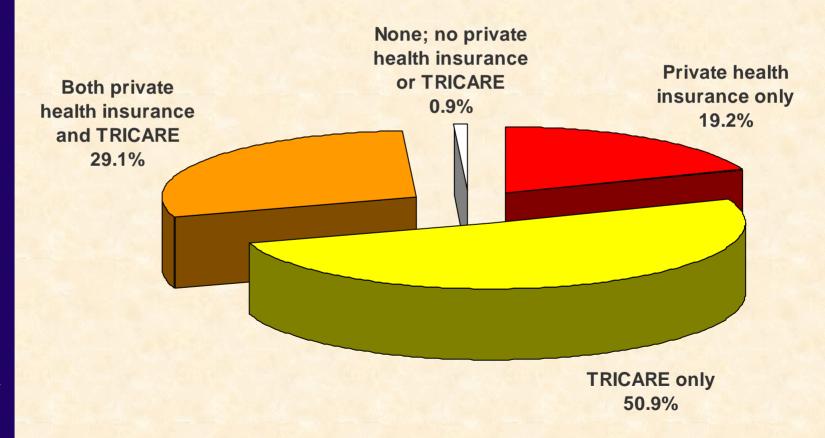






Health Insurance: Member-Spouse Coverage During Activation

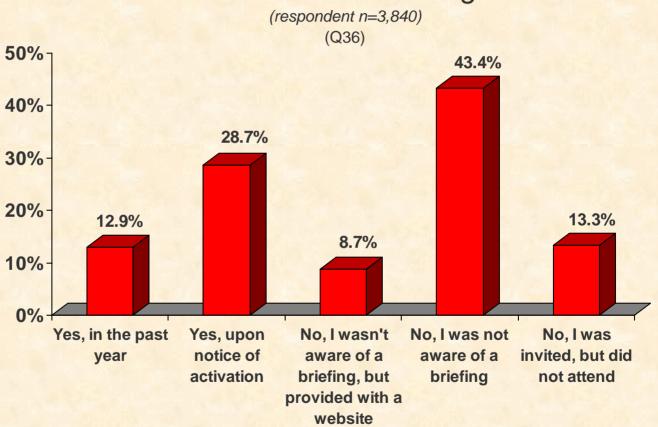
(respondent n=3,162) (Q29 during activation)







Information/Communication Exchange: Attendance at Briefings*



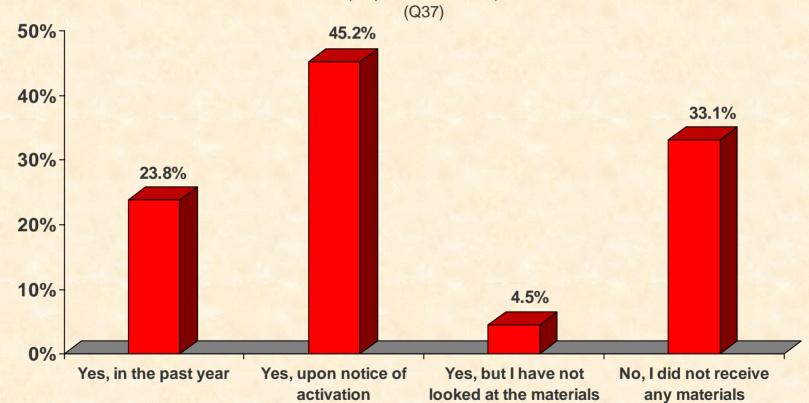
^{*}Percentages do not add to 100% as respondents may have selected more than one attendance option.

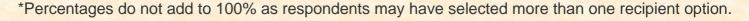




Information/Communication Exchange: Receipt of Pre-activation Materials

(respondent n=3,835)





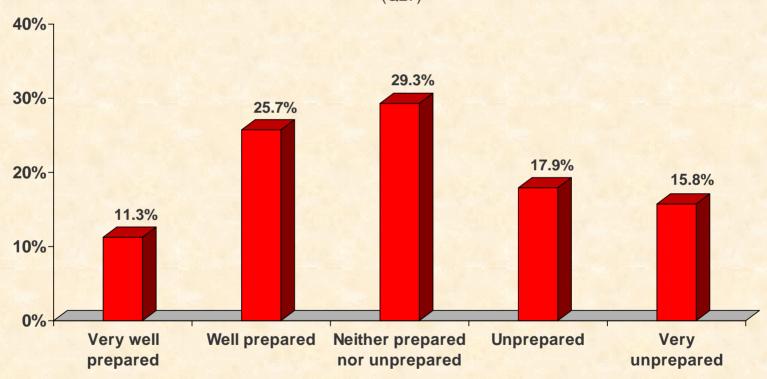
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Level of Preparedness When First Learned of Member's Order to Active Duty

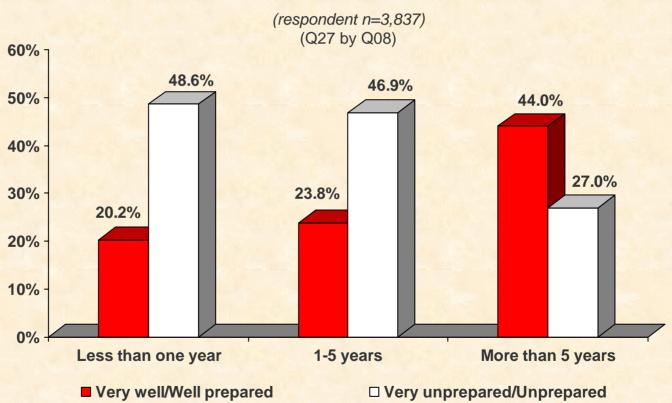
(respondent n=3,848) (Q27)







Level of Preparedness When First Learned of Member's Order to Active Duty by Length of Marriage*

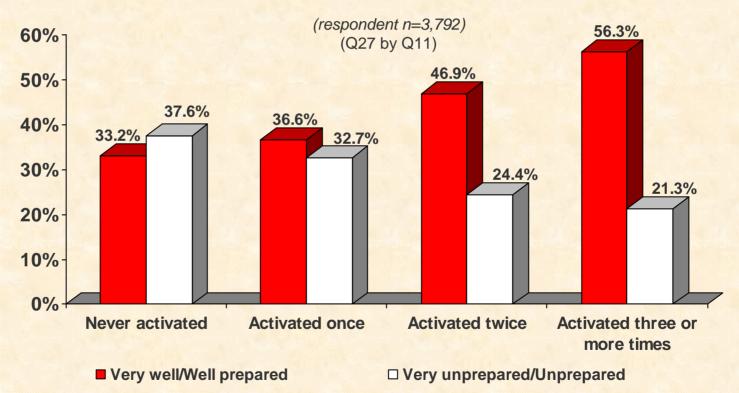


^{*} Percentage of spouses indicating 'neither prepared nor unprepared' not shown.





Level of Preparedness When First Learned of Member's Order to Active Duty by Number of Times Member Has Been Activated Since He/She Joined*



^{*} Percentage of spouses indicating 'neither prepared nor unprepared' not shown.

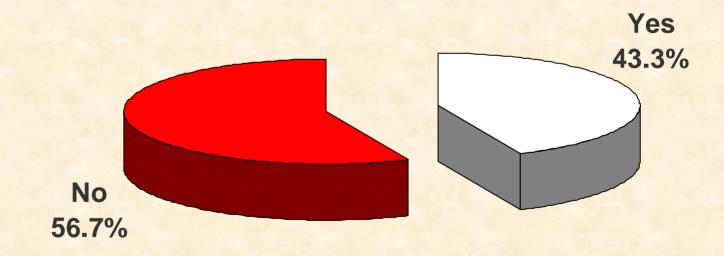




Post-activation Coping

Information/Communication Exchange: Acknowledgement of a Military POC Designated for Assistance

(respondent n=3,840) (Q42)

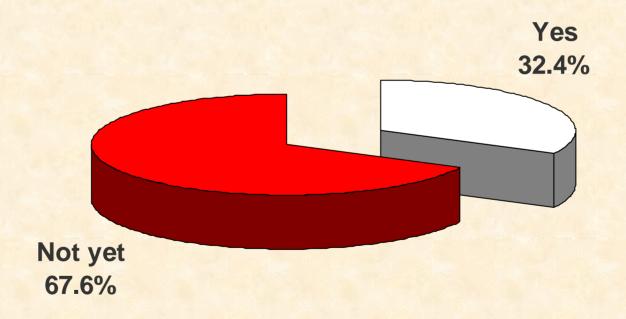






Information/Communication Exchange: Need to Contact the Military POC During Activation

(respondent n=1,675*) (Q44)

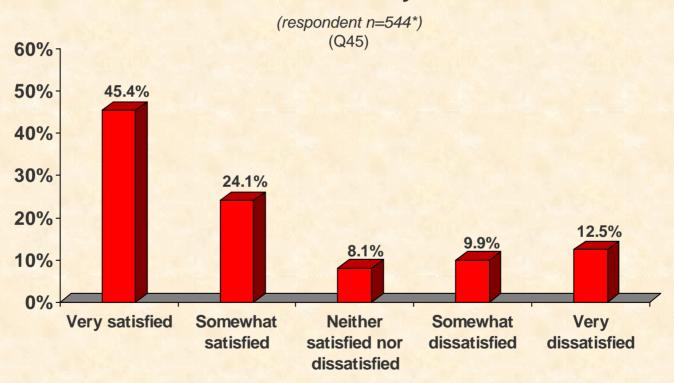




^{*} Respondent n includes only spouses who had a military point of contact before the member reported for active duty.



Information/Communication Exchange: Level of Satisfaction With the Assistance Received from the Military POC



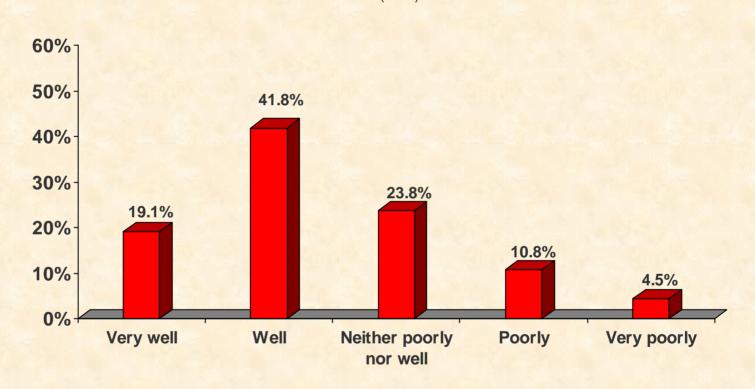
^{*} Respondent n includes only spouses who had a military point of contact before the member reported for active duty.





Ability to Cope with Activation

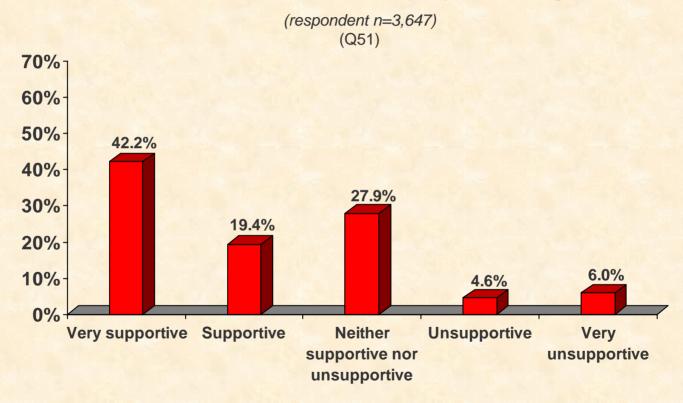
(respondent n=3,847) (Q56)







Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR): Level of Support from Member's Employer During this Activation

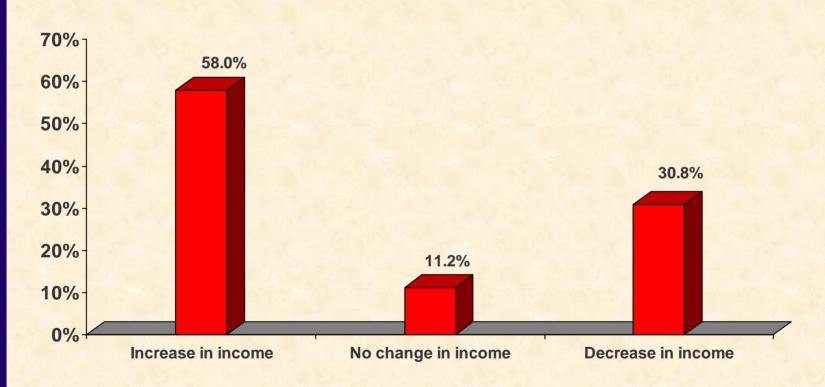






Income: Monthly Change in Income

(respondent n=3,638) (Q54*)



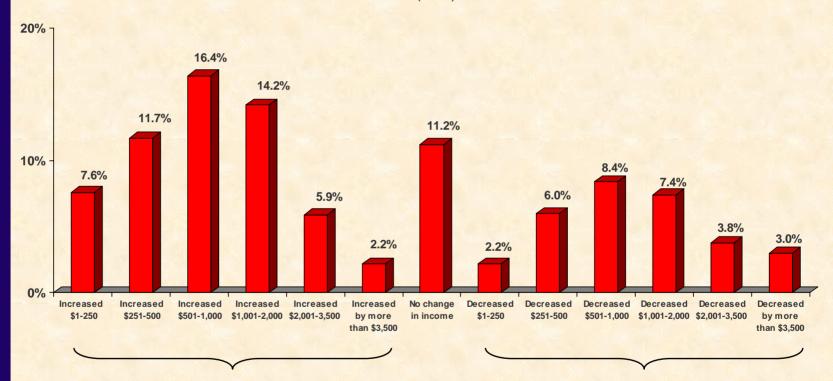


^{*}Response options were aggregated into three categories of income change.



Income: Amount of Monthly Change in Income

(respondent n=3,230) (Q54)



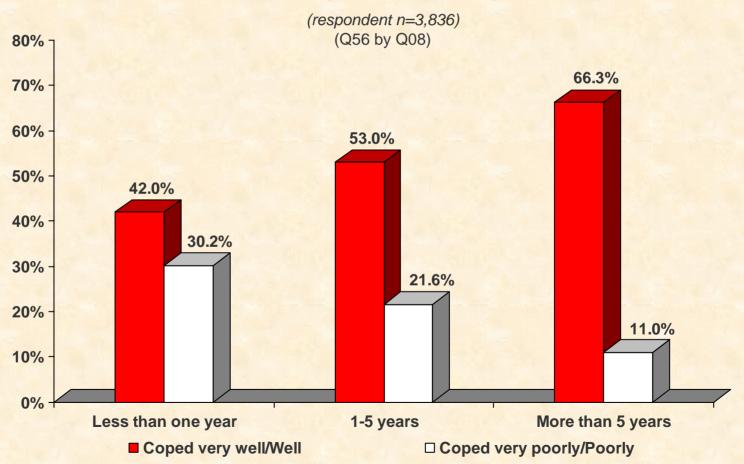
58.0 percent of respondents reported an increase

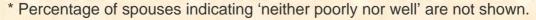
30.8 percent of respondents reported a decrease

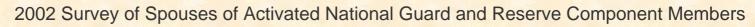




Ability to Cope with Activation by Length of Marriage*





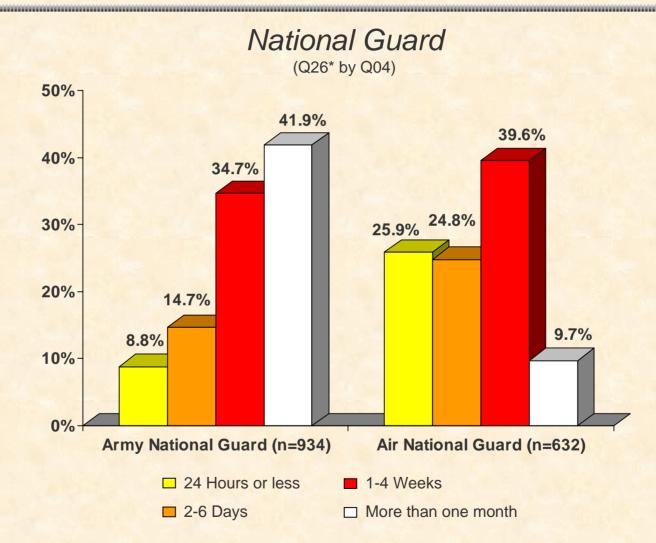






Advance Notice of Activation

Component



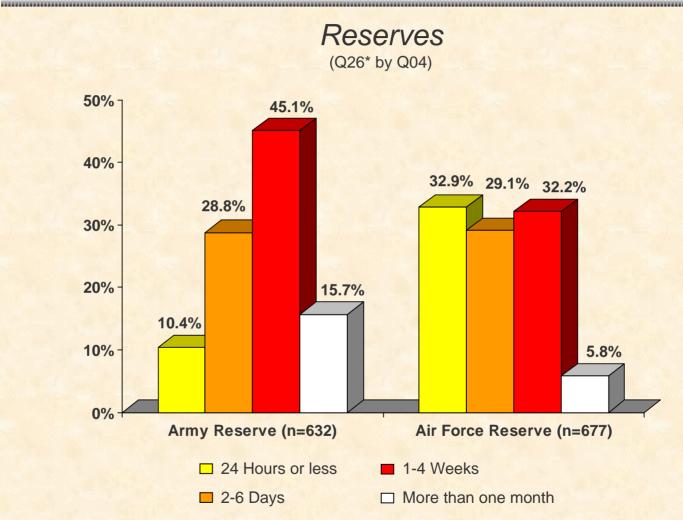
^{*} Response categories were aggregated into four categories of advance notice.





Advance Notice of Activation (cont.)

Component



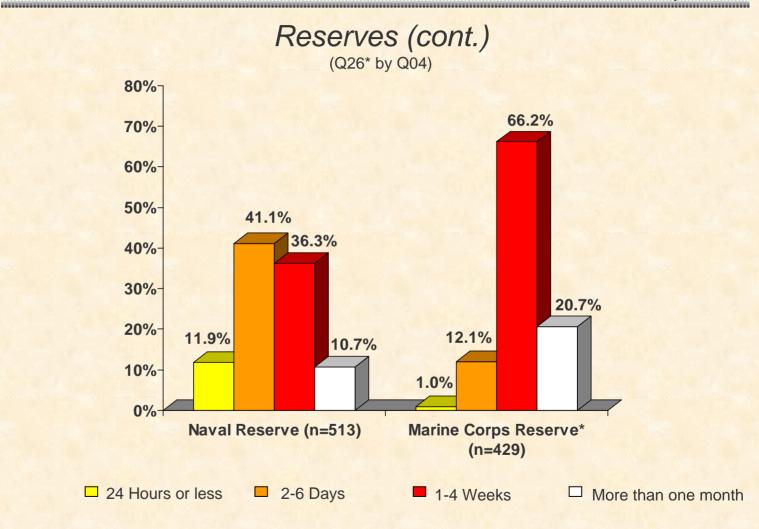
^{*} Response categories were aggregated into four categories of advance notice.





Advance Notice of Activation (cont.)

Component



^{*} Response categories were aggregated into four categories of advance notice.

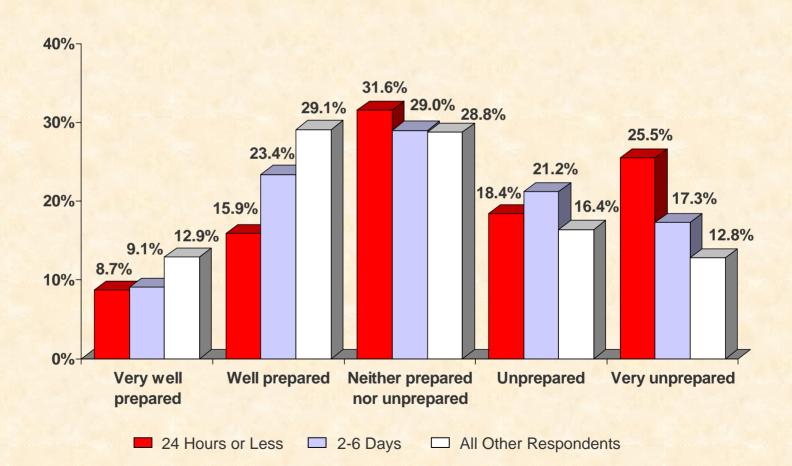




Advance Notice of Activation (cont.) Level of Preparedness

Level of Preparedness

(24 Hours or Less and 2-6 days respondent n=1,532; all other respondents n=2,289)
(Q26 by Q27)





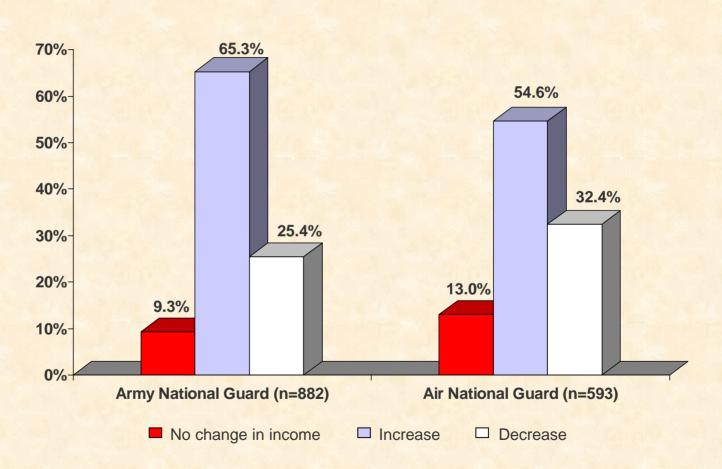


Income Fluctuations

Component

National Guard

(Q54* by Q04)



^{*} Response options were aggregated into three main categories of changes income.

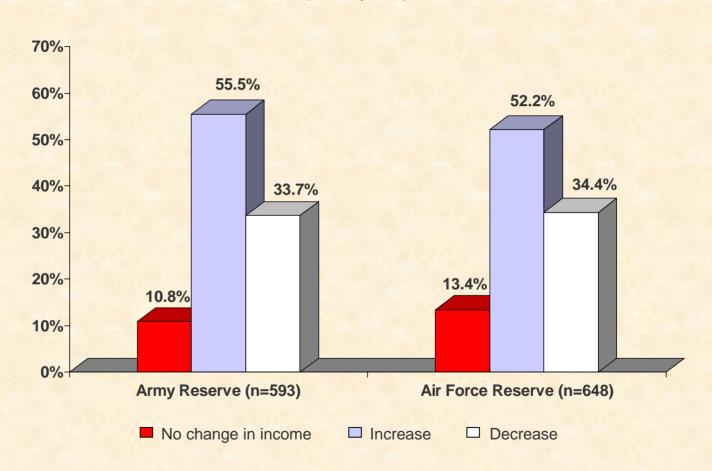




Component

Reserves

(Q54* by Q04)



^{*} Response options were aggregated into three main categories of changes in income.

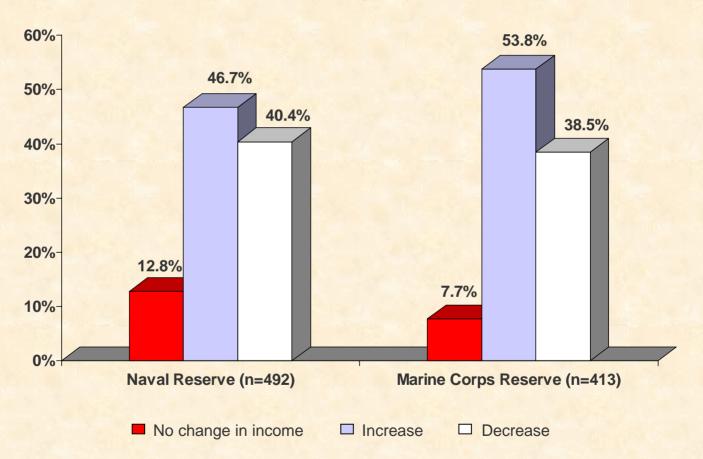




Component

Reserves (cont.)

(Q54* by Q04)



^{*} Response options were aggregated into three categories of changes in monthly income.

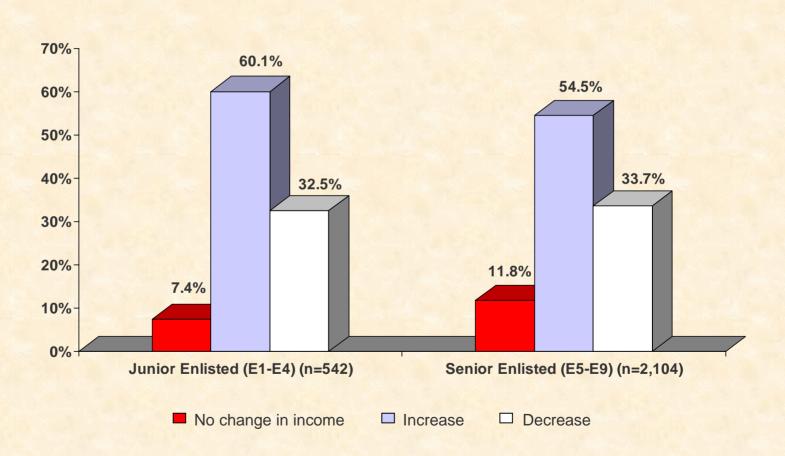




Rank

Enlisted Members

(Q54* by Q05)



^{*} Response options were aggregated into three categories of changes in monthly income.

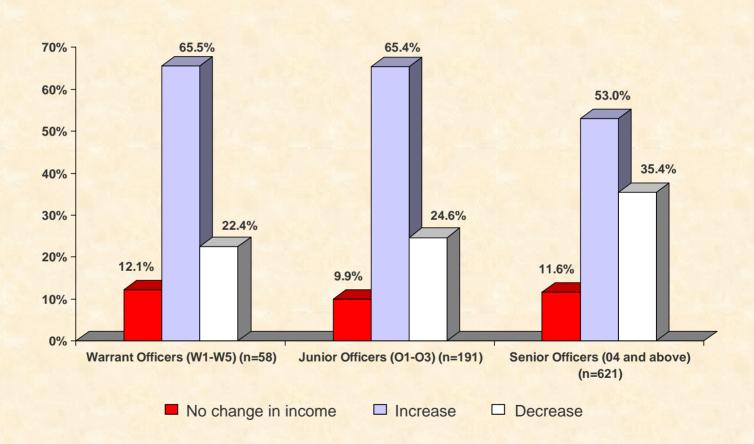




Rank

Officer Members

(Q54* by Q05)



^{*} Response options were aggregated into three categories of changes in monthly income.





Regression of Spouse Preparedness: Summary

- Employed Spouses (n=1,792)
 - 20 percent of the variance accounted for by predictors
 - Effect size largest on Steps 1 and 3
 - Step 1 Significant Predictors (Demographics): Rank, length of marriage, number of times activated, spouse's military experience, children under 5
 - Step 3 Significant Predictors (Changes in Home Environment): Number of tasks to do, time away from job, change in family income, employer support
- Unemployed Spouses (n=669)
 - 18 percent of the variance accounted for by predictors
 - Similar pattern of findings, except effect size smaller for Step 3





Regression of Spouse Ability to Cope: Summary

- Employed Spouses (n=1,590)
 - 16 percent of the variance accounted for by predictors
 - Effect size largest on Steps 1 and 3
 - Step 1 Significant Predictors (Demographics): Rank, length of marriage
 - Step 3 Significant Predictors (Changes in Home Environment): Number of tasks to do, time away from job, employer support
- Unemployed Spouses (n=618)
 - 17 percent of the variance accounted for by predictors
 - Effect size smaller on Step 3, but larger on Step 4
 - Step 4 Significant Predictors (information received/services used): Use/rating of support services

