

# JOINING



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VOLUME 7 ISSUE 2

RESEARCH NEWS YOU CAN USE

## IN THIS ISSUE

Factors associated with deployment can lead to family conflict. We discuss some of the effects of deployments on families and describe the concept of

humanitarian operations. The news media, a critical resource for Army families, provide information and relieve concerns as well as heighten the distress of family members.

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child and spouse abuse case records at three installations in the U. S. to determine the relationship of deployment to cases of child and spouse abuse. Deployment per se was not a significant risk factor for maltreatment in the cases they reviewed. However, there were other factors thought to be associ-

history of criminal activity. Families in which maltreatment occurred tended to have multiple problems. Consequently, it is possible that deployment can at times be a tipping point for maltreatment in vulnerable families rather than a direct cause.

In vulnerable families there are also protective factors that

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comments are offered:

- Reunions are not a quick and smooth return to normal family functioning.
- Stress and anxiety can result from the shock of a rapid return from a combat zone without sufficient time to make adjustments.

### **Research Literature on Readjustment Following Deployment**

Over the past decade, there have probably been more contributions to the scientific literature on operational, medical, and social aspects of deployment compared to any other time in

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hold work and child care responsibilities. Navy mothers who placed a high priority on motherhood reported fewer depressive symptoms. Psychological adjustment was predicted by their perception of social support from friends and spouses, length of military service, length of the most recent separation from family, and time in

for soldiers, mostly from the Vietnam War. Participants reported that their homecoming experiences were moderately positive from family, but lower by the community. Symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder were related to higher levels of combat exposure and stressors of the peacekeeping operation. Reports of a positive homecoming

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### A Plea for Upscale FAP Research

A recent editorial in the *Lancet* (“Is science stuck in the Middle Ages”, Vol.362, Number 9381, p. 339, 2003) asked readers to consider if science was stuck in the Middle Ages. Their question was based on their observation that a great deal of progress has been

clients (victims, offenders, and family members) and many commanders and supervisors who contend with the fallout of spouse and child maltreatment. Progress in the understanding of the nature of family violence, its causes, prevention, and treatment, can benefit from a large scale approach to research in addition to encouraging locally initiated

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victims of domestic violence on a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week basis. At Fort Carson, Jeanne Koss is exploring the use of a special nurturing program curriculum for families with children who have witnessed domestic violence.

More information about the FAPCOE program and application process can be obtained from the

own knowledge about planning your own research and reading the results of the research of others.

It is likely that most studies of the FAP program will be clinical in nature. That is, participants will be clients (or patients) of alleged or substantiated maltreatment in whom some effect is studied ideally compared to non-clients. Examples are a preven-

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