The History of Military Wives

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Military wives have been not only supporting their husbands, but also supporting the mission of the military since Revolutionary War times until today. Wives make up 92 percent of today's military spouses (dol.gov). They are a tough group that makes the best of every situation, and they bring a piece of home with them wherever the military sends their family. The military asks a lot of military members and their families with frequent moves, deployments, and spouses are the glue that holds down the home front. This paper will highlight contributions of military wives since the inception of the United States, but most information gathered came from officer's wives' perspectives because there are limited sources from the enlisted wives' viewpoint. This could be due to the wives' education levels and the period when enlisted members were not permitted to have wives (Alt & Stone, 1991). Wives have been responsible for building the morale of soldiers and building resiliency in their families. Military wives throughout history have played a very active role in supporting and helping the military with its mission and were a driving force behind many federally funded family support programs and entitlements for military families.

Camp Followers

The rudimentary definition of a camp follower is one who follows the military camp wherever they go. During the Revolutionary War, wives and children of the soldiers started following the camps of soldiers near the battlefields, though most wives stayed home while their husbands fulfilled their military obligations (Alt & Stone, 1991). Many of the wives who followed had no home to stay at and the soldiers had no way to provide for their families while they were away. These wives set a precedent for military wives who followed their husbands to encampments, forts, and bases worldwide for the next 200 years of the American military.

Camp following was troublesome to commanders like General George Washington because wives and children needed to be fed, provided for, and protected, and often the amount of camp followers outnumbered the soldiers (Alt & Stone, 1991). The army kept trying to send them away, but eventually, they relented because the women refused to leave, and the women helped the army in many ways. The women provided services for the Continental Army like washing laundry (laundresses), sewing, knitting clothes for soldiers, cooking, foraging for food, carried water and ammunition, and nursing the wounded. For their services they received a half ration, and children received a quarter ration, but no medical was provided for families (Alt & Stone, 1991). Though wives and children traveled along with the army, they had to stay in the back with the supply wagons but were not permitted to ride the wagons. Having wives and children along boosted the morale of the soldiers and kept them from delinquent behavior.

"Molly Pitcher" or "Captain Molly" was a nick name given to some wives who assisted their enlisted husbands on the battlefield by nursing them when wounded and firing their husband's weapons (Alt & Stone, 1991). Mary Ludwig Hayes helped her enlisted husband fire his cannon and received a gold coin and a promotion to sergeant by General Washington and was later awarded an army pension. Margaret Cochran Corbin took up her wounded husband's musket and continued fighting until her arm was almost severed and her breast was laced with grapeshot (Alt & Stone, 1991). She also received an army pension for her service. Anna Maria Lane was wounded in battle and was disabled due to her service in battle and received an army pension (Alt & Stone, 1991). Washerwomen would often serve as spies, gathering intelligence while washing laundry because it was often near the enemy's camps. Many wives were also fatally wounded while helping on the battlefield (Alt & Stone, 1991).

High-ranking officers' wives also followed the camp. Officers were generally plantation owners and wealthy men, so they were able to better provide for their wives by renting rooms or homes in the local area for their wives to live in, so they would be close to their husbands (Alt & Stone, 1991). Some wives came and went throughout the war. A tradition of high-ranking officer wives entertaining for their husbands by hosting other officers and their wives was created during this time that was carried on in future generations of military wives (Alt & Stone, 1991).

Martha Washington traveled back and forth from camp and Mount Vernon, ensuring the plantation was running smoothly, and would bring carriages full of cooked food to feed the soldiers (Alt & Stone, 1991). The Washingtons would host open houses twice a week for officers that were not lavish, but modest with just tea, lemonade, and simple foods. Martha was known for being a kind woman, who would go from tent to tent visiting soldiers and boosting morale. She also hosted dignitaries from foreign lands and high-ranking officers for her husband, General Washington, and held military balls to boost morale (Alt & Stone, 1991). She also began a tradition of officer wives doing charity work like holding knitting circles to knit for the soldiers. Martha was never known to complain in her letters about her living arrangements, or about the work she did, however difficult those times were (Alt & Stone, 1991).

Other notable officer's wives are Lucy Knox, who hosted lavish parties for her husband, General Henry Knox. She also was known to be difficult and berate her husband for her living arrangements and hardships (Alt & Stone, 1991). Catherine Greene, wife of General Nathanael Greene, traveled back and forth to her husband's encampments, and became pregnant with four of her children during this time. She also interpreted for the French troops at Valley Forge becoming valuable to the war effort (Alt & Stone, 1991). Rebecca Biddle protested the army's declaration that wives must leave, and made herself useful foraging for food, and even stayed to

cook a meal for after a battle when Washington had issued a warning that all must leave because of the danger. Catherine “Kate” Barry worked as a scout for the militia and made a famous midnight ride to warn the militia of the incoming British before the Battle of Cowpens (Alt & Stone, 1991).

Moving West

Around 1780, the army set up outposts to protect the western territory of the United States. After the Revolutionary War, there was just a small army left as most of the army during the war were militia and volunteers. Garrisons were mostly male, companies were 1 to 2 officers to 30 enlisted (Alt & Stone, 1991). A few soldiers had wives and children, and the women often worked as laundresses and cooks. Most women near the camps were not conventional ladies, but were robust, and profane, but not prostitutes (Alt & Stone, 1991). Disease ran rampant in the outposts and camps, only the hardiest survived. There was a lot of fear of Native American violence, and military families kept close to camp, and watched their children closely. At some camps, officers had quarters (houses) and enlisted families had dugouts or built rough cabins. Junior officer families could be booted from a house if a senior officer family moved there. Officer wives had servants, but the standard of living was still below what could be experienced in the east (Alt & Stone, 1991).

In 1782, wives were credited with saving the day during the Siege of Bryant’s Station (Alt & Stone, 1991). Native Americans were lying in wait, and the women who lugged water up from the river are asked by the soldiers to continue their normal daily routine so the Native Americans will not suspect that they are on to them. The women did a good job tricking the Native Americans, and the soldiers prevent the Native Americans ambush. During the Mexican war in Corpus Christi, Texas, laundress and cook, Sarah Boginnis, left her hiding place during a

gunfight and bravely cooked breakfast in an open courtyard while gunshots are going off close by. When the fighting ended, she served breakfast to the soldiers on time with hot coffee for all (Alt & Stone, 1991). These wives who dedicated their life to living with their military men were self-sacrificial and put the mission of the military above their own comfort.

Civil War

The Civil War brought war again to the home front. Many wives chose to stay with family or at home during this time, but camp followers were also present during this time (Alt & Stone, 1991). Those who often followed the camps and stayed close by were wives and children who did not have a home to stay at and needed to be close by so their husband could provide for them, though there were no provisions provided for families. Like the Revolutionary War, wives during the Civil War fought alongside their husbands, sometimes undercover pretending to be men, until being wounded made them discovered (Alt & Stone, 1991). Other wives, when they learned their husbands were sick or wounded would travel to the battlefield to nurse their wounded husbands. Both armies appreciated wives who were willing to work as nurses, and who organized aid for the sick and wounded on the battlefield (Alt & Stone, 1991). Wives worked as laundresses during this time again for the army.

Officer's wives would visit the camps throughout the war or would stay in nearby cities. Wives were frustrated with other women who had little concern or care for the war. Julia Grant, wife of Ulysses S. Grant, came down during the winter quarters rest time (Alt & Stone, 1991). Some wives made dangerous journeys by ship or carriage to the battlefield or encampments and then returned home, and one wife left camp pregnant every time. Wives juggled their home lives, continued their husband's businesses, making complex financial decisions based on letters received by husbands, which was their main correspondence (Hooper, 2016).

Lincoln met with many military wives during his time as president, and he enjoyed meeting with them and listened to their pleas to promote their husbands. Picking Generals could be a boring endeavor and Lincoln liked to have a little fun with it, so meeting with their wives proved to be amusement for him (Hooper, 2016). He said of a one pretty wife who besought him to make her Lieutenant husband which she desired him be promoted to a Major, or first a Captain. Another, Lincoln was said to have suggested that he may just have to promote her husband to the rank of brigadier general after visiting with the "saucy" woman (Hooper, 2016).

Some general's wives met with President Lincoln and had strong influences on their husbands and their careers. Jessie Benton Fremont, a woman raised in a well-known family, who was educated by her father like a son would have been, worked as her husband's chief of staff and secretary (Hooper, 2016). She often encouraged him to disobey orders, and when she approached Lincoln on behalf of her husband, he did not respond well to her, and this left her angry with him (Hooper, 2016). Eleanor Ewing Sherman was a calming force to her husband, and when he had reports about him calling him "mad" in the newspapers published, she went to Lincoln who was persuaded by her charms and who promoted her husband anyway, and he saved her husband's career. He ended up working closely with General Grant throughout the war.

Julia Dent Grant, wife of Ulysses S. Grant, was an enormous help to her husband throughout the war, due to his longing for her, and her inability to correspond in letters because of an eye defect which made it hard to write, Julia stayed near him at camp as much as possible (Hooper, 2016). Without her calming presence, he would go into despair and struggle to perform his tasks, and to turn to drinking too much (Hooper, 2016). Julia Grant had some fondness for President Lincoln, but Mary Lincoln proved to be difficult for Julia to get along with, and therefore limited the couple's interactions (Hooper, 2016).

The Frontier

As the United States began to expand further westward toward the Pacific Ocean, the army set up outposts to manage the land, and to police the Native American tribes. It was dangerous territory and was called the "wild west". During this time, the army's caste system continues and the divide between ranks deepens (Alt & Stone, 1991). There are three classes of wives; officer wives, non-commissioned wives, and the women enlisted men kept but did not marry because they needed special permission to marry (Alt & Stone, 1991). The women kept by enlisted men were the ones that worked as laundresses and cooks. The three classes did not socialize or mix. Their children played and attended school together if a school was offered, otherwise the wives educated their own children. Officer's wives were known to advise and help lower ranking soldier's wives when needed in regard to domestic issues (Alt & Stone, 1991).

The frontier was difficult living even for officers. Depending on locations, homes may consist of a dugout, or a rough cabin. Some locations, like Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, had nicer quarters, but lower ranking officers could be booted from their home if a higher-ranking officer was transferred in (Alt & Stone, 1991). Those that lived on the frontier became "family" to one another due to being far away from their own families, this attachment is still seen today with military families. Wives of this time were tough, willing to do whatever their husbands did, and married for love or the romance of the military pomp and a man in uniform (Baker, 2005).

Elizabeth Bacon Custer, wife of "to be" General Armstrong Custer, was very active on the frontier arranging balls, dinners, dances, and card parties. She carried on the military's tradition of wives playing hostess and entertaining for their husbands to boost morale of soldiers, and to promote her husband's career (Alt & Stone, 1991). She also attended a reading club organized by another wife; these types of organized gatherings still exist on military bases today.

When Libbie Custer was told another wife was marrying her officer for love, she exclaimed, "What else could she marry for?" (Baker, 2005). The hard life they faced was not for the faint of heart, and love would be what they could hold onto. Other officer's wives also arranged gatherings and visited the Native American tribes which they felt taught them a lot about how to respect other cultures and how to cope with new situations, which they were always encountering (Alt & Stone, 1991). They learned that their attitudes played a huge role in their experience while living and coping with frontier living. They also considered themselves "members of the regiment" and their values consisted of self-sacrifice, duty, honor, toughness, stoicism, courage, and love of adventure, which they had plenty of on the frontier (Baker, 2005).

First Overseas Families

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, some families lived overseas in various places like the Philippines, Cuba, and Hawaii. This was part of what was called the American Expansionism. There was no official policy on families going overseas, but some officers due to costs, brought their families with them on overseas assignments. This was out of their own pocket, and they lived on the economy. Finding quarters for families was difficult. They suffered through bug invasions, humidity, and new diseases (Alt & Stone, 1991).

Elizabeth Helmick, who was a seasoned army wife, lived in the Philippines in 1901. She was resilient, approached life with humor, and never complained in letters home (Alt & Stone, 1991). She said of army life, "you see we learn what is essential. We learn to enjoy life as those who are bound by conventions never learn." She was also attributed as saying, "We must make the best out of what we have and not pine for what we can't have." The idea of "making the best of it" became a theme which has run through the military wives ranks for years since then (Alt & Stone, 1991).

1900-1945

World War 1 was one of the first times American military wives became what was known as “waiting wives”. War was in a distant land, which did not allow for wives to follow the encampment as had been done in previous wars. Wives received telegrams which communicated the condition of their husbands. Married men could avoid being enlisted and sent to war, officers were allowed to be married and have families. Enlisted men below E-4 were not allowed to marry and had to ask special permission until the 1960s.

In June of 1920, the National Defense Act was passed and established a standing army and a more modern pay scale (Alt & Stone, 1991). This included some benefits with base pay, rations allowance, and a rental allowance. Married men made more than single men. They also established a travel allowance for those who will be moved or must go on duty elsewhere. The American public’s attitude though was that America should never be involved in another war.

Officer wives of the 20s and 30s delve into military protocol, and the distinctions between ranks become sharper (Alt & Stone, 1991). They continued the tradition and practice of calling cards, engraved invitations, teas, gala balls, and elaborate receptions. A man’s military career was closely linked to his wife’s ability or willingness to entertain (Alt & Stone, 1991). Housing depends on rank and seniority as was historically known. Officers continue to employ servants.

The Army Air Corps was established in 1926, which would later become the Air Force. Liberty Magazine held a contest for a composer to create a new song for the Air Corps (Quicklinks, n.d.). The wives of the Army Air Corps were on the committee that would choose

the new song. Mrs. Arnold and Mrs. Young heard a song that had not been entered yet, and they help the author get it composed into sheet music which he did not previously have, and then placed it in the center of the pile of submissions (Quicklinks, n.d.). The new song was the one chosen by the committee. It was adopted as the U.S. Air Force (a.k.a. "Wild Blue Yonder") song in 1949 (Quicklinks, n.d.).

World War 2 was the second war of "waiting wives", but many of the wives worked in factories to help support their families and the government's ability to continue fighting the war (Alt & Stone, 1991). Many factories were making the parts needed for military weapons. The government gave allotments to military dependents. Many wives did not want to be military wives but became a military wife due to the draft. They continued the use of telegrams to inform wives of illness, injury, or death (Alt & Stone, 1991). An overseas wife named Kay Walter was captured by the Japanese in 1942 and put in a Philippine internment camp, and there was no record if she survived or not (Alt & Stone, 1991). In Fort Greeley, Alaska, military wife Eva J. Maughn volunteered to run the quarter master office throughout the war (Alt & Stone, 1991).

Unofficial Ambassadors

At the end of World War 2, many military members needed to continue their service overseas, therefore leaving their families behind in the United States (Alvah, 2007). This period was considered the American occupation overseas. Military wives started organizations which petitioned and lobbied for their husbands to be brought home from overseas (Alvah, 2007). A group called, "Bring my Daddy back" club, sent senators boxes of baby booties and shoes with a message to bring their daddy back (Alvah, 2007). Another group, the Servicemen's Wives and Children Association showed up as General Eisenhower was set to meet with congress, and he took them aside and listened to their stories and was moved by their pleas (Alvah, 2007). He was

also missing his wife and children, and he thoughtfully considered how to get military families overseas to be with their military husbands and fathers.

Military leaders authorized officer families and some enlisted families to go overseas (Alvah, 2007). These families were hand-picked initially, due to the risk of sending families of disrepute overseas. They turned old buildings into housing for families, and then the families were sent by ship to various locations overseas like Germany, and Japan. Wives were given orientations with directions on how to behave while overseas and what their mission is, which was to be "unofficial ambassadors" for the United States. They had to be on their best behavior while living overseas. Their jobs were to shop local and befriend the local residents, so they could foster a friendly relationship with these communities. Wives should volunteer for charitable work during this time. Commander's wives were expected to plan and hold socials for the families of the military. Wives were encouraged to be homemakers and were discouraged from working outside of the home.

Korean and Vietnam War

While the wives of WW2 did not see themselves as military wives, the wives of the Korean and Vietnam War time did see themselves as military wives and involved themselves in the culture and experience. In the 1950s, military bases in the United States build up on-base housing, though many wives were booted from housing when their husbands deployed to the wars (Alt & Stone, 1991). Military tended to work for less pay, and the job had less stability due to frequent moves. Changes in military benefits started in 1942 with offerings of commissaries and post exchanges which offered discounts (Alt & Stone, 1991). Military wives organized wives' clubs which offered nurseries (childcare), thrift shops, and welcome programs (Crossley & Keller, 1992). In 1960, 84.9 percent of officers were married. NCO and enlisted wives were

now also encouraged to be good examples, homemakers, to raise a family the military member can be proud of, and boost their husband's morale (Alt & Stone, 1991). These wives were encouraged to be active in volunteer groups for the base, hosting socials, and do charitable work (Alt & Stone, 1991).

Sentiment in the United States concerning military and war was not positive, and they were often mistreated and looked down upon. MIA (Missing in Action) and POW (prisoner of war) wives worked together to petition and write letters trying to get the government to help get their husbands released, but no one listens to them (Alt & Stone, 1991).

Julia Moore, wife to Lt. General Harold Moore, saw that the Army was not handling the notification to wives about their injured or deceased husbands in a compassionate way by doing the traditional telegram that came by taxi (Huffman, 2021). She stepped into action following the taxi around each day and being there for her fellow wives who received bad news. She was instrumental in the Army's establishing a survivor's support network and their setting up casualty notification teams (Huffman, 2021). She was also involved in the creation of the Army Community Service organization which still exists on posts today (Huffman, 2021).

Wives Confront Army

While the women's movement was taking place across the United States in the 60s and 70s, military wives were taking notice but were still diligently volunteering to help the Army's Army Community Service programs (Mittelstat, 2015). Wives were still expected to not have a job or a career, but to be the doting and volunteering military wife supporting their active-duty military member's career, raising their families, and managing their homes. It was estimated in 1983, from 7,000 wife volunteers across army posts, they contributed about 1,827,451 unpaid labors for the army (Mittelstat, 2015). The army's ACS programs could not succeed without their

wife volunteers. This was troublesome to some wives, especially officer wives who had college degrees, and they were starting to feel unhappy with their roles and desiring more from the army.

Officer wives ideals were starting to line up with feminist ideals, and they begun forming organizations to rally the wives for change. Yet, some felt unsure about feminist ideas around volunteerism as being an exploitation of women labor, as they felt it may make what they do illegitimate (Mittelstat, 2015). Carolyn Becraft took on a study of military wives for her college dissertation, studied how they felt about their roles, and as a result organized the Junior League so wives could talk outside of the confines of the Officer's Wives Club where they could really develop ideas. Another wife fought against unfair housing practices which were racially biased.

The Army Officer's Wives Club of Greater Washington Area (AOWCGWA) and the Association of the US Army (AUSA) raised money to sponsor an Army Family symposium where Army leaders could meet with leaders of army wives' clubs, both enlisted and officer alike (Mittelstat, 2015). About 200 delegates came and were estimated to be about two-thirds officer wives, and one-third enlisted wives (Mittelstat, 2015). In this way, they were able to highlight needs which the delegates had seen over the course of their time as an army spouse, and ways in which the army could help their families. Areas of interest were pay and financial troubles, the need for dental care, medical care payments were too high, housing troubles, bad medical care by doctors, the need for more resources in DOD schools, and more support for moves and deployments which create havoc on families. This symposium was such a success that they continued them yearly, and it birthed the Army Family Action Plan written by Carolyn Becraft, Emil Cato, and Bunny Smith which the army still uses today (Mittelstat, 2015). The AFAP mandates a yearly army-wide review to determine what army families need and to create goals for addressing them. General John A. Wickham, Chief of Staff of the army in 1983 created the

"Army Family White Paper" which put the Army Family front and center of his vision for the service, and in 1984, the army programs funding began to grow substantially (Mittelstat, 2015; Wickham, 1983).

In 1979, the "Families in Blue" research for the Air Force was published (Crossley & Keller, 1992). The next year, the wife of the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Barbara Allen takes lead on forming the Spouses Issues Group (SIG), which comprised of officer and enlisted wives. SIG was tasked with coming up with the issues of concern for wives and bringing them to the Air Force (Crossley & Keller, 1992). In 1981, the Air Force held its first Air Force Family Conference in which SIG served as consultants. As a result, the Air Force developed the Air Force Family Matters office (Crossley & Keller, 1992) They took away the official roles of Air Force wives through de-institutionalizing the role of the wife by Air Force Regulation in 1988 (AFR-30-51), but they have found through different wars since then that both the official Family Support Center (now known as the Family and Airman Readiness Center) and the informal spouse's groups and Key Spouse programs which consist of volunteers were helpful in supporting spouses in times of need (Crossley & Keller, 1992).

Some of the initiatives that happened between 1983 and 2003 were privatized housing to try to improve housing, and the establishment of Tricare in 1994 to improve the healthcare provided, an upgrade from CHAMPUS, which existed before (Shinseki, 2003). Also, an Exceptional Family Member Program was established to try to help families who are moved to where their family members cannot find services or medical care they need (Shinseki, 2003). These are all because of the Military's overall family action plan, based on ideas which started from military wives being brave enough to organize and meet with military leaders.

Today's military wives still are encouraged to volunteer in their Family Readiness Group (Army), or the Key Spouse Program (Air Force/Space Force), in base thrift shops, and the Spouse's Club. There are still cookie drives, picnics, and balls to help improve morale, though the active-duty members career is no longer dependent on their wife's participation, it does still look good when they do. Military spouses still consist of 92 percent wives (dol.gov, n.d.). Challenges which military spouses still face are housing issues, not enough childcare, professional licenses do not always transfer for jobs, 31 percent are under employed, and 13 percent are unemployed (dol.gov, n.d.). The hierarchy is not as distinct today, especially in spouse's groups.

In conclusion, military wives are a fierce group, who have taken an active role in the traditions and activities of the military since the beginning of the formation of the United States. They have always considered themselves as an essential element of the military culture, though the army may not have always agreed (Baker, 2005). Military wives have volunteered countless hours building the morale of their husbands and other military families, holding self-sacrifice as an essential value for their role. They bring a piece of home wherever the military sends them, and they make the best of whatever situation they are in. Military wives have been an essential part of military culture and were an important part of the development of the Military Family Action plan and the benefits that many military families take part in today.

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

Chief of Staff, US Army. (1983). *The Army family: White Paper 1983*.

This was published in 1983 by the Chief of Staff of the Army at the time, John Wickham. The purpose was to outline a philosophy of care for the families of the Army going forward and to outline their family values so that they could promote better well-being for their families due to the unique challenges of the Army lifestyle. It is filled with history, statistics, and guidelines.

Crossley, A., & Keller, C. A. (1992). *The Air Force Wife Handbook: A Complete Social Guide*. ABI Press.

This book was written as a handbook for Air Force wives to suggest customs and courtesies that Air Force wives are expected to abide by when interacting with military and military families. It gives information on how to talk to your spouse's superior officers and how to behave at a social event.

Custer, E. B. (1966). *Following the guidon*. University of Oklahoma Press.

This is a book written by Elizabeth Custer, wife of General Custer. It gives her viewpoint on what it was like to live on the frontier and what it meant to be an army wife during her time. She talks about the hardships and the successes of hers and her husband's life during a time that they lived in Fort Hays, Kansas and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Custer, E. B. (2010). *Boots and saddles, or, life in Dakota with general Custer*. University of Nebraska Press.

This is a book written by Elizabeth Custer, wife of General Custer, that gives insight into their life when they lived in Dakota. This is written from her viewpoint and is a primary source.

Gross, M. P., & Fondren, E. B. (1970). *Mrs. Field Grade*. Beau Lac Publishers.

This book was written and distributed by military wives to describe the importance of the Field Grade officer's wives. It describes the military customs and courtesies that she was expected to live by and promote to those around her. She was expected to be an example to younger spouses and to volunteer to help General officer's wives in entertaining and promoting her husband's career.

Gross, M. P. (1985). *The officer's family Social Guide*. Beau Lac Publishers.

This book was developed by military wives to help promote the ideals and customs that military families were expected to abide by.

Military spouses fact sheet - dol. (n.d.). Retrieved March 19, 2022, from https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/mib/WB-MilSpouse-factsheet.pdf

This is a fact sheet created by the Women's Bureau to give statistical information about military wives and their employment issues over the years.

Military spouse employment partnership. U.S. Department of the Interior. (2021, December 15). Retrieved April 3, 2022, from https://www.doi.gov/veterans/msep#:~:text=MSEP%20offers%20a%20targeted%20recruitment,employers%20who%20are%20actively%20recruiting.

The military spouse employment partnership defined, which is a program designed to recruit employers to hire military spouses and reduce the barriers and stigma of hiring military spouses so that spouses can continue to pursue their degrees while still supporting their military members through frequent moves and life changes.

Shinseki, E. (2003). *The Army Family: White Paper 1983*. CMH.

An updated version published in 2003 to the 1983 version with what has happened in the last twenty years since the first was published. Written also by the Chief of Staff of the Army at the time, Eric Shinseki. Updated history and statistics included.

An educational and inspirational guide for today ... - af.mil. (n.d.). Retrieved April 3, 2022, from https://www.af.mil/Portals/1/documents/2021SAF/12_Dec/Thrive_Spouse_Guide_Dec_2021.pdf

The guide for Air Force and Space Force spouses put out by the Chief of Staff's wives of both services together. It outlines support and ideas on how to best survive the life of being an Air or Space Force spouse.

Secondary Sources

Alt, B. S., & Stone, B. D. (1991). *Campfollowing: A history of the military wife*. Praeger.

This book is a history of military wives from the time of the Revolution until the 1980's. It talks about their contributions to war, and their struggles to keep their families going in times of hardship and adventure. Campfollowing was a term that was giving for those wives who followed the camps during the Revolutionary War who did laundry, cooked, and loaded guns on the battlefield for the army.

Alvah, D. (2007). *Unofficial Ambassadors: American Military Families Overseas and the Cold War, 1946-1965*. New York University Press.

This book covers from 1946-1965 during the Cold War. Military families were charged with making peace and friendship with the locals from the country they were living in. They were expected to behave their best and be a good representation of what Americans are like to increase positive sentiments from the residents.

Baker, A. P. (2005). Daughters of Mars: Army Officers' Wives and Military Culture on the American Frontier. *The Historian, 67*(1), 20–42.

This article brings together information gathered from the writings of different officer's wives during the time of the frontier days, where army wives were actively involved in promoting the values and traditions of the army. It brings awareness to their contributions, and the attitudes they had during the struggles they experienced being an army wife on the frontier.

Hooper, C. S. (2016). *Lincoln's generals' wives: Four women who influenced the Civil War-for better and for worse*. The Kent State University Press.

Civil War Union Army soldier's wives have had very little written about them, this is a book that describes four Union Army wives who met with President Lincoln to press him about promoting or furthering their husband's careers and the outcomes that came as result of the encounters. It also describes their lives during the war and the accomplishments or downfalls of their husbands.

Huffman, A. (2021, September 15). *Influential military wives from the Revolutionary War to today*. We Are the Mighty. Retrieved March 19, 2022, from https://www.wearethemighty.com/popular/influential-milspouses-revolution-to-now/

This is a list of influential military wives from the Revolutionary War until present that discusses who they are and what they have done. This will help add to areas of history that needs more information and more examples of work that military wives have engaged in.

Mittelstadt, J. (2015). *The rise of the Military Welfare State*. Harvard University Press.

This book describes the way that military benefits and entitlements have been created used by the government to persuade military members and their families to volunteer or stay in. It also describes the way that Army wives banded together and met with Army leaders to form and create better programs to help Army families.

Quick links. History of the Air Force Song. (n.d.). Retrieved April 3, 2022, from https://www.music.af.mil/Bands/The-United-States-Air-Force-Band/About-Us/History/History-of-the-Air-Force-Song/

How the Air Force song was chosen by a group of Army Air Corps wives who were a committee to choose the best song to represent the Army Air Corps, which became the United States Air Force.