

Understanding Populations: Military Families

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- I. Understanding the Purpose and Priorities of the Military
 - A. Purpose: To defend the United States and its allies from any aggressor force challenging our vital security interests.
 - B. Readiness and preparedness are watchwords for the military.
 - C. Personal and family considerations take a backseat to mission.
 - D. Priorities: Mission, maintenance, and men. Note the order!

- II. Understanding the People (Characteristics of Military Life)

In 1992, 2,071,000 people were on active duty in the U. S. armed forces. When including family, this sky rockets to almost 5 million.

 - A. Mobility.
 - B. Recurring separations.
 - C. Subordination to authority.
 - D. Risk.
 - E. Allegiance (Marine motto: *Semper Fidelis* - "Ever Faithful").
 - F. Military life seems to bring out the best and worst in people.

- III. Attitudes Needed for Ministry
 - A. Barriers to Receiving Christian Ministry
 1. Mobility.
 2. Mission-mindedness.
 3. Sin or guilt.
 - B. Barriers to Performing Ministry
 1. Cliquishness of Christian church.
 2. Are we truly mission minded?
 3. What are our prejudices?
 - C. Removing the Barriers
 1. Examine our failure.
 2. Repent and reform.
 3. Change our negative attitudes.

Adapted from *Military Ministry: A Guide for Churches and Chaplains* by Donald Hadley and Gerald Richards. Used with permission.