

# Tri-Service Families Continuous Attitude Survey (FAMCAS) Report 2010



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### **ADMINISTRATION PAGE**

Principal Author: Guro Rogstad TOP

**Higher Psychologist** 

Post title: DCDS Pers-Sec-SPRDE 2

Address: Main Building, 6-D-1, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB

Email: guro.rogstad532@mod.uk

Second Author: Dr Tansy Arthur BA, MSc, PhD

Senior Occupational Psychologist Post title: DCDS Pers-Sec-SPRDE 1

Address: Main Building, 6-D-2, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB

Email: tansy.arthur925@mod.uk

Report approved by: Mr Simon Lowe

Head of DCDS Pers & Training Secretariat

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### **Executive Summary**

- I. The purpose of this report is to provide empirical information on attitudes held by spouses of Service Personnel (SP) on commitments set out in The Nation's Commitment: Cross-Government Support to our Armed Forces, their Families and Veterans (Service Personnel Command Paper). Data was included in the September 2010 Service Personnel Board report and the report to Service Personnel Command Paper (SPCP) External Reference Group 2010.
- II. For the first time, a standard set of questions were included in single Services' Families' Surveys. These questions covered topics such as accommodation, health, children's and spouses' education, and employment.
- III. Overall 22,881 questionnaires were sent by mail to married SP, who were asked to pass these on to their spouses for completion. 4,780 questionnaires were returned, yielding a response rate of 21%. Regional and single Service analyses were conducted to investigate differences between Services and regions. Within Service and regional differences, rather than between differences have been reported. Results should be compared *within* each Service and *within* each region rather than *between* Services and regions.

### IV. Key findings:

- Over a half of the respondents own their own home while a third has never owned a home; the main reason given as 'can't afford it'. More Army families have never owned their own home.
- 40% had experienced problems **accessing an NHS dentist**, with this issue more common in the RAF and in Scotland.
- About 10% of respondents reported having someone on a **waiting list** for a consultation or hospital appointment and of those, the majority had an increase in waiting time when relocating (59%).
- Only a small number of respondents said they were undergoing or on a waiting list for IVF treatment (1%) and of those about half had informed their Chain of Command or Assigning Officer.
- Half of the respondents had not experienced difficulty in finding a school or childcare
  place of their choice when moving while one in seven said the amount of notice had
  created a difficulty.
- Of the 10% of families with **children with SEN**, just under half said there was no difficulty in continuing the support after their move (43%) or that support was continued after a time lag (47%). One in ten said the support was not continued.
- One third of respondents were in **full-time employment**, and a quarter in part-time employment.
- Overall, most had not experienced difficulties in their employment due to having a spouse in the Armed Forces.
- Of those who accompanied their spouse on an overseas posting, the majority experienced difficulties obtaining employment overseas (60%) while just under half reported having experienced some of a lot of problems in maintaining a National Insurance contribution record (42%) and in maintaining a contribution record for state pensions (45%). One in four had experienced some or a lot of problems with being assessed for eligibility for state entitlements upon their return to the UK (23%).

### 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Aims

- 1.1.1. The purpose of the tri-Service set of questions in the single Service (sS) Families Surveys (FAMCAS) is:
  - a. To provide tri-Service attitudinal and experience data regarding health, housing, benefits, childcare and education of families in the UK Armed Forces.
  - b. Provide empirical evidence for the September 2010 Service Personnel Board report and the Service Personnel Command Paper (SPCP) External Reference Group report 2010.
- 1.1.2. The 2010 survey provided attitudinal information for 15 of the commitments originally set out in The Nation's Commitment: Cross-Government Support to our Armed Forces, their Families and Veterans.
- 1.1.3. Data from the single Service Families Surveys not derived from the FAMCAS questions are not covered in the present report.

### 1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 The Coalition Government has stated that the Armed Forces Covenant is one of their highest priorities, and that it will be the foundation of how the Government treats their families and veterans<sup>1</sup>. The work will include taking forward the specific commitments made in the Coalition Programme as well as defining the Covenant itself and will build on the Service Personnel Command Paper (SPCP). The paper, initially published in 2008 has helped raise the profile of the needs of the Armed Forces community and fostered support across Government.
- 1.2.2 Commitments laid out in the SPCP paper concern issues that affect SP, their families and veterans on a daily basis: housing, careers, health, support for families, benefits and education and skills. Following on from the first report, some of the initiatives have begun with immediate effect; however, at the time when the survey was in the field most initiatives, such as couples not having to move during IVF cycles had just been introduced or were yet to be delivered.
- 1.2.3 The present report on families provides empirical evidence needed to demonstrate progress on the SPCP commitments. A tri-Service set of questions have been included in each of the 2010 single Service Families surveys to provide comparable data across the Ministry of Defence (MOD). This will help build up the evidence-base for the Covenant commitments. Importantly, the inclusion of standard questions has for the first time allowed for comparisons across the single Services and regions.
- 1.2.4 The single Services Families Surveys, where the FAMCAS questions are embedded, look at the effects of being a Service Family (use of facilities, valuing/belonging, finances), satisfaction with the support, welfare, deployment length, frequency and notice period, communication during absences, relocation, accommodation, impact of their own career, and retention. The Army survey also looks at the impact of deployment on SP behaviour in the family.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Ministry of Defence (2008). *The Nation's Commitment: Cross-Government support to our Armed Forces, their families and veterans.* London: Ministry of Defence.

1.2.5 While the single Services run the Families Surveys, it is the role of the Deputy Chief of Defence Staff Personnel and Training Secretariat SP Research and Data Exploitation team (DCDS Pers & Trg – Secretariat – SPRDE team) to coordinate the tri-Service FAMCAS questions for inclusion in the Families Surveys.

### 2. Methodology

### 2.1. Design

- 2.1.1 Tri-Service questions were developed by the FAMCAS Working Group (WG) over a period of 4 months in the autumn of 2009 to accompany the existing sS Families Surveys. Initially the three sS surveys were compared for similarity while consultations were held with in-house stakeholders in DCDS Pers and Training and in the sS to create a set of tri-Service questions. The final questionnaire had 32 items and asked for information about accommodation, health, employment, childcare and education (a full list of questions against commitments is found in Annex C).
- 2.1.2 The inclusion of tri-Service questions in the surveys meant that the distribution of the three Service-owned surveys this year was coordinated; the Army and RAF distributed their questionnaires in March while the Royal Navy distributed theirs in February. The iteration in 2011 aims to have all three surveys out simultaneously, providing the same contextual backdrop for collecting data, as context may affect attitudes and thus responses.

### 2.2. Sample

- 2.2.1 The three single Service questionnaires were completed by spouses of SP; criteria for sample inclusion only included spouses of SP identified as married (categories Cat1, Cat1s, and Cat1c) on the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system. Table 1 gives the overview of distribution, responses, and response rates per Service.
- 2.2.2 Stratified sampling within each Service was used to include spouses from across the ranks. 22,881 questionnaires were sent by mail to SP, who were asked to pass these on to their spouses for completion. 4,780 questionnaires were returned, yielding a response rate of 21%.
- 2.2.3 Sampling breakdown per region and single Service was conducted to investigate differences within these entities. Due to the sampling constraint, comparisons *between* the regions or between the Services are not considered statistically sound or meaningful and the readers are asked to bear this in mind when reading the data.

Table 1: Overview of distribution numbers, responses and response rates

Service	Service Distribution Responses (N) (N)		Response rate (%)
Royal Navy and			
The Royal Marines	8427	1646	23
Army	7524	1809	24
Royal Air Force	6930	1325	19
Total	22881	4780	21

2.2.4 Table 2 and Table 3 provide an overview of spouses' NATO rank and responses per region, respectively. The overall majority of respondents were spouses of OR-4, OR-6 or OR-7, while for Officers' spouses the largest number of responses came from OF-3 and OF-2 spouses.

Table 2: Overview of Spouses' Rank per NATO rank

NATO ranks	Tri-Service ranks	Responses (%)
OF-6	Commodore/Brigadier/Air Commodore	1
OF-5	Captain/Colonel/Group Captain	1
OF-4	Commander/Lieutenant Colonel/Wing Commander	4
OF-3	Lieutenant Commander/Major/Squadron Leader	9
OF-2	Lieutenant/Captain/Flight Lieutenant	8
	Sub-Lieutenant/2nd Lieutenant/Flying Officer or Pilot	
OF-1	Officer	<1
OR-9	WO1/WO	5
OR-8	WO2	4
	Chief Petty Officer/Colour Sergeant/Staff	
OR-7	Sergeant/Flight Sgt or Chf Tech	12
OR-6	Petty Officer/Sergeant	16
OR-4	Leading Rate/Corporal	19
OR-3	Lance Corporal	9
	Able Rate/Marine/Private/Junior Tech or Leading/Snr	
OR-2/1	and Jnr Aircraftsman	12
Total		100 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;1 = less than 1%.

2.2.5 The majority of respondents were located in England while fewest were living in Northern Ireland. The BFPO covers International / Overseas Postings but also include Northern Ireland.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> As a guide, 5% is approximately 240 respondents.

Table 3: Overview of responses per region

Region	Responses (%)	Numbers (N)
BFPO	4	167
England	85	3328
Northern Ireland	2	50
Scotland	6	256
Wales	3	89
Total	100	3890 <sup>3</sup>

2.2.6 As can be seen, although the samples have a spread across the ranks and Services, there are many more responses from England than any other region of the UK. This representation should be considered in all the findings of this report, as there are many fewer responses from other parts of the UK.

### 2.3. Distribution

- 2.3.1 Each Service used their own method of distribution for the survey: Royal Navy had Ipsos Mori, a research organisation, posting questionnaires to Royal Navy and Royal Marine SP along with an accompanying letter which asked them to pass the survey onto their spouses. Details of how to complete the survey online were also included for those preferring to use this mode. RAF mailed the questionnaires to the spouse via the serving person; the questionnaires were returned in the postage-paid envelopes. The Army distributed the FAMCAS questionnaire via the serving partner at their work address. Envelopes were addressed "C/O" to the serving partner and carried the spouse's name in bold noting that the contents were 'Private and Confidential'.
- 2.3.2 It is not possible to send surveys direct to SP spouses as MOD neither has the up front consent nor holds sufficient contact details for spouses to contact them directly for research.

### 2.4. Analysis

2.4.1 SPSS Complex Samples were used to analyse the data as weights were applied to ranks per Service. Frequencies and crosstabs for Services and regions were performed as analysis.

### 2.5. Limitations

- 2.5.1 The survey was sent to a stratified sample for Services and ranks, but not stratified for regions. For some items there were small numbers of respondents in other UK regions meaning the data could not be generalized to the larger population.
- 2.5.2 The distribution is via Service Personnel which means that receipt of the survey is not guaranteed. Furthermore, there is no certainty that the person who completes the survey is the SP spouse.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Numbers vary from the total response number due to missing postcode data.

2.5.3 The percentage responses to questions on children's education are from those individuals with children. This explains the larger number of missing values found for this section.

### 3. Results

### 3.1. Accommodation

### 3.1.1 Over half of respondents own their own home

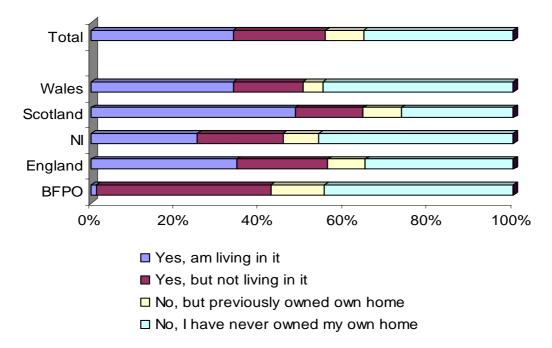
When asked if they own their own home, approximately one third of respondents said either that they were living in their home or that they had never owned a home, while about one fifth said they owned a home but did not live in it (Table A1 in Annex A). Within both RN and RAF the majority of respondents reported living in their own home; most respondents in the Army reported never to have owned their own home. The Army had the highest proportion of individuals who had never owned their own home while RN had the lowest (Table B1 in Annex B). Home ownership was highest in Scotland and lowest in Northern Ireland (Table B2 in Annex B). Tri-Service data on home ownership are presented in Table 4 and regional data is presented in Figure 1.

Table 4: Do you own your own home?

•	Overall	RN	Army	RAF
	%	%	%	%
Yes, I am living in it	33	65*	17	43
Yes, but not living in it	22	13	26	22
No, but previously owned own home	9	8	9	10
No, I have never owned my own home	36	14	48*	26*
Total	100	100	100	100

<sup>\* =</sup> significant at the p < 0.01 level from the other Services.

Figure 1: Regional figures for home ownership



# 3.1.2 The majority of respondents live in Service Families Accommodation When asked what type of accommodation they live in during the work week, the majority said they live in Service Families Accommodation (SFA) or a privately owned home (Table 5 below; Table A10 in Annex A), with the Army having the highest SFA numbers among the Services for SFA and RN the lowest (Table B3 in Annex B). There was a similar spread of individuals living in privately owned home or SFA in the regions, with all regions having most respondents in SFA except for Scotland, where a similar amount of respondents lived in privately owned home and SFA (Table B4 in Annex B). Table 5 shows accommodation during the working week by Service and Table 6 shows this by region.

Table 5: What type of accommodation do you live in during the working week? (%)

	-			
		Service		
	Overall	RN	Army	RAF
Privately owned home	32	66	17	43
Privately rented	1	2	2	1
SSFA	3	3	3	2
SFA	62	28*	76*	53
Housing Association	<1	1	1	<1
Council	<1	<1	<1	
With parents/relatives	<1	<1	<1	<1
Other, please specify	1	1	1	1
Total	100	100	100	100

<sup>&</sup>lt;1 = less than 1%. \* = significant at the p < 0.01 level from the other Services. Blank areas denote areas where no data is available.

Table 6: What type of accommodation do you live in during the working week? (%)

		Regions					
	Overall	BFPO	England	NI	Scotland	Wales	
Privately owned home	32	1	35	25	49	32	
Privately rented	1	2	1		2	5	
SSFA	3	4	3		2	4	
SFA	62	91	60	73	45	55	
Housing Association	<1		1		<1	3	
Council	<1		<1		2	1	
With parents/relatives	<1		<1				
Other, please specify	1	1	1	2			
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	

The data in the three Tri-Service columns are subsets of the Overall column. <1 = less than 1%. Blank areas denote areas where no data exist.

### 3.1.3 Ability to afford to buy a suitable home

For those who did not own a home the most prevalent reason was that they could not afford to buy a suitable home at the moment, followed by wanting to be able to move when his or her spouse was posted, not wanting to buy a home where he or she is currently located, and believing that living in Service accommodation is better suited to his or her family's needs at present than home ownership is (Table A2-A9 in Annex A). Tri-Service data is in Table 7 below (Tri-Service and Regional data is in Table B5-B20 in Annex B).

Table 7: If you don't own your own home, why not? (%)

	Overall	RN	Army	RAF
I/we don't want to own a home at this stage in my/our life/career(s)	11	4	11	13
I am expecting my spouse to be posted overseas or to an area where we don't want to buy a home	7	4	7	9
Living in Service accommodation is better suited to my family's needs at present than home ownership is	22	11	22	26
I want to be able to move about when my spouse is posted	27	10	28	31
I don't want to buy a home where we are currently located	22	6	22	29
I/we can't afford to buy a suitable home at the moment	62	53	61	69
/we wouldn't be able to live in the home	15	<1	17	16
Other (please write) (open textbox)	7	6	6	9

<sup>&</sup>lt;1 = less than 1%. The table should be read in columns.

### 3.1.4 Cost of housing affects ability to buy home

The most common issue that affected the ability of individuals to buy a home was the current cost of housing (overall just under half); about one third said getting a mortgage had affected their ability to buy a house, while another one third said change of location. Within the Army and RAF half of the respondents said current cost of housing had affected their ability to buy a home; in both Services this was the most common issue that affected home-buying abilities. Within RN with two-thirds of respondents living in privately owned accommodation, about a third reported that the cost of housing had been an issue, but more reported that cost

of housing, change of location and getting a mortgage had *not* affected their abilities to buy their own home. Tri-Service figures are presented in Table 8 and Table A11-A13 in Annex A. Single Service and Regional data is in Table B21-B26 in Annex B.

Table 8: Has the following affected your ability to buy your own home? Yes (%)

		Change of location		Current cost of housing		ing a gage
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Overall	31	39	48*	29	29	44
RN	22	52*	36	43	19	57*
Army	30	39	51*	28	34	40
RAF	40	31	51*	24	25	44

The table should be read in rows. \* = significant at the p < 0.01 level from other Services.

### 3.2. Health

### 3.2.1 Accessing an NHS dentist

About one third said they or their family had *not* experienced problems accessing an NHS dentist as a result of their last move, but a slightly higher amount of respondents said they or their family *had* experienced problems (40%) (Table A14 in Annex A). For the Services, the highest proportion of individuals reporting problems as a result of their last move was in RAF (Table B27 in Annex B). There were no significant differences between regions (Table B28 in Annex B). Table 9 shows Tri-Service and regional data.

Table 9: As a result of your last move, did you or your family experience problems accessing an NHS dentist? (%)

	Yes	No	NA	Total
Tri-Service	40	35	25	100
RN	36	37	27	100
Army	38	41	22	100
RAF	47	24	29	100
BFPO	15	39	46	100
NI	34	48	18	100
Wales	40	36	25	100
England	43	34	23	100
Scotland	47	31	22	100

### 3.2.2 NHS Direct and personal recommendation for finding dentist

When asked which resources they had used to help them find a dentist, the most common responses were NHS Direct or personal recommendation, followed by Other and Other Internet sites, HIVE and then medical centers. The least used resource to help individuals find NHS dentists was Families Federation, used by less than 1% of respondents (overall tri-Service data in Table A15-A21 in Annex A). Tri-Service and regional figures are presented in Table 10 (Table B31-B44 in Annex B).

Table 10: Which resources did you use to help find a dentist? (%)

		Se	rvice d	ata	Regional data				
	Overall	RN	Army	RAF	BFPO	England	NI	Scotland	Wales
Families Federation	<1		<1	1		<1		<1	
NHS Direct	14	9	15	15	3	16	4	14	11
Other Internet Sites	6	2	7	8	1	8	3	3	6
Medical Centre	3	<1	3	3	2	3	6	1	2
HIVE	3	<1	4	3	1	3	14	3	1
Personal recommendation	11	7	10	17	4	12	6	15	15
Other	7	7	3	15	4	7		14	9

The data in the three Tri-Service columns are subsets of the Overall column. <1 = less than 1%.

### 3.2.3 The largest proportion found a solution through NHS

When asked whether they had achieved a solution for finding a dentist just under half said they had found a solution through the NHS, about a third said through private healthcare, while slightly more than a fifth reported that they did not find a solution (Table A22 in Annex A). There were no significant differences within regions apart from in England, where significantly more people found a solution to obtaining a dentist through NHS. Tri-Service and regional figures are presented in Table 11 (Table B29 and B30 in Annex B).

Table 11: Did you achieve a solution? (%)

		Se	ervice d	ata		Regional data				
	Overall	RN	Army	RAF	BFPO	England	NI	Scotland	Wales	
Yes, NHS	49	50	50	47	32	51	24	42	42	
Yes, private No, I didn't	29	36	25	31	36	27	21	39	30	
achieve a solution	22	13	25	22	32	22	55	19	28	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	

Note. The data in the three Tri-Service columns are subsets of the Overall column. The table should be read in columns.

### 3.2.4 Waiting time for consultation appointments or operations

Overall 10% of respondents reported having had a family member or themselves been on a waiting list for a consultation or operation at the time of their last move (Table A23 in Annex A); there were no significant differences between regional results (ranging from 10-15%) (Table B47 in Annex B), while for the Services slightly more RAF respondents (12%) reported being on a waiting list than RN (7%) (Table B45 in Annex B). Of those who said they were on a waiting list, the majority (59%) reported an increase in waiting time (Table A24 in Annex A), but no significant differences were found regionally or between the Services (Table B47 and B48 in Annex B).

### 3.2.5. **Assisted Conception treatment**

About 1% of respondents reported having had a family member or themselves undergoing IVF treatment or been on a waiting list for IVF treatment at the time of their last move (Table A25 and A26 in Annex A). There was an equal spread between the Services (Tables B49 and B50 in Annex B). Of those who said they either were undergoing IVF treatment or were on a waiting list for undergoing IVF treatment about half said they had informed their Chain of Command or Assigning Officer about this prior to the move when relocating (Table B51 and B52 in Annex B). No analysis was conducted on regional differences due to the small number of responses.

### 3.3. Education

### 3.3.1 The impact of change in posting on children's education

Half of the respondents that had children reported they did *not* have any difficulties obtaining a place at the school or childcare of their choice, while a quarter reported having had some or considerable problems; equivalent numbers were found when respondents were asked if they had obtained adequate information about schools and/or childcare facilities prior to a change in posting. About half had not had any difficulties continuing their children's education without a gap when changing schools while a fifth had experienced some or considerable problems; finally, just over a third had not had any difficulties with a difference in syllabus content when changing schools while just over a quarter had experienced some or considerable problems (Table A28-A31 in Annex A). Within all three Services the findings were similar with about half of the respondents reporting no problems with any of the issues regarding schooling (Tables B53-B56 in Annex B). There were no significant differences between regions (Tables B58-B61 in Annex B). Single Service and regional data is presented in Table 12 below.

Table 12: Since your last move, have you experienced any difficulty with the following? (%)

		c fa	A place at the school/ childcare facilities of your choice		Adequate information about schools/ childcare facilities prior to posting change		Continuing children's education without a gap when changing schools		Difference in syllabus content when changing schools			The standard of education in Service schools				
		С	S	Ν	С	S	Ν	С	S	Ν	С	S	Ν	С	S	Ν
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
•	Overall	11	14	51	8	16	50	6	11	48	11	18	35	5	10	31
ce	RN	7	13	55	5	12	54	4	6	45	7	9	37	3	4	31
Service	Army	13	14	55	9	17	55	8	16	55	14	25	39	8	15	38
Ϋ́	RAF	11	15	44	8	16	40	4	9	41	9	16	28	5	6	21
_	BFPO	6	10	62	3	12	68	5	15	56	11	22	43	8	25	46
Regional	England	12	15	50	8	16	48	6	11	47	10	19	34	5	9	28
gio	NI	18	9	56	13	10	56	19	8	52	32	30	23	32	14	34
Re	Scotland	3	14	60	6	20	47	6	8	52	20	18	25	12	7	30
	Wales	14	12	46	9	17	40	10	13	41	25	18	26	6	10	21

C = Yes, considerably, S = Yes, some, N = No.

### 3.3.2 Standard of Service schooling

When asked about the *standard of education in Service schools*, about a sixth said they had experienced some or considerable problems while just under a third reported no problems (Table A32 in Annex A). The majority of respondents reported having no problems but more Army spouses reported problems than spouses from the other two Services. Regionally, more respondents in Northern Ireland than in England reported to have considerable problems with the standard of Service schooling, while respondents living in BFPO areas reported some more problems than those living in England (Tables B57 and B62 in Annex B). Data are available in Table 12 above.

### 3.3.3 **Obtaining school places**

When respondents were asked to think about their last move, and whether the amount of notice given for their assignment created any difficulties when changing schools, a fifth of respondents with children said that it had *not* created any difficulties (Table A33 in Annex A). Still thinking about their last move, 15% of the respondents with children reported that their child (ren) had experienced difficulties with obtaining a place at a state school, while less than 1% said the same for state boarding schools and for a private day school. Most respondents answered *Not Applicable* to these two latter questions. Table 13 shows regional and tri-Service figures (Tables B65-B70 in Annex B).

3.3.4 In comparing numbers within regions a significant majority had not experienced problems in obtaining a place at a state school, which was a pattern also found within the three Services.

Table 13: In thinking about your last move, did your child encounter difficulties with obtaining a place at...? (%)

		A state school			A state boarding school			A private day school		
		Yes	No	NA	Yes	No	NA	Yes	No	NA
a)	Overall	14	43	43	<1	10	90	1	10	89
Service	Royal Navy	9	35	56	1	12	87	1	13	86
e	Army	17	52	31	<1	12	88	2	11	87
S	RAF	14	35	51	<1	5	94	1	6	93
_	BFPO	3	27	69		8	92	1	6	94
Regional	England	17	44	39	1	9	90	2	9	89
9.	NI	12	49	39		11	89		6	94
Şeç	Scotland	10	52	38		11	89		10	90
ш.	Wales	12	53	34	1	10	89	4	10	86

<sup>&</sup>lt;1 = less than 1%. The table should be read in rows.

### 3.3.5 **Special Educational Needs (SEN)**

Less than a tenth of respondents with children said they had any child (ren) with Special Educational Needs (SEN) or Additional Support Needs (Table A37 in Annex A). Of those who said they had child (ren) with SEN, about a tenth said their SEN support was not continued after their move, 48% said it continued after a time lag, and 44% said it was continued without disruption (Table A37 in Annex A, Table B63 and Table B64 in Annex B). The small numbers make comparisons across the regions unreliable.

### 3.3.6 **Boarding school**

When asked whether they would consider sending their child (ren) to boarding school, 42% of respondents with children said they would consider this, while 39% said they would *not* consider this (Table A38 in Annex A; Table B75 and Table B76 in Annex B). Of those who said they would send their child (ren) to boarding school, the majority (94%) would also use the Continuity of Educational Allowance (CEA) to send their children to boarding school (Table A39 in Annex A; Table B77 and B80 in Annex B).

### 3.3.7 Childcare facilities

Of those needing childcare, around one quarter said that the childcare facilities and the quality of facilities offered at their base met their needs to some or considerable extent (Table A41 and Table A42 in Annex A). Tri-Service and regional data is presented in Table 14 (Table B71-B74 in Annex B).

Table 14: Do the childcare facilities offered at your base meet your childcare needs in terms of... (%)

			Access to f	acilities		Quality of facilities					
		Yes, sufficiently	Yes, to some extent	No	None offered	Yes, sufficiently	Yes, to some extent	No	None offered		
	Overall	13	14	8	10	12	14	8	9		
Service	RN	9	10	11	13	9	10	10	12		
Ser	Army	14	15	7	10	12	15	7	9		
•	RAF	13	16	9	7	12 15 7 13 15 9	6				
•	BFPO	15	19	12	6	15	23	6	4		
<del>ज</del>	England	13	12	8	12	11	13	9	10		
Regional	Northern Ireland	25	25	3	6	26	22	5	2		
Ϋ́	Scotland	9	14	7	8	10	13	7	7		
	Wales	6	14	7	2	7	10	7	4		

The table should be read in rows.

### 3.3.8 Education and Service mobility

Just over one tenth of respondents or their families had in the last 12 months experienced difficulties accessing further or higher education due to the mobility of Service life (Table A40 in Annex A). Looking at the regions, between 9% (Scotland) and 17% (BFPO) of the respondents reported difficulties; however, no significant differences can be detected due to overlapping confidence intervals. For the single Services, between 11% (Army) and 15% (Royal Navy) reported difficulties but as for the regions no significant differences can be seen. Single Service and regional data is in Table B81 and Table B82 in Annex B.

### 3.4. Deployment, Tours and Assignments

### 3.4.1 Most did not go with their spouse overseas

The majority of respondents (85%) and their families had *not* accompanied their spouse on overseas assignment in the last 12 months (Table A43 in Annex A). Of those who had, the majority said they had experienced some or a lot of problems obtaining paid employment (60%); 42% had experienced some or a lot of problems in maintaining a National Insurance contribution record; 45% had experienced a lot or some problems with maintaining a contribution record for state pensions; while 23% had experienced some or a lot of problems with being assessed for eligibility for state entitlements upon their return to the UK (Table A44-47 in Annex A). Tri-Service and regional data for those who had accompanied their spouse overseas are presented in Table 15 (Table B83-B92 in Annex B).

3.4.2 It should be noted that this survey, which asked about the past experience of respondents, is unlikely to have been affected by the changes in entitlement to National Insurance credits for Service spouses, which were introduced in April 2010.

Table 15: The following Tri-Service and regional data show difficulties with... (%)

	Obtaining paid employment			Maintaining a National Insurance Contribution record			Maintaining a contribution record for basic State pension			Upon your return to the UK, being assessed for eligibility for State entitlements		
	A lot	Some	No	A lot	Some	No	A lot	Some	No	A lot	Some	No
RN	43	28	28	28	16	49	31	16	46	15	29	47
Army	31	27	27	26	14	42	28	15	30	13	8	11
RAF	43	19	19	37	16	24	36	18	22	19	10	15
BFPO	36	21	27	24	19	39	24	22	31	5	8	12
England	35	27	26	30	14	37	32	15	29	22	8	17
Northern Ireland		37	63		37	63		37	37		37	
Scotland	13	56	16	33	9	34	33	31	12	24	27	6
Wales	35	21	44	56		44	56					22

The table should be read in rows. The gaps in the table signify that no data is available.

### 3.5. Employment

### 3.5.1 Most respondents were in employment

When asked about their employment status, a third of respondents said they were in full-time employment, just over a quarter reported being in part-time employment, while another quarter said they were homemakers or parents at home. Six percent said they were self-employed (Table A48-A57 in Annex A). Table 16 shows single Service and regional data (Table B93-B112 in Annex B).

Table 16: What is your current employment status? (%)

		T	ri-Servio	ce	Regional					
	Overall	RN	Army	RAF	BFPO	England	NI	Scotland	Wales	
In full-time employment	33	38	29	39	17	35	28	33	31	
In part-time employment	25	30	24	24	34	25	28	31	33	
Self-employed	4	8	3	4	3	4		6	3	
Homemaker/Parent at home	24	24	25	20	28	23	18	21	23	
Not employed - seeking employment	6	3	8	5	6	6	12	7	7	
Not employed - not seeking employment In full-time	2	2	1	2	5	1		1		
education/personal development	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	
In part-time education	1	2	<1	2	2	1		1		
In unpaid voluntary work My immigration status	2	3	1	3	3	1	3	2	1	
means that I am unable to work	<1	<1	1	<1	<1	<1		<1	2	

The data in the three Tri-Service columns are subsets of the Overall column. <1 = less than 1%. The gaps in the table signify that no data is available.

### 3.5.2 Employment history and difficulties

The majority of respondents had not been employed by the Armed Forces (83%) while 11% had served but had now left the Armed Forces (Table A58 in Annex A). When asked about whether they had ever experienced difficulty finding a job due to lack of relevant qualifications, the majority (84%) said they had not experienced such difficulties; the majority also said they had not experienced difficulties when respondents were asked whether they had ever experienced difficulties finding a job because of their employment history (72%) or whether they had experienced difficulty finding work because they were overseas with their spouse (76%) (Table A65-A67 in Annex A).

### 4. Conclusion

- 4.1 This report provides information on the impact of service life for families of Service Personnel in the UK Armed Forces. It is the first time a standard set of questions have been included in the single Service Families surveys which has allowed for comparisons across the Services and regions.
- 4.2 The purpose of the FAMCAS questions is to uncover some of the challenges faced by SP families and provide empirical evidence for the commitments set out in the Service Personnel Command Paper, published in 2008. This includes data on aspects of accommodation, health, education, childcare and employment.

### Main points:

- 4.3 Regarding accommodation, one third of respondents owned their own home and the majority said they either lived in Service Families Accommodation or in their own private home during the week. Not being able to afford a suitable house was the most prevalent reason why respondents did not own a home with the cost of housing the most common issue that affected their ability to buy a home.
- 4.4 Regarding dentistry, approximately the same number of respondents (one third) had experienced problems accessing NHS dentists as had *not* experienced problems. Personal recommendations and NHS Direct were the most prevalent sources of information for finding a dentist, and of those who had made use of all available resources the majority found an NHS dentist. It is difficult to obtain an understanding why 15% of respondents indicated problems accessing an NHS dentist while having a BFPO address as NHS dentistry would not be applicable to individuals while living abroad.
- 4.5 With regards to those reporting to be on a waiting list for consultations or operations at the time they moved location (10%), the majority reported *an increase* in waiting time due to the move. Only 1% of respondents reported having received IVF treatment or being on a waiting list for IVF treatment and only 10% of these had informed the spouse's Commanding Officer of this.
- 4.6 Most respondents reported not to have had any problems related to schooling when moving home; however a quarter reported some or considerable problems related to school places of their choice, adequate information about schools and different syllabus contents.
- 4.7 Obtaining a school place did not present significant problems for the majority of respondents, with approximately equal numbers saying they would or would not consider sending their children to boarding school. Of those who had children with Special Educational Needs 47% of respondents reported delays with continued support after moving and 10% said that the support was not continued.
- 4.8 While less than half of respondents replied to the question on childcare, one fifth said that the access to and quality of childcare facilities at their base met their needs to some or considerable extent. Less than 10% reported that the childcare facilities didn't meet either their quality or access needs.

### Appendix A: FAMCAS 2010 Questionnaire

### **FAMCAS 2010 Questionnaire**

### **Harmonised Families Survey**

\*\*Please see the supporting comments at the end of the survey for rational why certain items are altered, included, or deleted.

At the head of every page include the following text:

When completing the questionnaire, where applicable, please think of events occurring in the *last 12 months only*.

### **Section 1: Accommodation**

- 1. Do you own your own home?
  - 1) Yes, am living in it
  - 2) Yes, but not living in it
  - 3) No, but previously owned own home
  - 4) No, I have never owned my own home
- 2. If you don't own your own home, why not?
  - a) I/we don't want to own a home at this stage in my/our life/career(s)
  - b) I am expecting my spouse to be posted overseas or to an area where we don't want to buy a home
  - c) Living in Service accommodation is better suited to my family's needs at present than home ownership is
  - d) I want to be able to move about when my spouse is posted
  - e) I don't want to buy a home where we are currently located
  - f) I/we can't afford to buy a suitable home at the moment
  - g) I/we wouldn't be able to live in the home
  - h) Other (please write) (open textbox)
- 3. What type of accommodation do you live in during the working week?
  - 1) Privately owned home
  - 2) Privately rented
  - 3) SSFA
  - 4) SFA
  - 5) Housing Association
  - 6) Council
  - 7) With parents/relatives
  - 8) Other, please specify
- 4. What type of accommodation would you *prefer* to live in during the working week?
  - 1) Privately owned home
  - 2) Privately rented

- 3) SSFA
- 4) SFA
- 5) Housing Association
- 6) Council
- 7) With parents/relatives
- 8) Other, please specify
- 5. Have any of the following affected your ability to buy your own home?
  - 1) Yes 2) No 3) Not applicable
    - a. Change of location
    - b. Current cost of housing
    - c. Getting a mortgage

To help inform the Local Authorities we need to know what county you belong to. This information will not be used for any other purposes or identifiable means.

6. What is your current postcode?

If you have a 7-figure postcode, the postal area will be indicated by the first 4 letters and numbers.

If you have a 6-figure postcode, the postal area will be indicated by the first 3 letters and numbers.

(Four boxes provided)

### Section 2: Healthcare

- 7. As a result of your last move, did you or your family experience problems accessing an NHS dentist?
  - 1) Yes 2) No 3) Not applicable
- 8. Which resources did you use to help you find a dentist? (For Scotland, NHS Direct is NHS24)
  - 1) Families Federation 2) NHS Direct 3) Other Internet Sites 4) Medical Centre 5) HIVE
  - 6) Personal Recommendation 7) Other (please specify) (open textbox)
- 9. Did you achieve a solution?
  - 1) Yes, NHS 2) Yes, private 3) No, I didn't achieve a solution
- 10. At the time of your last move, were you or a member of your family on a waiting list for an operation/consultants appointment?
  - 1) Yes 2) No (If No, please go to Question ....)
- 11. If yes, was your previous waiting time increased as a result?
  - 1) Yes 2) No 3) Don't know
- 12. At the time of your last move, were you or a member of your family...?
  - 1) Yes 2) No 3) Prefer not to say
    - a. On a waiting list for IVF treatment
    - b. Undergoing IVF treatment
- 13. If yes, did your serving spouse or civil partner inform your Chain of Command or Assigning Officer about this prior to the move?

1) Yes 2) No 3) Prefer not to say 4) Not applicable 5) don't know

### **Section 3: Childcare and Education**

- 14. Since your last move, have you experienced any difficulty with the following?
  - 1) Yes, considerably 2) Yes, some 3) No 4) Does not apply
    - a. Obtaining a place at the school and/or childcare facilities of your choice
    - b. Obtaining adequate information about schools and/or childcare facilities prior to a change in posting
    - c. Continuing your children's education without a gap when changing schools
    - d. A difference in syllabus content when changing schools
    - e. The standard of education in Service schools
- 15. Thinking about your last move, did the amount of notice given for your assignment (posting) create any difficulties when changing schools?
  - 1) Yes 2) No
- 16. In thinking about your last move, did your child encounter difficulties with obtaining a place at...?
  - 1) Yes 2) No 3) Not applicable
    - a. A state school
    - b. A state boarding school
    - c. A private day school
- 17. If you experienced problems placing your child (ren) at the school of your choice, what difficulties did you encounter?
  Open textbox
- 18. Do you have any child (ren) with Special Educational Needs (SEN)? (For Scotland, SEN is termed Additional Support Needs)?
  - 1) Yes 2) No 3) Not applicable
- 19. If yes, and thinking about your last move, was their Special Educational Needs (SEN) support ...?

(For Scotland, SEN is termed Additional Support Needs) (please tick one box only)

- a. Continued without disruption?
- b. Continued after a time lag
- c. Not continued
- 20. With regards to the use of boarding schools, please indicate whether...
  - Yes 2) No 3) Not applicable
    - a. You would consider sending your child(ren) to boarding school
    - b. You would use the Continuity of Educational Allowance (CEA) to send your children to boarding school
- 21. If you are not interested in sending your child (ren) to a boarding school, why not?1) Open textbox 2) Not applicable
- 22. In the last 12 months, have you or anyone in your family experienced difficulties accessing further or higher education due to the mobility of Service life?
  - 1) Yes 2) No 3) Not applicable

- 23. Do the childcare facilities offered at your base/garrison/station meet your childcare needs in terms of...?
  - 1) Yes, sufficiently 2) Yes, to some extent 3) No 4) None offered 5) Not applicable
    - a. Access to facilities
    - b. Quality of facilities

### **Section 4: Deployment, Tours, and Assignments**

- 24. In the last 12 months, have you or your family accompanied your spouse on overseas assignments?
  - 1) Yes 2) No
- 25. If yes, did you experience difficulty with any of the following?
  - 1) Yes, a lot 2) Yes, some 3) No 4) Not applicable
    - a. Obtaining paid employment
    - b. Maintaining a National Insurance contribution record
    - c. Maintaining a contribution record for basic State pension
    - d. Upon your return to the UK, being assessed for eligibility for State entitlements

### **Section 5: Employment**

- 26. What is your current employment status? (please tick all that apply)
  - a. In full-time employment
  - b. In part-time employment
  - c. Self employed
  - d. Homemaker/Parent at home RN/RAF only
  - e. Not employed seeking employment
  - f. Not employed not seeking employment
  - g. In full-time education/personal development
  - h. In part-time education
  - i. In unpaid voluntary work
  - j. My immigration status means that I am unable to work
- 27. Have you ever served in the Armed Forces?
  - 1) Yes, I am still serving 2) Yes, but I am no longer serving 3) No, I have never served
- 28. If you have had difficulty obtaining employment, did you use one of the following New Deal programmes to help you find employment? (*tick as many boxes as apply*)
  - 1) Yes 2) No 3) Don't know 4) Not applicable
    - a. New Deal for Young People
    - b. New Deal 25 Plus
    - c. New Deal 50 Plus
    - d. New Deal for Disabled People
    - e. New Deal Early Access for Partners of current or ex-HM Armed Forces
- 29. If yes, did this contribute to helping you find employment?
  - 1) Yes 2) No 3)
- 30. Have you experienced any of the following?

- 1) Yes 2) No
- a) Difficulty finding a job due to a lack of relevant qualifications
- b) Difficulty finding a job because of your employment history (i.e. moving jobs frequently)
  - c) Difficulty finding work because you were overseas with your spouse/civil partner

### **Section 6: Background**

- 31. Your spouse's rank (or equivalent if RN/Army/RAF)
  - a. LAC
  - b. SAC
  - c. Jnr Tech
  - d. Cpl
  - e. Sgt
  - f. Chf Tech
  - g. FS
  - h. WO/M Acr
  - i. Pit Off
  - j. Fg Off
  - k. Flt Lt
  - I. Sqn Ldr
  - m. Wg Cdr
  - n. Gp Capt
  - o. Air Cdre or above
- 32. What was the date of your last family move as a result of your spouse's posting?
  - a. Month
  - b. Year

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey

# Appendix B: List of FAMCAS 2010 questions against Command Paper Themes

List of FAMCAS 2010 questions against Command Paper Themes

	CAS 2010 questions against Command Paper The	
FAMCAS 2010 #	Themes	Command Paper Area
	a Affordable Homes - Welsh and Scottish	
1	b Affordable Homes - £20M pilot scheme in 2009	Housing
	a Affordable Homes - Welsh and Scottish	
2	b Affordable Homes - £20M pilot scheme in 2009	Housing
	a Affordable Homes - Welsh and Scottish	
3	b Affordable Homes - £20M pilot scheme in 2009	Housing
	a Affordable Homes - Welsh and Scottish	
4	b Affordable Homes - £20M pilot scheme in 2009	Housing
	a Affordable Homes - Welsh and Scottish	-
5	b Affordable Homes - £20M pilot scheme in 2009	Housing
	a Affordable Homes - Welsh and Scottish	-
6	b Affordable Homes - £20M pilot scheme in 2009	Housing
7	Access to NHS Dentistry	Health
8	Access to NHS Dentistry	Health
9	Access to NHS Dentistry	Health
10	NHS Waiting List – Retention of Place	Health
11	NHS Waiting List – Retention of Place	Health
12	NHS-delivered IVF	Health
13	NHS-delivered IVF	Health
	School Place Allocation	
14	Educational Attainment	Education and Skills
15	School Place Allocation	Education and Skills
16	School Place Allocation	Education and Skills
17	School Place Allocation	Education and Skills
18	Special Education Needs (SEN)	Education and Skills
19	Special Education Needs (SEN)	Education and Skills
20	State Boarding Schools in England	Education and Skills
21	State Boarding Schools in England	Education and Skills
	The 14-19 Reform Programme	
22	Basic Skills for Families	Education and Skills
	Childcare Provision	
23	Sure Start Children's Centres and Extended Services	Families
24	Access to State Benefits	Benefits
25	Access to State Benefits	Benefits
	Basic Skills for Families	Benefits
26	Support to Employment of Service Families	Building Careers
27	Access to State Benefits	Benefits
	Access to State Benefits	
28	Service Family Employment Programmes	Benefits
29	Service Family Employment Programmes	
	Access to State Benefits	
30	Service Family Employment Programmes	Benefits
31	Biodata	
32	Biodata	

Appendix C: Weighting applied per rank during analysis

Weighting applied per rank during analysis

Royal Navy/Roya	l Marines	Army		RA	F
Rank	Weight	Rank	Weight	Rank	Weight
Cdre/Brig(or				Air Cdre or	
above)	4.91	Major General	9.00	above	15.71
Capt RN/Colonel Cdr/Lieutenant	5.57	Brigadier	5.71	Gp Capt	15.88
Colonel	6.02	Colonel	8.08	Wg Cdr	19.57
Lt Cdr/Major Lt RN/Captain	6.50	Lieutenant Colonel	7.36	Sqn Ldr	13.37
RM	9.55	Major	13.43	Flt Lt	14.55
Sub Lt/Lt RM	22.00	Captain	19.90	Plt Off/Fg Off	11.18
Warrant Officer Chief Petty	6.94	Lieutenant	26.80	WO/MACr	14.58
Officer/ CSgt	7.98	Warrant Officer 1	20.84	FS	13.71
Petty Officer/Sgt	11.54	Warrant Officer 2 Staff	18.27	Chf Tech	19.71
Leading Hand/		Sergeant/Colour			
Cpl	10.01	Sergeant	28.24	Sgt	15.09
LCpl	264.25	Sergeant	32.79	Cpl	14.67
Able Rate/Mne	4.89	Corporal/Bombardier	38.11	Jnr Tech	17.50
		Lance Corporal/Lance			
		Bombardier	43.81	SAC	17.54
		Private	35.41	AC/LAC	3.67