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13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words)

During the first year of the project, October 1, 1993 through September 30, 1994, the research team completed literature reviews and research briefs on several content areas: health status and well-being, risk-taking behaviors, family and peer relationships, and education and military experiences. The project has accumulated over 3000 pieces of material. The material includes journal articles, government reports, conference proceedings, and other information. These materials are housed at the Military Family Institute and are catalogued in a reference data base and bibliography program. The questionnaire for the project was developed, pretested, and presented to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (OASD) Family Policy, Support and Services, and Services representatives. The questionnaire has been approved for field testing. Additionally, the project obtained preliminary approval from the Marywood College Institutional Review Board (MCIRB). Final approval of the project from all services and MCIRB should occur in October 1994. Focus groups, completed at each installation with youths in three age groups: 11 & 12; 13 - 15; and 16 - 18, will provide qualitative data on the content areas. The focus group procedure was pretested with individuals from the Scranton/Marywood community with military experience.

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**MILITARY ADOLESCENTS:
THEIR STRENGTHS AND VULNERABILITIES
ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT**

A. Statement of Work

The proposed project was to investigate the strengths and vulnerabilities of adolescents living with a parent(s) who is a military member of the Air Force, Army, Marines, or Navy. Two studies were identified for completion in a two year period of time. Study 1 was to be a cross-sectional 4x2x8x2 research project that described the adolescent's health status and well-being, extent of risk-taking behavior, degree and quality of family and peer connectedness, educational and military experiences. Study 2 was to be an intensive longitudinal or cross-sectional field investigation that would replicate a study completed by the Achievement Research Laboratory at the University of Michigan. The purpose of this study was to provide comparative information on the impact of social environmental changes, as well as parent and teacher influences, on the development of children's self and task beliefs, and the behaviors associated with participation in academic, social and physical activities.

Goals of the research effort:

1. to obtain baseline data on youth aged 11 through 18 living in military families;
2. to determine factors facilitating/impeding adolescent growth/development within military community;
3. to compare findings with like populations within civilian community; and
4. to recommend policies, programs and/or procedures which might enhance adolescent development.

Objectives of the research effort:

1. to determine the health status and well-being, extent of anti-social and risk taking behaviors, and educational experiences of youth aged 11 through 18 who reside within a military environment;
2. to determine the relationship of youths with peers and family members;
3. to determine the effects or functions of friendships among this population;
4. to determine the recreational and leisure activities of youth in the military;
5. to determine if there are differences in the above variables due to military Service assignment, branch of Service and location;
6. to determine what life in a military family is like for an adolescent;
7. to determine if there are differences in the above variables according to the diversity of the adolescents;
8. to determine how school transitions, changes among friends, changes due to puberty and family environment/structure affect both the self-concept and academic performance of military youth;
9. to determine what relocation and deployment experiences these youth have encountered and how these experiences are related to the above factors;
10. to determine how children's age and gender are related to their self and task efficacy and beliefs in the academic, social and physical domains;
11. to determine the interrelationships among the variables within and across ages and domains;
12. to determine how parents' and teachers' socialization practices, goals and beliefs are related to children's age, sex and ability level;

13. to determine if parents' and teachers' beliefs and behaviors affect the development of both their children's self and task beliefs, and their activity preferences and choices; and

14. to determine the nature of the reciprocal relationships between adults' (parents and teachers) beliefs and children's beliefs, competencies, and preferences.

The proposal suggested that data should be collected by questionnaires distributed to adolescents, parents, and teachers. Data was to be collected for study 1 and the first part of the longitudinal study in the Spring of 1994. The second and third part of data collection for study 2 would take place in Fall of 1994 and Spring of 1995 respectively. The project's methodology was to be finalized and approved by the DoD and each Service during the first 60-90 days after the grant award.

B. Status of the Research Effort

The project has been redesigned. Study 2 of the proposed project will not be completed. The methodology for study 1 has been changed to include a qualitative piece, with the content remaining basically the same. Revisions for the project were presented to the Department of Defense and a representative from each of the Services on May 10, 1994.

The project, as of September 30, 1994, has received approval from the DoD, and three of the four Services. It will also be presented to Marywood's Institutional Review Board during October. An installation for collection of the pilot data is currently being sought. It is anticipated that the pilot installation will be selected from the Air Force and data will be obtained before the end of 1994. Data will be collected from adolescents at 27 installations (16 CONUS and 11 OCONUS) during the first half of 1995.

A literature review of information on each area of investigation from the military and civilian populations has been completed. New information is added continuously. The questionnaire for the project has been designed and pretested with approximately 70 adolescents in the civilian population. Most of the questions have been taken from prior research projects within and outside the military. Therefore, comparison can be made between the military and civilian populations. Suggestions from the DoD and each Service were incorporated in the project.

C. Publications

Research briefs of current information for all content areas are written and will be distributed to Family Centers across the Services.

D. Personnel

Three researchers spend 100% of their time on the project; the principal investigator, Dr. Dorothy J. Jeffreys, and two master level research assistants, Ms. Lea Dougherty and Mr. Jeffrey Leitzel. Four associate investigators, Dr. Elizabeth Hartley, Dr. Joanne Gumpert, Dr. Edward O'Brien, and Dr. Jane Strobino, spent 1/3 of their work load on the project during the 1993/1994 academic year. Dr. Gail Cabral spent 1/4 of her time and Dr. Mary Salvaterra 10 hours per month during the 1993/1994 academic year. All personnel except Dr. Dorothy J. Jeffreys and Mr. Jeffrey Leitzel began the project on September 1, 1993. Dr. Jeffreys worked six additional weeks during the summer of 1993 and Jeffrey Leitzel began working on October 1, 1993. One associate investigator left the project after the academic year. Four associate investigators continue to work on the project during the 1994/1995 academic year at 10 hours per month. One associate will give 1/4 of her time during the Spring semester (January through May). All personnel will be giving some portion of their time to the project during the Summer of 1995.

E. Interactions

Although no formal papers were presented, Adolescent Project staff members attended several conferences and workshops during the first year of the grant.

1. Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society, biennial conference, October 22-24, 1993, Baltimore, MD.
2. National Association of Social Workers, annual meeting, November 3-6, 1993, Orlanda, FL.
3. Annual Social Group Work Symposium, October 21-24, New York, NY.
4. National Council on Family Relations, annual meeting, November 13-14, 1993, Baltimore, MD.
5. Society for Research on Adolescence, biennial meeting, February 10-13, 1994, San Diego, CA.
6. American Psychological Association, annual meeting, August 15-19, Los Angeles, CA.
7. SPSS workshop on regressions, Chicago, IL.

F. New Discoveries

N/A

G. Additional Information

The first year of the Adolescent Project has been one of development. During this period the team focused on developing resources for literature reviews and questionnaire development. We have acquired over 3000 sources of information housed at the MFI and entered into a reference data base and bibliography program.

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