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ROLE AFFILIATION AND ATTITUDES OF NAVY WIVES.(U)

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ROLE AFFILIATION AND ATTITUDES OF NAVY WIVES

Patricia J. Thomas
Kathleen P. Durning

Reviewed by
Robert Penn

Approved by
James J. Regan
Technical Director

Navy Personnel Research and Development Center
San Diego, California 92152

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administered to a sample of 482 Navy active duty women. In the analyses, comparisons were made between the responses of officers' wives (OW) and enlisted men's wives (EW), and between responses of Navy wives and Navy women. Also, analyses were conducted to see how responses related to education, number of children, employment status, years with the Navy, and age. Responses of OW and EW to items measuring attitudes toward social life and military commitment were very similar. Only four of the 28 questions yielded significant differences. The feminine role orientation of the two groups of wives was similar, half subscribing to a contemporary role, 40 percent choosing a traditional role, and 10 percent undecided. OW, however, gave fewer traditional responses to WR items than did EW. Education was significantly related to these attitudes. Women officers gave more contemporary responses than officers' wives, but the comparison of responses of enlisted men's wives and enlisted Navy women yielded mixed results. Less than 10 percent of OW and EW felt very negative about women being on their husbands' ships, although an additional 16 percent of OW and 34 percent of EW didn't think they would like the situation.

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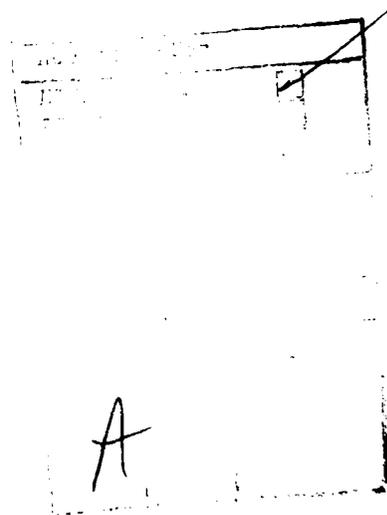
FOREWORD

This research was sponsored by OP-15 and performed under Task Area 55.521.001.021 (Attitude and Motivation Measurement and Patterns of Behavior), Work Unit 55.521.021.03.03 (Personnel Assimilation and Supervision) as part of the ongoing effort at the Navy Personnel Research and Development Center concerning the increased utilization of women in the Navy. The purpose of this study was to investigate the roles and belief systems of wives of officer and enlisted naval personnel, as well as their attitudes toward the Navy's plans to integrate its ships at sea.

The authors are deeply indebted to Ms. Marilyn Schaefer, who administered the questionnaires at sites throughout the Pacific Command. Appreciation is also expressed to Ms. Sandra Mumford, a Navy wife and researcher who provided valuable guidance in the development of the survey.

Preliminary results of this study, based on responses of 163 wives living in California, were presented at the Eighty-fourth Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Washington, D.C., 4 September 1976.

DONALD F. PARKER
Commanding Officer



SUMMARY

Problem

It is commonly believed that military wives have a well-defined pattern of role expectations that is tied to the status of their husbands. Inherent in these expectations are the primary importance of the man's career and the reciprocal responsibility of the military to provide for the well-being of the family. Recent changes in society and within the military, however, may challenge this relationship. That is, the women's equality movement may encourage Navy wives to move away from these traditional expectations. Also, the increasing proportion of female military personnel may pose a threat to wives.

Objective

The purpose of the study was to determine (1) how Navy wives accept the social obligations associated with a military career and the periodic relocations required of Navy families, (2) how they feel regarding the increased utilization of Navy women, and (3) whether their beliefs about the role of women are traditional or contemporary.

Approach

A questionnaire was designed and administered to 463 wives--203 officers' wives (OW) and 260 enlisted men's wives (EW)--associated with aviation commands throughout the Pacific. The questionnaire includes items on social factors/role conflicts (10), military life/commitment (18), attitudes toward women's roles (10), and opinions about active duty women (11). The items on attitudes toward women's roles were also administered to a sample of 482 active duty women (101 officers and 381 enlisted women).

Responses of OW and EW were compared, and differences in response patterns between the two groups were tested for significance. Also, analyses were conducted to determine how the responses of OW and EW related to employment, years associated with the Navy, age, number of children, and education. For the items on women's role, comparisons were made between responses of Navy wives and Navy active duty women.

Findings

Differences between responses of OW and EW were significant for only four of the 28 items measuring attitudes toward social factors/role conflicts or military life/commitment. OW felt more successful as Navy wives than did EW and were more involved in military activities. The two groups also differed in their attitudes toward family relocations.

OW were significantly less traditional than EW in their attitudes toward women's role. When asked to indicate their own role orientation, however, about half of both samples expressed contemporary beliefs (i.e., spouses should share responsibilities), about 10 percent were undecided, and 40 percent expressed traditional beliefs about husband/wife roles. Education, number of children, and husband's status yielded significant main effects in analyses of variance, whereas age and employment status were significant for the officer sample only. Those wives with higher levels of education, less than three children, and those married to officers held more contemporary views. Among OW, older women and unemployed women had a more traditional orientation.

Women officers gave significantly more contemporary responses than did officer's wives, but the comparison of EW and enlisted women yielded mixed results. Half of

enlisted women indicated that assigning women to sea duty would not affect their intention to complete their enlistment. Two-thirds of EW indicated that they would not urge their husband to leave the Navy if he were ordered to a mixed gender crew.

Finally, responses to items considering the increased utilization of women in the Navy showed that less than 10 percent of either OW or EW felt very negative about women being on their husbands' ships; but that an additional 16 and 34 percent of OW and EW respectively didn't think they would like the situation.

Conclusions

Navy wives appear to like the military lifestyle and to enjoy the social interactions that others may see as obligations. Considering that the great majority of the respondents were unemployed, their degree of endorsement of contemporary roles for women was somewhat unexpected.

Recommendations

1. Because the aviation sample is possibly too restrictive for drawing valid conclusions, the survey should be administered to wives associated with the surface and submarine communities.

2. Wives should be considered in plans being made to ease the transition of personnel from an all-male shipboard Navy to one with mixed-gender crews. For example, command briefings could be held for wives and social interaction between Navy wives and Navy active-duty women could be promoted.

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INTRODUCTION

Problem and Background

Previous research involving military wives generally has been concerned with their influence on the retention of the serviceman. Belt and Sweney (1973) concluded that the wife is a critical factor in retention because of the military man's dependence on his immediate family. Since the mobile lifestyle geographically separates servicemen from their parents, siblings, and friends, the support value of wife and children is increased. Malone's findings (1967) tend to support this belief. Using a sample of 3798 enlisted men, he investigated almost 300 potential correlates of retention, and found that the "attitude of the wife, girl friend, and/or family" was among the three variables most highly related to reenlistment for both first- and second-term personnel. Further, he found that five times as many men reenlisted when their families approved than when they disapproved. Grace, Steiner, and Holoter (1976) interviewed 584 wives to probe their influence on their husband's career. Ninety-five percent indicated that they thought a wife's feelings about Navy life would have "some" to "a great deal" of influence on a husband's reenlistment decision. Fifty-seven percent stated that they would encourage their husband to reenlist today, vs. 43 percent who said that they would not. Some of the women in the latter group, however, indicated that their response was not due to negative feelings about the Navy but, rather, to respect for their husband's right to make such a decision independently.

The armed forces recognize the influence of wives and the needs of military families. Thus, they have provided them with benefits and services designed to ease their lives, particularly during periods of separation. McCubbin, Marsden, Durning, and Hunter (1978) argued, however, that military policy toward the spouse is guided by assumptions that ignore both the influence of the feminist movement on marital roles and the increased number of women in the military. The egalitarian view of marriage, as fostered by the women's movement, sharply contrasts with the military view that the man's duties take precedence over the needs of the family. A redefinition of marital roles could pose a problem for the military. If wives cease to find their identity through their husband and children, they will devote less energy to supporting the military lifestyle. As a result, more responsibility for the needs of the home and family members will fall on the serviceman. Stanton (1976) saw such a change already developing, as evidenced by the growing number of military wives who hold jobs. Worthington (1976) offered clinical evidence that the women's movement, by supporting independent roles for wives, is making readjustment after separation a far more stressful experience for military couples than previously.

Dobrofsky and Batterson (1977) predicted that the women's movement would have a minimal affect on the military marriage. They noted that military wives are a homogeneous group, devoid of the widowed, divorced, and the never married. Military wives see themselves in the roles of wife and mother, and feel that they have more to lose than gain in a society of true sexual equality. To determine the extent to which military wives were aware of, and involved or interested in, the feminist movement, Dobrofsky and Batterson interviewed a sample of 180 Air Force wives. They hypothesized that the wives who identified with the women's movement would be better educated, and would have been associated with the military for a shorter period of time than the others. Their findings indicated that, although wives of senior personnel, both officer and enlisted, were more informed about the goals of the women's movement than were wives of junior personnel, they felt these goals had little significance for them personally. The five wives who were members of the National Organization for Women agreed unanimously that it is

impossible to assume the traditional role of a military wife and remain identified with the women's movement. Although more officers' wives than enlisted men's wives agreed with feminist ideology, education was not significantly related to attitudes toward feminism. Dobrofsky and Batterson concluded that military wives generally are not good candidates for recruitment into the women's movement.

Another factor that portends a change in the relationship between the military and the military wife is the increased use of women in the armed forces. This factor could affect wives either by making them more aware of optional roles or by inadvertently causing more stress in their marriage. Men in mixed-gender workgroups may resent the encroachment of women and either seek other exclusively male experiences or project their resentment on their wives. On the other hand, if they respond positively to female coworkers, their wives may feel threatened.

Finally, the fact that wives have resisted sexual integration of other previously all-male professions suggests that the Navy will experience resistance to mixed-gender crews on ships. For example, members of the New York City Policemen's Wives Association demonstrated against policewomen, who, they claimed, were unable to physically defend their partners in an emergency (Sherr, 1975). Wives of west coast merchant mariners protested against a female crew member serving on their husband's tug because "living in close proximity with our men and in the confinement that this particular type of work requires is in flagrant disregard of the institution of marriage and morality" (San Diego Evening Tribune, 24 June 1976). Members of Truckers' Families United Unlimited, Inc., filed suit against an Oklahoma firm because they felt driving with a newly hired woman would "put too much temptation before their husbands" (San Diego Evening Tribune, 16 May 1977). Since a common concern voiced by these wives' groups regards the time their husbands would share with female coworkers and the possibility of romantic and/or sexual involvement, this issue can be expected to concern some Navy wives as ships are sexually integrated.

Purpose

The purposes of this study were to determine (1) how Navy wives accept the social obligations associated with a military career and the periodic relocations of Navy families, (2) how they feel about the increased utilization of women in the Navy, and (3) whether their beliefs about the role of women are traditional or contemporary.

PROCEDURE

Hypotheses

Certain preconceptions about Navy wives guided the direction of the research, particularly the belief that their orientation toward women's roles would be traditional. Thomas (1977) found that incoming female recruits held traditional work values, despite their choice of a seemingly nontraditional work environment, and concluded that the Navy attracts young women with a traditional orientation.

For the purposes of this study, it was hypothesized that Navy wives and Navy active duty women would hold similar beliefs about appropriate roles for women, including their degree of opposition to the assignment of women to ships. Also, it was hypothesized that Navy wives would have a positive attitude toward their supportive role in furthering their husbands' military careers and toward the periodic family relocations that are required. In other words, Navy wives like their lifestyle and would marry into the Navy again if they were faced with such a choice.

Survey Instrument

The survey instrument, called the Navy Wives Information from Experience (WIFE), developed for use in this study included items assessing attitudes on the following topics:

1. Social factors/role conflicts (10 items).
2. Military life in general/commitment (18 items).
3. Attitudes toward women's role (10 items).
4. Opinions about active duty women (11 items).

It also included items for obtaining demographic data on the wife and her husband; names or other identifying data, however, were not required.

Sample

The questionnaire was administered to a sample of 463 Navy wives associated with aviation commands in California, Hawaii, Guam, the Philippines, Okinawa, and Japan between May 1976 and April 1977. Of this total, 203 (44%) were married to officers; and 260 (56%), to enlisted men. During the same period, a sample of 482 active duty women (101 officers and 381 enlisted women) completed the items assessing their attitudes toward the role of women.

Analysis

Responses of officers' wives (OW) and enlisted men's wives (EW) were compared, and differences in response patterns between the two groups were tested for significance. Also, analyses were conducted to determine how the responses of OW and EW related to employment, years associated with the Navy, age, number of children, and education. For the items on women's role, comparisons were made between responses of Navy wives and Navy active duty women.

RESULTS

Demographic Data

Demographic data for the sample are presented in Table 1. As shown, the responses of the officers' wives (OW) and enlisted men's wives (EW) differed significantly on items assessing age, education, number of children, and housing (Items 1, 2, 3, and 6). OW were significantly older than EW, had significantly more education and fewer children, and were more apt to reside in base housing. The largest percentage of both groups had been married to a Navy man over 10 years, were not employed outside of the home, and did not have a working mother or a father who had been in the military (Items 4, 5, 8, and 9).

When demographic data were further analyzed, several significant relationships were found. For both groups, the relationships among age, number of children, and years associated with the Navy were, as expected, positive; and that between employment and number of children was negative. For EW only, the relationship between education and number of children was negative.

Social Factors/Role Conflicts

The mean responses of the two groups to items on Navy social factors and role conflicts, as well as the relationship of these responses with employment, age, years associated with the Navy, number of children, and education, are presented in Table 2. As shown, the responses of the two groups did not differ significantly on any of the items. Both OW and EW were moderately positive toward wives' get-togethers and Navy parties (Items 1 and 2). These attitudes may have been influenced by the feeling that, to some extent, their lives were too busy to allow them to obtain much satisfaction from Navy social activities (Item 3). Both groups strongly denied feeling ill at ease with women whose husband's rank was either higher or lower than that of their husband (Items 4 and 5), and appeared to be comfortable when entertaining Navy people (Item 6). They indicated that they attend Navy functions out of desire, not obligation, and that they don't censure women who refuse to participate (Items 7 and 8). Finally, they felt that Navy functions were moderately important to them, but tended to feel that military wives should not be required to participate (Items 9 and 10).

Results of the one-way analyses of variance (ANOVAs) (Nie, Hull, Jenkins, Steinbrenner, & Bent, 1975, p. 422) performed to determine how group responses related to various demographic variables are discussed below:

1. Employment. The small percentage of OW (9%) who worked full time derived more pleasure from wives' get-togethers and Navy parties (Items 1 and 2) than did those who were primarily homemakers. The EW who worked full time (14%), however, derived less pleasure from wives' get-togethers and Navy social activities (Items 1 and 3) than did those who were unemployed or who worked part time. Also, they were more apt to feel that Navy functions were not important to them, and that wives should not be expected to be active participants in these functions (Items 9 and 10).

2. Years Associated with Navy. EW who had a longer association were more likely to enjoy wives' get-togethers and to feel that something is wrong with wives who do not want to participate in Navy social events (Items 1 and 8). The EW who had been associated with the Navy for the shortest periods (up to 2 years) and the longest periods (over 6 years) were more comfortable when entertaining Navy people than those in the middle group (Item 6). For OW, those who had been associated with the Navy for the longest time were more comfortable in this role than were those who were associated with the Navy for shorter periods.

Table I
Demographic Data for Officers' Wives (OW)
and Enlisted Men's Wives (EW)

Item	Response	Percentage		χ^2
		OW (N = 203)	EW (N = 260)	
1. Age	18-20	1	8	23.04**
	21-25	21	26	
	26-30	38	22	
	31-40	32	37	
	41-53	8	7	
2. Education	Non-high school graduate	2	9	86.01**
	High school graduate	14	46	
	Some college or AA	43	35	
	College graduate	32	7	
	Postgraduate work or degree	9	3	
3. Number of children	None	30	24	10.47*
	One	21	26	
	Two	37	29	
	Three or more	12	21	
4. Number of years married to a Navy man	Less than 1 year	8	12	3.45
	1-2 years	13	16	
	3-5 years	27	25	
	6-10 years	18	18	
	Over 10 years	34	29	
5. Employment status	None	75	72	2.79
	Part time	16	14	
	Full time (40 hours)	9	14	
6. Housing	On base	52	38	9.48**
	Navy, but not on base	10	11	
	Civilian	38	51	
7. Size of hometown	Rural	10	17	6.58
	Town <25,000	28	20	
	City 25,000-100,000	20	20	
	City 100,000-500,000	14	16	
	City over 500,000	14	14	
	Several of above	14	13	
8. Working mother	No	56	46	5.89
	Part time	21	25	
	Full time	23	29	
9. Father in military	No	74	80	0.80
	<5 years of my childhood	13	10	
	>5 years of my childhood	13	10	

Note. The Ns for certain items are less than the sample size due to unanswered questions.

*p < .05.

**p < .01.

Table 2
Mean Responses of Officers' Wives (OW) and Enlisted Men's Wives (EW) to Items
on Navy Social Factors/Role Conflicts

Item	Mean ^a Response	Relationship With:					
		Employment	Years with Navy	Age	Number of Children	Education	
1. Navy wives' get-togethers give me pleasure.	OW	2.81	*	--	--	--	**
	EW	2.80	**	**	--	**	--
2. Navy parties are fun and I enjoy them.	OW	2.61	**	--	--	--	**
	EW	2.79	--	--	--	--	--
3. My life is too busy to obtain much satisfaction from Navy social activities.	OW	2.88	--	--	--	--	--
	EW	2.64	**	--	--	--	--
4. It's difficult to be comfortable with wives of men at a higher level than my husband.	OW	4.54	--	--	--	--	--
	EW	4.30	--	--	--	--	--
5. It's difficult to be comfortable with wives of men at a lower level than my husband.	OW	4.74	--	--	--	--	--
	EW	4.83	--	--	--	--	**
6. I am comfortable when entertaining Navy people.	OW	2.64	--	**	*	*	--
	EW	2.81	--	*	--	--	*
7. I attend Navy functions because I want to, not because I have to.	OW	2.21	--	--	--	--	--
	EW	2.09	--	--	--	*	--
8. There is something wrong with a wife who does not want to participate in Navy social events.	OW	4.58	--	--	--	--	--
	EW	4.53	--	*	--	--	--
9. Navy functions, like a change of command, are important to me.	OW	2.91	--	--	--	--	*
	EW	3.14	**	--	--	--	--
10. To what extent should wives be expected to be active participants in Navy events?	OW	3.36	--	--	--	--	--
	EW	3.13	*	--	--	--	**

^aBased on a 5-point scale, where 1 = To a very great extent and 5 = Never, not at all. None of the differences between mean responses of OW and EW were significant.

*p < .05.

**p < .01.

3. Age. Not surprisingly, OW who were older felt more at ease when entertaining Navy people than did the younger wives (Item 6).

4. Number of Children. For EW, the number of children was positively related to enjoyment of wives' get-togethers and the desire to attend Navy functions (Items 1 and 7). For OW, those with no children appeared to be less comfortable when entertaining Navy people than were those with children (Item 6). This finding may simply be a reflection of their youth and fewer years of Navy experience.

5. Education. OW with more education expressed less interest in wives' get-togethers and Navy parties and attributed less importance to Navy functions (Items 1, 2, and 9). EW with more education were more at ease when entertaining Navy people and when with wives of lower-ranking personnel (Items 5 and 6). Finally, they were not as likely to believe that they should be expected to participate in Navy events (Item 10).

Military Life in General/Commitment

Section I

The mean responses of OW and EW to the first 10 items on military life and commitment are presented in Table 3. As shown, both groups indicated that they wanted to see their husband advance in the Navy and remain in the Navy for at least 20 years (Items 1 and 2). They were uncertain, however, as to the Navy's interest in them as individuals and in Navy dependents in general (Items 3 and 4). Although both groups tended to feel that they were successful as a Navy wife and that others saw them as successful in this role (Items 5 and 6), significantly more OW than EW expressed these opinions. Both OW and EW felt that their role as a Navy wife contributed to their sense of self-worth, and that their behavior affected their husband's career (Items 7 and 8). Finally, although they were convinced that they could influence their husband's re-enlistment/retention decision, they were doubtful as to whether they would try to exert this influence (Items 9 and 10).

Results of the one-way ANOVAs performed to determine how group responses related to certain demographic variables are discussed below:

1. Employment. OW who were unemployed outside of the home were more likely to want their husband to stay in the Navy for 20 years and to feel that the Navy was interested in them (Items 2 and 3) than were those who worked full or part time. Although less than 20 OW worked full time, they were more likely to give more importance to their role as a Navy wife than did other OW (Item 7). For EW, however, those who were employed were likely to give less importance to this role. Also, they were more likely to feel that they were perceived as successful Navy wives by others (Item 6).

2. Years With Navy. For both OW and EW, those having longer associations with the Navy were more likely to want their husband to remain for 20 years, to feel that they were successful as a Navy wife, and to feel that other people saw them as successful in this role (Items 2, 5, and 6). Also, OW having longer associations were more likely to feel that the Navy was interested in them and in Navy dependents in general (Items 3 and 4). For EW, more years with the Navy increased the likelihood of deriving feelings of pride and self-worth from the Navy wife role (Item 7).

3. Age. For both groups, older wives were more likely to want their husband to remain in the Navy for 20 years (Item 2). OW over 30 years of age felt that the Navy was

Table 3

Mean Responses of Officers' Wives (OW) and Enlisted Men's Wives (EW) to Items on Military Life in General/Commitment—Section I

Item	Mean ^a Response	Relationship With				
		Employment	Years With Navy	Age	Number of Children	Education
1. Do you want to see your husband rise to one of the top positions in the Navy?	OW	1.80	—	—	—	—
	EW	2.00	—	—	—	*
2. Do you want your husband to stay in the Navy for at least 20 years?	OW	1.76	*	**	**	**
	EW	1.80	—	**	**	—
3. Do you feel that the Navy is interested in you as an individual?	OW	2.60	*	*	**	**
	EW	3.00	—	—	—	*
4. Do you feel that the Navy is interested in Navy dependents in general?	OW	2.48	—	**	**	*
	EW	2.64	—	—	—	—
5. Do you feel that you are a successful Navy wife?	OW	1.68	—	**	*	—
	EW	1.85	—	**	—	—
6. Do you feel that other people see you as a successful Navy wife?	OW	1.85	—	*	—	—
	EW	2.14	*	**	—	—
7. Does your role as a Navy wife contribute to your feelings of pride and self worth?	OW	2.08	*	—	—	**
	EW	2.11	**	**	**	*
8. In your opinion, does your behavior affect your husband's career?	OW	1.90	—	—	—	—
	EW	2.09	—	—	—	—
9. Do you feel that you can influence your husband's decision to stay in the Navy or get out?	OW	1.67	—	—	—	—
	EW	1.81	—	—	—	—
10. Would you try to influence this decision?	OW	2.78	—	—	—	*
	EW	2.80	—	—	—	—

^aBased on a 5-point scale, where 1 = Absolutely yes, 3 = Don't know, and 5 = Absolutely no. Differences between mean responses of OW and EW were significant only for items 5 ($t = 1.95$, $p < .05$) and 6 ($t = 3.39$, $p < .01$).

* $p < .05$, using an analysis of variance.

** $p < .01$.

interested in them and in Navy dependents in general and that they were successful as a Navy wife (Items 3, 4, and 5). Those in the 26-to-30 age group were most doubtful about the Navy's interest and their success as Navy wives, while those under 26 were intermediate in their perceptions. Finally, older EW were more likely to feel positively about their role as a Navy wife (Item 7).

4. Number of Children. Among both OW and EW, the number of children was positively related to wanting one's husband to stay in the Navy for 20 years (Item 2), which is probably a reflection of the greater value larger families place on the security and benefits provided by the service. OW with two or more children were more certain that the Navy was interested in them and in Navy dependents in general (Items 3 and 4). For EW, those with more children were more likely to feel that their role of Navy wife contributed to their feelings of pride and self-worth (Item 7).

5. Education. For EW, those with less than a high school education were more likely to want their husband to rise to a top position in the Navy and to feel that the Navy was interested in them as an individual (Items 1 and 3). For OW, those with no education beyond high school were more likely to want their husband to stay in the Navy for 20 years, to feel that the Navy was interested in them and in Navy dependents in general, to feel that their role as a Navy wife contributed to their feelings of self-worth, and to indicate that they would try to influence their husband's decision to reenlist in the Navy (Items 2, 3, 4, 7, and 10).

Section 2

The percentages of OW and EW who responded to the various response alternatives to the second group of items on military life and commitment are presented in Table 4. As shown, the largest percentage of both groups had mixed feelings about moving, but significantly more EW than OW looked forward to this prospect (30 vs. 15%-- $p < .01$) (Item 1). There were no significant differences in the attitudes of OW and EW toward friendships and deployments (Items 2 and 3): The largest percentage of both groups felt that they could make more friends by frequent moves and had negative feelings about deployments.

Significantly more OW than EW considered themselves involved in Navy activities (79 vs. 62%-- $p < .01$) (Item 4). The responses of the two groups to questions that elicited reasons for their involvement or noninvolvement (Items 5 and 6), however, were not significantly different. The majority of those who were involved indicated that they wanted to be; and those who were not involved, either that they did not want to be or that they were too busy. Finally, the majority of both groups expressed positive feelings toward the Navy and indicated that they would marry a Navy man if they "had it to do over again" (Items 7 and 8).

Results of the chi-square tests performed to relate responses to demographic variables are discussed below:

1. Employment. Among OW, those who were employed placed less importance on friendships relative to their jobs and other pursuits (Item 2). Among EW, those who were unemployed outside of the home were more likely to indicate that they were involved in Navy activities because they wanted to be (Item 6).

2. Years with Navy. For both groups, the number of years associated with the Navy was positively related to involvement in Navy activities and positive feelings about the Navy (Items 4 and 7).

Table 4
 Responses of Officers' Wives (OW) and Enlisted Mens' Wives (EW)
 to Items on Military Life in General/Commitment--Section 2

Item	Relationship with:											
	Percentage ^a		Employment		Years With Navy		Age		Number of Children		Education	
	OW	EW	OW	EW	OW	EW	OW	EW	OW	EW	OW	EW
1. As a Navy wife, how do you feel about moving or the prospect of moving?												
a. Moving is stressful (a "hassle").	20	26										
b. Mixed feelings or neutral	64	44										
c. Look forward to it.	15	30										
2. How do you feel about friendships?			**									*
a. Disrupted by Navy life.	11	11										
b. Can make more friends by frequent moves.	85	85										
c. Job, hobbies, etc. more important than friends.	4	4										
3. How do you feel about deployments?												
a. Negative.	59	65										
b. Mixed feelings or neutral.	39	31										
c. Positive.	2	4										
4. Do you consider yourself involved in Navy activities?					**	**	*	**	*	**		
a. No.	21	38										
b. Yes.	79	62										
5. If "yes" on #4, why are you involved in Navy activities?				*								
a. Expected to.	3	1										
b. Want to.	63	68										
c. Choose to in support of husband's career.	34	31										
6. If "no" on #4, why are you not involved?												
a. Don't want to.	59	49										
b. Too busy.	38	41										
c. Husband doesn't want me to be, or it might hurt his career.	3	10										
7. How do you feel about the Navy?					**	**	*	**				
a. Negative.	15	17										
b. Neutral.	11	17										
c. Positive.	74	66										
8. Knowing what you do now, if you had it to do over again, would you marry a Navy man?												
a. No.	13	9										
b. Don't know.	13	11										
c. Yes.	73	80										

^aDifferences between responses of OW and EW significant only for Items 1 ($\chi^2 = 18.39, p < .01$) and 4 ($\chi^2 = 13.74, p < .01$).

* $p < .05$, using a chi square analysis.

** $p < .01$.

3. Age. For both groups, involvement in Navy activities was influenced by age (Item 4). Among OW, those age 30 and under considered themselves less involved than did those over 30, which may be an indication that the bonds of tradition are weakening (Goldman, 1976). Among EW, however, those age 21 and under considered themselves least involved; and those in their 30's, most involved. For both groups, age was positively related to positive feelings about the Navy (Item 7). For EW, however, only one third of those between 18 and 21 were positive; the rest were either neutral or negative.

4. Number of Children. For both groups, number of children was positively related to involvement in Navy activities (Item 4).

5. Education. Among EW, those with more than a high school education were more likely to feel that friendships were disrupted by Navy life (Item 2).

Attitudes Toward Women's Role

Comparison of Responses of OW and EW

The 10 items included to assess attitudes toward women's role are listed in Table 5. It was theorized that women holding traditional views would respond "No" to Items 1, 2, and 4, and "Yes" to the rest. Responses of women holding untraditional or contemporary views would, of course, be just the opposite. Based on this interpretation, it appears that the majority of both groups hold contemporary rather than traditional views. As shown, the largest percentage of both OW and EW agreed that they would vote for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), that women should be allowed to work at any job they can perform, and that some women are good wives, mothers, and employees simultaneously (Items 1, 2, and 4). Although the largest percentage of both groups did not agree that parents should guide their children into appropriate sex roles, or that women should take supportive roles, cannot stand management stresses, or should not compete with men for promotions (Items 3, 5, 6, and 8), significantly more OW than EW rejected these statements. Significantly more OW, who can be expected to be more familiar with the stresses of managerial and command positions than EW, agreed that women could withstand such stresses (72 vs. 39%) (Item 6). On the other hand, EW may have more cause for concern about their husband's promotions than OW, since enlisted personnel are advanced from a single eligibility list; and officers, from gender-specific lists. Only 9 percent showed this concern, however, by agreeing that women should not compete with men for promotions (Item 8).

There were no significant differences in the response distributions to the statement indicating that women should be excluded from "unfeminine" occupations; the majority of both OW and EW (71 and 61%) disagreed with this statement (Item 7). Response distributions to Item 9, which assessed personal role orientation rather than women's role in general, were almost identical. Thirty-nine percent of both groups indicated that they held the traditional view of male/female roles (i.e., that women should be responsible for home and family, and men should provide financial support); about 10 percent, that they were uncertain how they felt; and about 50 percent, that they did not hold the traditional view. Finally, less EW than OW agreed that they would urge their husband to get out of the Navy if ships were sexually integrated (Item 10). This may be because of the belief expressed by EW that Navy women presently impact adversely on men's sea/shore rotation.

An overall women's role (WR) scale score was developed from the first nine items of Table 5. Traditional responses ("No" to Items 1, 2, and 4; "Yes" to the rest) were given a

Table 5
Responses of Officers' Wives (OW)
and Enlisted Men's Wives (EW) to Items Assessing
Attitudes Toward Women's Role

Item	Percentage Responding						X ²
	Yes		Don't Know		No		
	OW	EW	OW	EW	OW	EW	
1. I would vote for the Equal Rights Amendment.	55	49	30	35	15	16	1.61
2. Women should be allowed to work at any job they can perform.	88	84	7	9	5	6	1.28
3. Parents should guide their children into appropriate roles for their sex.	20	29	13	16	67	55	6.67*
4. Some women are good wives, mothers, and employees simultaneously.	91	91	6	4	3	5	1.82
5. Women should take a supportive position in society, marriage, and the world of work.	16	29	15	24	69	47	21.02**
6. Most women cannot stand the stress and strain associated with being a high level manager or a commanding officer.	9	15	19	39	72	46	30.46**
7. Certain jobs are so unfeminine that women should be excluded from performing them.	15	22	14	17	71	61	4.97
8. Women should not compete with men for promotions because a man's career is more important and should not be jeopardized.	2	9	8	9	90	83	8.84*
9. I tend to be traditional in my view of male/female roles (the woman should have the primary responsibility for home and children, and the man provide financial support).	39	39	10	11	51	50	0.61
10. If the law were changed so that women were assigned to ships, I would urge my husband to get out of the Navy.	7	15	14	22	79	63	13.46**

Note. It was hypothesized that respondents with contemporary views on the role of women would agree with items 1, 2, and 4 and disagree with the rest.

*p < .05
**p < .01.

weight of 1; undecided ("Don't know"), a weight of 2; and contemporary ("Yes" to Items 1, 2, and 4; "No" to the rest), a weight of 3. This procedure assumed that "Don't know" responses constituted a midpoint between "Yes" and "No" responses. The weights were totalled and divided by the number of items to yield respondents' mean scores on the WR items. Two-way ANOVAs (Nie, et al., p. 410) were then performed on the WR scores, using enlisted/officer status as one factor and a demographic variable (i.e., employment, years with the Navy, age, number of children, or education) as the other. The summary of the ANOVA performed using education is provided in Table 6, and the WR score means for OW and EW at three levels of education, in Table 7. OW were more educated than EW, and education had a strong effect on WR scores, in that those with more education had more contemporary views of women's role ($F = 8.23, p < .01$). Officer vs. enlisted status of husband also had an effect ($F = 4.21, p < .05$). As a group, OW were more contemporary than EW, as shown by overall WR score means of 2.60 and 2.45 respectively. There was no interaction between the two factors; thus, within both groups, higher levels of education were generally associated with more contemporary views.

Table 6
Summary of Analysis of Variance of Women's Role (WR) Scale Scores

Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F
A (Education)	2.39	2	1.20	8.23**
B (Enlisted vs. Officer Wife)	.61	1	.61	4.21*
AB (Interaction)	.22	2	.11	< 1
Within Cell (Error)	59.74	411	.14	

Note. Forty-six cases were dropped due to missing data.

* $p < .05$.

** $p < .01$.

The results of the ANOVAs performed using the other demographic variables are summarized below:

1. Employment. Employment status had a strong liberalizing effect on the role orientation of OW (significant simple main effect). Among EW, those who were employed full or part time tended to be more liberal on WR than those who were not employed, but this tendency failed to reach significance.

2. Years With Navy. This variable did not affect WR perceptions held by either group.

3. Age. Among OW, those over 38 years of age were more conservative on WR (mean of 2.40) than those under 38 (significant simple main effect). Although there was a similar tendency among EW, it failed to reach significance.

4. Number of Children. For both groups combined, those with three or more children were more conservative on WR (significant main effect) than were those with fewer children.

Table 7

WR Means for Officers' Wives (OW) and Enlisted (EW)
Men's Wives by Educational Levels

Group	Education Level			Mean
	High School or Less	AA Degree or Some College	BA Degree or More	
OW	2.49 (N = 30)	2.59 (N = 81)	2.67 (N = 76)	2.60
EW	2.36 (N = 126)	2.55 (N = 81)	2.52 (N = 23)	2.45
Mean	2.39	2.57	2.63	

Notes.

1. Means were based on a 3-point scale, where 1 = Traditional, 2 = Undecided, and 3 = Contemporary.
2. Forty-six respondents were dropped due to missing data.

Comparison of Responses of Navy Wives and Active Duty Women

Table 8, which provides the percentages of Navy wives and Navy active duty women giving contemporary responses to the WR items, indicates that Navy women hold more contemporary views than do Navy wives. Significantly more women officers than OW expressed support for the ERA (Item 1). The difference between EW and enlisted women was in the opposite direction, but it did not reach significance.

Over 85 percent of all respondent groups agreed that women can be good wives, mothers, and employees simultaneously (Item 4). Significantly more active duty women (both officers and enlisted) than Navy wives, however, agreed that women should be allowed to work at any job they can perform (Item 2), and did not agree that parents should guide their children into appropriate sex roles, that women should take supportive positions, that women cannot stand managerial stresses, that women should be excluded from "unfeminine" jobs, and that women should not compete with men for promotions (Items 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8). Also, responses to Item 9, which questions role affiliation, indicate that women officers hold the most contemporary view, followed by enlisted women, OW, and EW.

The final WR item addressed an issue of primary concern to the Navy; that is, the reaction of Navy wives and women to plans for sexually integrating ships. As shown in Table 8, the responses of OW and officer women were similar—79 and 71 percent respectively indicated that they accepted the idea of assigning women aboard ships. The

Table 8
Percentages of Navy Wives and Navy Women Giving Contemporary Responses to Women's Role Items

Item with Contemporary Response Indicated	Percentage Espousing Contemporary View					
	Officer			Enlisted		
	Wife (N = 203)	Active Duty (N = 101)	t-test	Wife (N = 260)	Active Duty (N = 381)	t-test
1. I would vote for the Equal Rights Amendment. (Agree)	55	76	-3.61**	49	43	1.49
2. Women should be allowed to work at any job they can perform. (Agree)	88	100	— ^a **	84	93	-3.62**
3. Parents should guide their children into appropriate roles for their sex. (Disagree)	67	89	-4.13**	55	78	-6.16**
4. Some women are good wives, mothers, and employees simultaneously. (Agree)	91	89	.55	91	86	1.91
5. Women should take a supportive position in society, marriage, and the world of work. (Disagree)	69	91	-4.24**	47	69	-5.58**
6. Most women cannot stand the stress and strain associated with being a high level manager or commanding officer. (Disagree)	72	87	-2.92**	46	71	-6.36**
7. Certain jobs are so unfeminine that women should be excluded from performing them. (Disagree)	71	98	— ^a **	61	78	-4.66**
8. Women should not compete with men for promotions because a man's career is more important and should not be jeopardized. (Disagree)	90	100	— ^a **	83	92	-3.48**
9. I tend to be traditional in my attitude toward male/female roles. (Disagree)	51	85	-5.76**	50	63	-3.27**
10. If the law were changed so that women were assigned to ships, I (would/would urge my husband to) get out of the Navy. (Disagree)	79	71	1.54	63	49	3.49**

Note. Neither traditional nor "don't know" responses are presented.

^aThis pair of proportions could not be compared by means of a t-test (see Guilford, 1965) because one represents such a large majority of the respondents that those not endorsing the item numbered less than 5. By comparing the standard errors of each proportion, however, it can be determined at the .95 or .99 confidence level whether a difference exists between the two response distributions.

*p<.05.
**p<.01

responses of EW and enlisted women, however, differed significantly. Sixty-three percent of the EW indicated that they would not urge their husband to get out of the Navy if sexual integration occurred, compared to 50 percent of enlisted women who indicated that they would not get out if such an event took place. (Of the remainder, 30% stated that they would seek a discharge, and 20% were undecided.)

Overall, then, women officers were generally the most contemporary, followed by enlisted women and OW; and EW, the most conservative or traditional. The most notable exception to these results is in regard to ERA. The greater conservatism of enlisted women on this issue is probably a reflection of the impact of the ERA passage on their professional lives; that is, on the possibility that they will be assigned to sea duty.

Opinions About Active Duty Women

Table 9 provides response distributions for OW and EW on items assessing opinions of Navy women. Differences in these distributions reached significance on 8 of the 11 items.

Significantly more EW than OW indicated that they felt active duty women were affecting their personal lives (22 vs. 9%—sums of alternatives c, d, and e, Item 1), and that these women impact negatively on the sea/shore rotation of men (Item 3). The EW who endorsed the latter item (41%) may be reacting to the stress caused by deployments and to the knowledge that women in their husband's rating do not go to sea. In contrast, many OW know that there are very few, if any, women with their husband's aviation designator. While the Navy's system of maintaining an equitable rotation system ensures that the increased number of Navy women does not result in longer sea duty for men, the reverse is widely believed to be true. Obviously, Navy wives are no exception.

About half of both OW and EW disagreed that Navy women behave differently than other women on the job (Item 2). The approximately 20 percent of both groups who agreed with this item were asked to explain their answers. Approximately two-thirds of this minority indicated that they felt Navy women exhibit an excessive amount of masculine traits. The second most frequent response was that Navy women work harder than civilian women because they are competing in a predominately male environment.

Item 4, which asked respondents to indicate why they felt women join the Navy, was included in the survey to determine whether wives subscribe to the popular misconception that women join the military either to get away from home or to find a husband. A 1975 survey of entering recruits (Thomas, 1977) established the fact that women enlist for the same reasons that men do; that is, to make something of their lives, to acquire a skill or obtain more education, and to travel and meet people. Responses to this item showed that the majority of both groups of wives felt that women join the Navy to travel and to work at unusual jobs. Thus, the wives' image of the Navy woman is predominately that of an adventurous, goal-oriented worker, not that of a single female who is looking for male companionship.

Responses to Item 5 showed that neither group of wives is negatively inclined toward women in the military. Only 20 percent of both OW and EW stated that they definitely would never join the Navy. Ten percent of EW either were in or had been in the military, and an additional 56 percent indicated that they would consider joining if such a job would not interfere with their marriage. OW expressed much less interest than EW in ever joining the Navy.

Table 9
Opinions of Navy Wives on Women in the Navy

Item	Percentage		χ^2	Relationship with:										
	OW	EW		Employment		Years With Navy		Age		Number of Children		Education		
				OW	EW	OW	EW	OW	EW	OW	EW	OW	EW	
1. Have your husband's experiences with active duty women on the job spilled over into his home life?			27.68**	**	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
a. Has never worked with women	4	12												
b. No	69	47												
c. Yes, he appreciates me more	3	9												
d. Yes, he is frustrated	4	7												
e. Yes, I am jealous	2	6												
f. I don't know	10	10												
g. Other	8	9												
2. Do you feel Navy women behave differently on the job than civilian working women?			1.22	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
a. No	48	50												
b. Yes	20	23												
c. Don't know	32	27												
3. Do you feel that active duty women take up more desirable shore billets (assignments) or that men stay at sea longer because of the assignment policy for women?			13.04**	--	**	*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
a. Yes	25	41												
b. No	27	24												
c. Don't know	48	35												
4. Why do you think most women join the Navy?			NA ^a	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
a. Get away from home	23	22												
b. Security and benefits	50	43												
c. Travel and work at unusual jobs	71	60												
d. Can't find civilian job	11	15												
e. Get husband or boyfriend	21	28												
5. Under which of the following conditions might you consider joining the military (assuming age as no barrier)?			30.61*	--	**	--	--	--	**	--	**	--	--	--
a. I now am or have been in military	3	10												
b. If I'd be assigned with my husband	22	29												
c. If I were single or considering work	21	27												
d. Doubtful if I ever would	35	14												
e. Definitely never would	20	20												
6. How would you feel if your husband worked daily with women in his rating?			9.11*	--	*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
a. Wouldn't mind	85	78												
b. Don't think I'd like it	6	14												
c. Very negative	0	1												
d. I can't imagine how I'd feel	9	7												
7. How would you feel if your husband had to supervise several women?			10.26*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
a. Wouldn't mind	88	79												
b. Don't think I'd like it	6	12												
c. Very negative	0	3												
d. Can't imagine how I'd feel	6	7												

Note. For items 6 through 9, χ^2 statistics were recomputed with response options b and c combined to correct for effects of small frequency cells. The significance level of the four χ^2 statistics, however, was not altered.

^aFor item 4, percentages do not sum to 100 because respondents could choose more than one option. For this reason, a chi-square was not calculated.

*p < .05

**p < .01.

Table 9 (Continued)

Item	Percentage		χ^2	Relationship with:										
	OW	EW		Employment		Years in Navy		Age		Number of Children		Education		
				OW	EW	OW	EW	OW	EW	OW	EW	OW	EW	
8. How would you feel if your husband had to work for a female supervisor?			4.50	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
a. Wouldn't mind	66	67												
b. Don't think I'd like it	19	14												
c. Very negative	2	5												
d. Can't imagine how I'd feel	13	14												
9. How would you feel if your husband had to stand after-hours watch with a Navy woman?			19.97**	--	*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
a. Wouldn't mind	68	51												
b. Don't think I'd like it	21	35												
c. Very negative	1	6												
d. Can't imagine how I'd feel	10	8												
10. How would you feel if your husband were on an unaccompanied tour where women are assigned?			8.62*	*	**	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
a. Wouldn't mind	60	50												
b. Don't think I'd like it	20	32												
c. Very negative	5	7												
d. Can't imagine how I'd feel	14	11												
11. How would you feel if your husband were assigned to a ship with women?			27.00**	--	**	--	--	--	--	--	**	**	--	--
a. Wouldn't mind	69	46												
b. Don't think I'd like it	16	34												
c. Very negative	4	8												
d. Can't imagine how I'd feel	11	12												

Note. For items 6 through 9, χ^2 statistics were recomputed with response options b and c combined to correct for effects of small frequency cells. The significance level of the four χ^2 statistics, however, was not altered.

*For item 8, percentages do not sum to 100 because respondents could choose more than one option. For this reason, a chi-square was not calculated.

*p < .05

**p < .01.

Items 6 through 11 measure wives' acceptance of possible situations in which Navy men and women might interact on the job. OW accepted five of the six situations significantly better than EW--all but the situation where their husband would have to work for a female supervisor (Item 8). The biggest difference between OW and EW was in feelings generated if their husband were assigned to a ship with women (Item 11). Among OW, 69 percent said they "wouldn't mind," compared to 46 percent among EW. An additional 42 percent of EW indicated that they either didn't like the idea or felt very negatively about it.

Distributions by husband's rank or pay grade were also obtained for the six items measuring attitudes toward male/female job integration. For OW, response distributions to Items 6, 7, and 9, which referred to their husband working with, supervising, or standing watch with Navy women, were very similar. Response distributions to Items 8, 10, and 11, however, indicated that the wives of ensigns were least concerned by the prospect of having their husband associate with women in a subordinate role, on an unaccompanied tour, or aboard ship. No single group of OW appears to be most resistant to these interactions.

Among EW, the strongest resistance to male/female integration came from the seven respondents who were married to E-2s. Within this small group, 57 percent felt negatively about their husband working with women (Item 6), 71 percent, about women being included on an unaccompanied tour (Item 10), and 71 percent, about women serving aboard ships (Item 11)--vs. 15, 39, and 42 percent for EW overall.

Results of the chi-square tests performed relating responses to demographic variables are described below:

1. Employment. Among OW, those who were employed full time were most likely to feel that Navy women had little effect on their personal lives (Item 1). Surprisingly, they were also the most resistant to having their husband on an unaccompanied tour with Navy women. Among EW, those who were employed were least concerned about Navy women taking up desirable shore billets (Item 3) and with the prospect of their husband associating with women at work, during after-hour watches, on an unaccompanied tour, or aboard ship (Items 6, 9, 10, and 11). They also had the most positive propensity toward enlisting (Item 5).

2. Years With Navy. For OW only, this variable was positively related to the belief that Navy women take up more of the desirable shore billets (Item 3).

3. Age. EW between the ages of 18 and 37 were more positive than older wives toward enlisting in the service (Item 5).

4. Number of Children. Among both groups, those having the largest number of children were more resistant to the prospect of having their husband serve aboard ship with Navy women (Item 11). EW with less than three children were most likely to enlist (Item 5).

5. Education. This variable was not related to any of the responses.

CONCLUSIONS

The reciprocal relationship between the Navy wife and the Navy seems to be secure. Responses to the items on social factors/role conflicts revealed that the majority of both officers' wives (OW) and enlisted men's wives (EW) participate in Navy functions out of a sense of pleasure rather than obligation. This finding may, at first glance, suggest that these samples of OW and EW do not subscribe to well-defined role obligations. Their belief that their behavior affects their husband's career, however, indicates that they are making an independent choice in a situation still imbued with traditional expectations.

Responses to items on military life in general/commitment indicate that the women in the samples enjoy their mobile lifestyle, although they have mixed feelings about moving. Over 80 percent of both groups stated that frequent moves gave them an opportunity to make many friends, and over 70 percent, that they would marry a Navy man if they "had it to do over again." About 60 percent, however, had negative feelings about deployment. Overall, there were few differences in attitudes of OW and EW as to their lives as military dependents.

Responses to items on women's role (WR) showed that half of both groups favored the Equal Rights Amendment and 91 percent agreed that women can be successful wives, mothers, and employees simultaneously. On the remaining WR items, OW tended to be more contemporary than EW. Yet, despite their differences of opinion, the responses of the two groups to the items assessing personal role affiliation showed that they subscribed to identical roles for themselves, with about 50 percent indicating that they held contemporary views; and 39 percent, traditional views. Thus, although results of this study supported previous findings that OW tend to agree more with feminist ideology than do EW, it appears that this difference does not affect personal role affiliation.

In the comparisons of responses of Navy wives and Navy active duty women on WR items, it was found that women officers have the most contemporary orientation, followed by enlisted women, OW, and EW. Higher percentages of Navy women than Navy wives, however, resisted the idea of shipboard sexual integration. In fact, significantly more enlisted women than EW expressed such resistance. The more favorable attitude of EW may have resulted from their belief that Navy women presently impact adversely on the sea/shore rotation of men.

Finally, responses to items on opinions of Navy women showed that both OW and EW held favorable attitudes toward the changing role of women in the Navy. About 5 percent of OW and 8 percent of EW felt very negative toward the prospect of their husband associating with Navy women on an unaccompanied tour or aboard ship.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This study was limited by the fact that all respondents were associated with the aviation community. Thus, before final conclusions are drawn, it may be advisable to administer the questionnaire to samples of officers' and enlisted men's wives associated with the surface and/or submarine communities. All results could then be analyzed to determine whether Navy wives see Navy women as a threat or as a badly needed human resource that can reduce the amount of time Navy men spend at sea.

Navy management should emphasize this latter issue, particularly because of the stress caused by deployments. Although one could argue that putting women on ships would add to this stress, this study showed that wives were no more resistant to the prospect of their husband serving with a woman at sea than they were to the prospect of his standing watch with her after hours.

The Navy is planning to send several thousand women to sea within the next few years. In view of the fact that some wives feel very negative about their husbands serving aboard sexually integrated ships, an effort should be made to ease their apprehensions. Wives could be included in the transition process through command briefings, followed by a question and answer period, preferably held aboard ship. This would give them an opportunity to tour the Navy women's quarters, so they would get some idea of the conditions under which these women will be living, and of the efforts taken by the Navy to protect the privacy of women and men. Also, command events could be held to promote social interaction between Navy wives and Navy women.

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