

# Military life: effects of moving on children's academic achievement



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## **Abstract**

The purpose of this proposed study is to examine the effects of military life on the academic achievement. Participants will be selected and followed over a 10 year period starting at age six. Grade point average from the end of second grade, fifth grade, and eighth grade report cards will determine how well a military child does with multiple moves within the 10 years of the study. Participants will be offered an incentive for the completion of the 10 year study. The results will give a picture of how moving multiple times in a 10 year period affects academic achievement.

### Military Life: Effects of Moving on Children's Academic Achievement

Only 30 percent of the students that started in kindergarten remained at the same school through the fourth grade (Bradley, 2009). Also data from Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Kansas City Area Education Research Consortium, shows that in three of the counties that they collected the data had one in five students moved between June 2014 and May 2015 of the more than 160, 000 students, more than 6, 000 of those moved two or more times (Howard, 2015). Not only were the transfers the highest at the August start date and the date before the second semester started but also in October, November and December were equally as high (Howard, 2015).

“ About 71 percent of children moved before starting kindergarten, but only 14 percent moved four or more times” (Scommegna, 2018). Frequent moves also create negative behavioral issues, which in turn could contribute to the decline in academic achievement. In the military, the active duty member  
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will on average move every two or three years and that's not including the times they will move their family within the same duty station. Childhood educators can determine which students are those that move frequently because of the behavioral issues that they'll bring into the classroom opposed to those that have a more stable household (Gruman, Harachi, Abbott, Cataloano, & Fleming, 2008).

Typically, military personnel will have the most unstable household with the constant switching of duty stations but also those moves within the same duty station as they move up in rank. When renting a place, which most do, active duty members will rent as they need and not worry about a growing family until that time comes. So, therefore that will be several moves before their first child is in kindergarten, which could lead to the behavioral issues (Fomby & Mollborn, 2017). There are also those families that will move back to their home of record to be closer to their extended family while the service member is deployed to not be alone for the holidays that come up or just for support with the children. Many do not realize that these moves could potentially cause negative effects on a child or children before entering school.

There are over 326 billion people in the United States, which 1.3 million are those of active duty personnel and 865,000 in the reserves. At any given time, there are about 200,000 deployed (New York Times, 2017). With that many deployed about 20% of those service member's children will exhibit troubling behaviors such as tantrums and/or hitting (America's Promise Alliance, n. d.).

## Method

### Participants

This study will utilize quota sampling to select 40 children (20 males and 20 females) of mixed race and ethnicity, that will be followed academically for 10 years. They will be chosen when they are in the first grade at the age of six. The participants must be children of a military member that has served one to two enlistments and does not plan on getting out of the military for at least the ten years the study is active. The participants will be taken from the heavily populated areas for military that will include Virginia, California, Florida, and Washington. Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval will be requested before the study is conducted.

### Material and Procedure


The participants will be selected from the major military areas that fit the criteria of age and military status of their parents. Once they are selected, by standing outside of the Navy Exchange and asking people questions to see if they qualify for the study, the researcher will obtain parental consent and also assent from the children who will participate. Along with consent the researcher will collect parental contact information, including phone number, email address, physical address, and, if needed, military command information. This facilitate tracking of the participants over the 10 year period. The end of the child's second, fifth, and eighth grade, the participants' report card will be requested with for a copy and a self-addressed stamped envelope or scanned and emailed. The report card data will be recorded in an electronic database, along with how many moves <https://assignbuster.com/military-life-effects-of-moving-on-childrens-academic-achievement/>

occur (and when) within the ten years. Upon completion of this study, the participants that have answered the requests for the needed information will receive a vehicle.

### Proposed Analysis

To assess the hypothesis that number of moves will be negatively correlated with grade point average (GPA), and that this relationship will be more prominent among older children than younger children, a standard multiple regression will be conducted. The independent variables will include time (2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade) and number of moves. The dependent variable will be academic achievement (GPA).

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