

*National
Organization of
Mothers
Of
Twins
Clubs*

SUBJECT: **MILITARY MOMS SURVEY**

RESEARCHER: National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs, Inc.

DATE: June 1996-1997

PURPOSE: The Purpose of this study was to determine the availability and need of specialized for families of multiples when one or both parents are in military service.

METHOD: Questionnaire was printed in MOTC's Notebook, distributed in a National Mailing, and published in magazines serving U.S. military families. This survey was to be filled out by multiples birth mothers who were or are now caring for their multiples while she or her spouse was in military service.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Fifty-eight responses to this survey were received. Most respondents (45/54) had spouses serving in the military and all but two were stationed in the United States.

RESULTS:

Birth of their Multiples:

52 respondents were in the military (or their husbands were) when their multiples were born. Just over half (29/52) gave birth at a base hospital. 26/54 sets of twins were born by cesarean. Only half of the respondents were able to choose their obstetrician. Of those who did not, 18/27 wished that they could have. 15/48 of the respondents received care during their pregnancy from an off-base specialist and 8/48 were sent to an off-base specialist for infant care.

Use of MOMs Clubs

26/57 of the respondents were not told about a MOMs club. In most cases (52/55) no MOMs club was available on base. Respondents found their local clubs through a variety of means (NOMOTC, another MOM). Only 2 were informed about a local club from an on base doctor/hospital/clinic. Most respondents found their local clubs to be very supportive. 35/55 felt that a MOMs club specifically for military MOMs would serve their needs better than a civilian MOMs club, however due to the fact that military personnel are frequently moved around, these respondents acknowledged that civilian MOMs gave a club cohesiveness. It was also mentioned that civilian MOMs generally had very useful information about local resources.

CONCLUSION:

1. Information on MOTCs should be more readily available on bases, from base doctors, clinics and hospitals.
2. Local MOTCs may want to be inclusive of fathers.
3. MOTCs near military bases should make an effort to reach out to military personnel who may need their services.
4. Deployment and separation from family support make raising multiples in the military particularly stressful.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Fifty-eight responses to this survey were received. Most respondents (45/54) had spouses serving in the military and all but two were stationed in the United States.

RESULTS:

Birth of their Multiples:

52 respondents were in the military (or their husbands were) when their multiples were born. Just over half (29/52) gave birth at a base hospital. 26/34 sets of twins were born by cesarean. Only half of the respondents were able to choose their obstetrician. Of those who did not, 18/27 wished that they could have. 12/48 of the respondents received care during their pregnancy from an off-base specialist and 2/48 were sent to an off-base specialist for infant care.

Use of MOMs Clubs

26/27 of the respondents were not told about a MOMs club. In most cases (22/25) no MOMs club was available on base. Respondents found their local clubs through a variety of means (NOMOTC, another MOM). Only 2 were informed about a local club from an on base doctor/hospital/clinic. Most respondents found their local clubs to be very supportive. 32/25 felt that a MOMs club specifically for military MOMs would serve their needs better than a civilian MOMs club, however due to the fact that military personnel are frequently moved around, these respondents acknowledged that civilian MOMs give a club cohesiveness. It was also mentioned that civilian MOMs generally had very useful information about local resources.