

## Erica Rossignol (She, Her, Hers)

### Discussion Board

Jun 16, 2023 Jun 16, 2023 at 5:54am

*Review one of the conceptual models about military women's health [either the Conceptual Model of Military Women's Life Events and Well-being (MWLEW), or the Social Ecological Model for Military Women's Health (SEM-MWH)]. If you choose the MWLEW, focus on the family relationship circle. If you choose the SEM-MWH, focus on the microsystem. Using other sources in the literature - show how a military career interacts with this part of the conceptual model.*

Research on the effects of military service on well-being has primarily been on male service members. However, the Conceptual Model of Military Women's Life Events and Well-being (MWLEW) focuses on understanding military women's individual life events and well-being. The MLEW is derived from the Military Operational Medicine Research Program by Mady W. Segal, Michelle D. Lane, and Ashley G. Fisher and aligns with other approaches to the well-being of military and non-military families. The MWLEW has five major principles of the life course theory: lifelong development, human agency, location in time and place, timing, and linked lives (Segal & Lane, 2016). There is a further expansion in the MLEW to include the analysis of the effects of multiple military service demands and family life course events that propose the military as a turning point that increases life's changes and as a life-course disruption that interferes with relationships and social circles (Segal & Lane, 2016). This model has four dimensions of the military family life course: Service Member's Military Career Life Course, Family Life Course, Women's Reproductive and Gynecological Issues, and Unexpected but Common Life Events (Segal & Lane, 2016). In this discussion, the focus will be on the Family Life Course circle and family relationships.

In the family life course or family relationship circle, many events may impact female service members' well-being. For example, military women developing significant relationships and marrying are less likely to occur than their male counterparts. However, military women are five times more likely to be married to another service member (Segal & Lane, 2016). In dual military relationships, there are significant stressors with competing obligations to marriage, children, and the military. Each base has a Child Development Center (CDC) and other childcare options. However, the available hours only sometimes meet the needs due to shift work and off-tour schedules, forcing families to find alternate childcare options (Huffman et al., 2018). Non-dual military couples also face challenges as they work to balance the demands of both their families and their careers.

Marriage dissatisfaction rates are higher in female dual-military members than in male dual-military members (Woodall et al., 2020). In a study by Karney and Crown between fiscal years 1996-2005, patterns and trends in marriage and divorce were studied among military members that found active-duty females had higher divorce rates than their

male counterparts (Southwell & Wadsworth, 2016). Possible reasons for the increased divorce rates in the military service woman may be related to husbands feeling a lack of support due to many support systems geared toward female military spouses of male service members (Southwell & Wadsworth, 2016).

Female service members face unique challenges while fulfilling military deployments and reintegration after deployment. Some identified challenges include connection with children, relinquishing parental and household responsibilities, resuming former roles, and adjusting to new family dynamics (Shaad et al., 2019). A 2009 report by Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America found that more than 40% of female service members have children, yet research on their challenges is lacking (Agazio et al., 2013). The MWLEW conceptual model, Family Life Course Circle, highlights additional areas where further research is needed to improve the well-being of female service members.

## References

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