

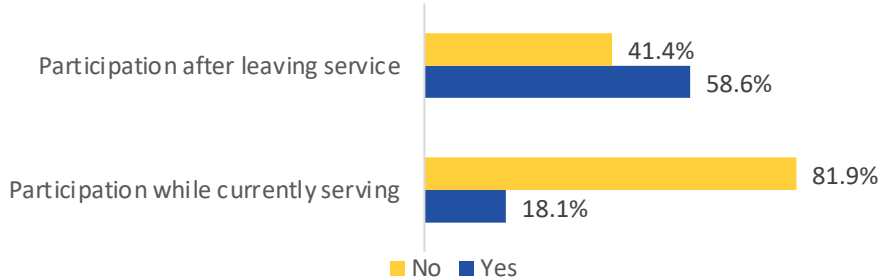
# Military Community & Transition

MFAN's Military Family Support Programming survey asked about respondents' use of transition support programs, such as the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and the Military Spouse Transition Program (MySTeP), and what supports they wished they had as they transitioned out of the military.

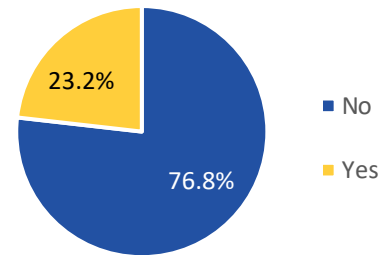
## Most respondents have not participated in TAP while enlisted, and do not know spouses can access MySTeP

**Most respondents (81.9%) said they had not participated in the TAP** while they were currently enlisted, while a little over half (58.6%) had participated in the program once they had left service. With regards to the MySTeP, over three quarters of respondents (76.8%) did not know that spouses could access the program.

TAP Participation

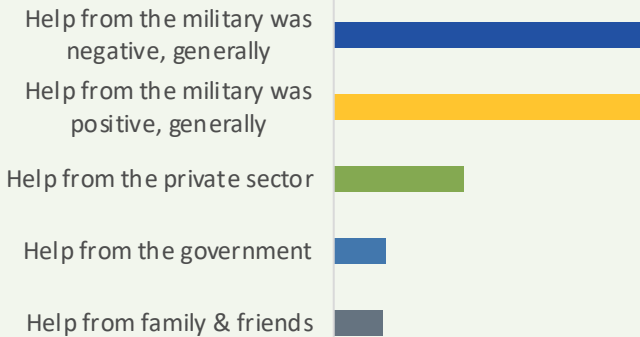


MySTeP Awareness



### Transition support impressions

Respondents were asked to describe *how helpful the transition support was upon leaving the service*. Five themes emerged:



### Desired transition support

Respondents were asked to *describe the transition support they wished they had*. The most common robust themes were:

- More **hands-on preparation** to enter civilian workforce
- **"Anything!"** Improve overall separation process
- A **one-on-one transition advisor**/tailored support
- **Improve the TAP** program
- Transition support dedicated to **spouses and family members**

## Fewer respondents said they would recommend military life in 2021 than in 2019

Findings from the survey suggest that most military and veteran family respondents (62.9%) would recommend military life to someone considering it, however, this number is lower than in 2019 (74.5%). Findings from the civilian population indicated that less than half (46.1%) of respondents would recommend military life, no change since 2019.

### WOULD Recommend

- Element of public service, protecting the country, pride & respect
- Job security and financial stability
- General and retirement benefits
- Healthcare and housing support
- Travel and work in different countries
- Friendships and lifelong camaraderie

### WOULD NOT Recommend

- Military life is not family-friendly
- Military pay is too low, especially considering the difficulty and stress of the job
- Some military leadership is bad, corrupt, abusive, and controlling
- Benefits, such as military-funded healthcare are not worth the challenges of the military
- Frequent PCS moves and deployments

*"It is a difficult job and life, and the 'benefits' simply are not worth it. Especially since said benefits just keep dwindling and decreasing in quality the longer we are in. Military life not only affects the mental health of the service member but also that of their family."*

Spouse of an active duty Navy member