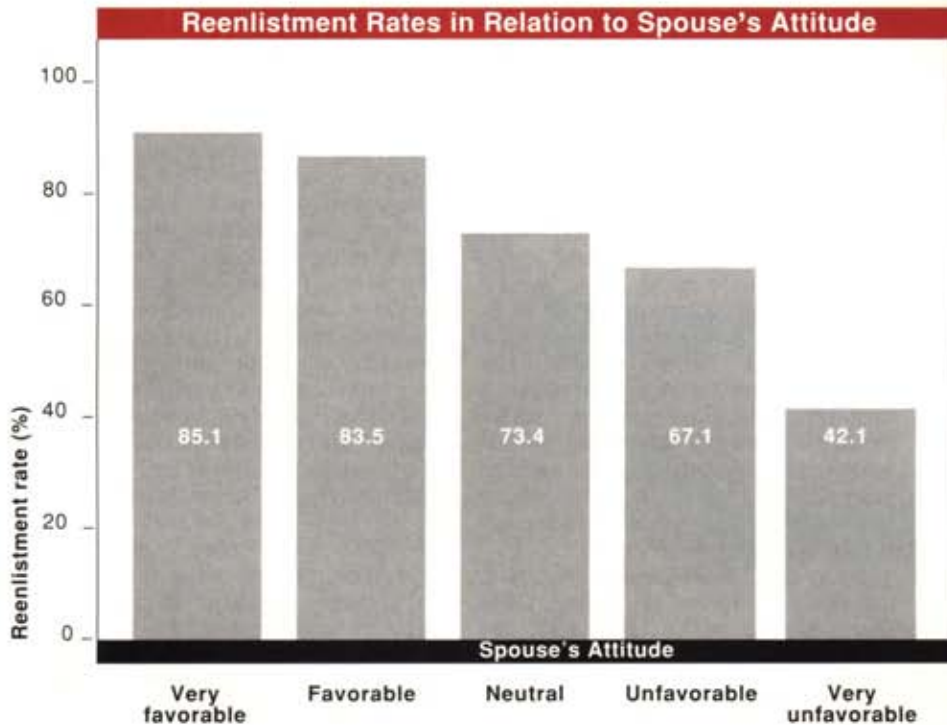


The Chart Page

By Tamar A. Mehuron, Associate Editor

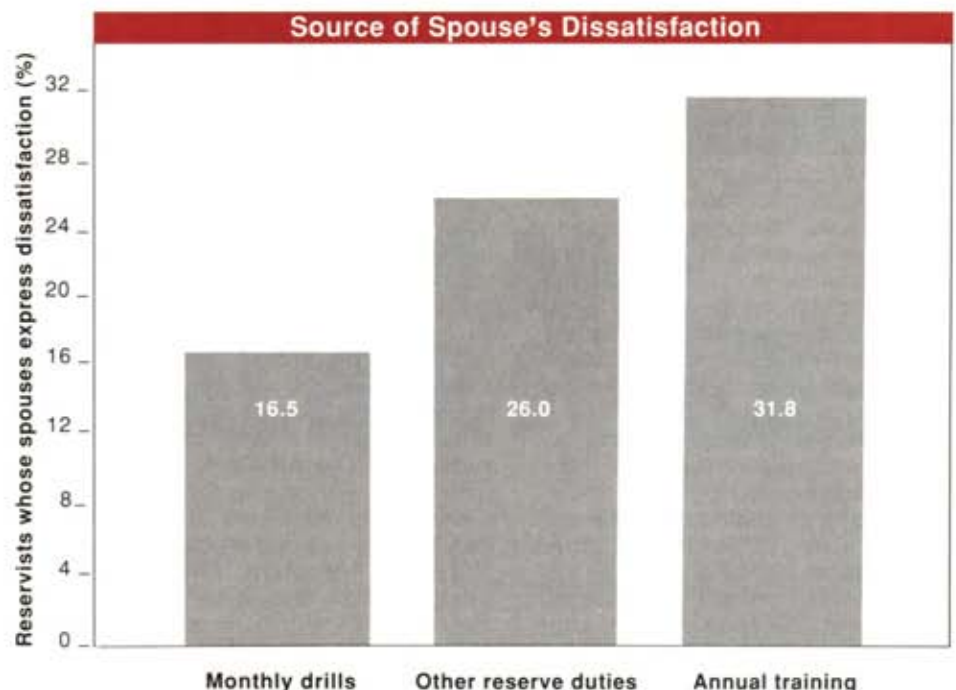
Reserve Reenlistment: The Spouse Factor



The US armed forces will rely increasingly on its reserve forces, comprising large numbers of reservists with ten to twenty years of service. As these reservists retire, the military faces the challenge of maintaining experience levels. The military must keep reenlistments high among those with four to twelve years of service.

A recent RAND Corp. study examined why reservists with four to six years of service often chose not to reenlist. They cited a spouse's negative attitude toward reserve duty as the primary non-economic reason for not reenlisting (left).

Specific complaints centered on the requirements of annual training, monthly drills, and other duties. Annual training requires a two-week absence from family. In addition, annual training's net reserve pay is much less than that for drills.



Source: RAND Corp., "Factors Affecting Reenlistment of Reservists," 1992.