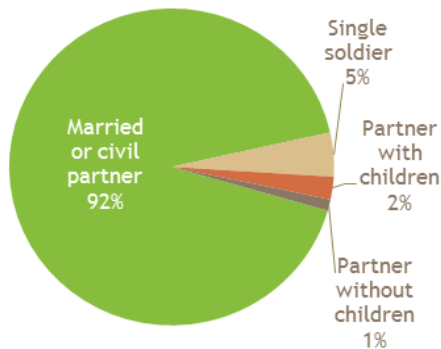


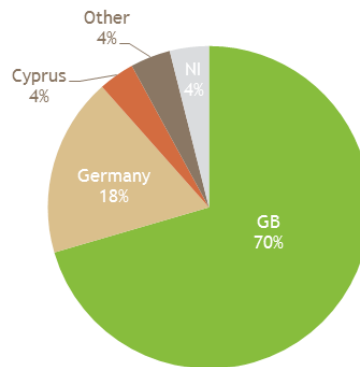
AFF's Housing Survey 2011 was conducted to inform and provide evidence to the Future Accommodation Project (FAP) team. The same survey was also conducted across all three Families Federations to provide the FAP with tri-Service opinion, whilst highlighting Service differences in order to ensure distinct needs are taken into consideration.

The online survey ran from 1 July - 31 August and was open to all Army personnel, single and married and cohabiting families. A total of 3,306 people completed the survey. Housing continues to be AFF's most reported issue; we also know from previous surveys (AFF Grab 2010) that 71% of families would consider leaving the Army if Service Families Accommodation (SFA) was no longer available.

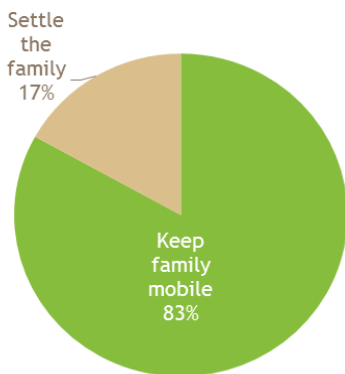
Are you:



Which area do you live in?



Given the choice would you prefer to?



The message from families and Service personnel (some of whom are not yet in SFA) is clear, the majority want to live with their family and not be subjected to weekly commuting. Whilst 83% of Army families want to keep the family 'mobile' and together, this compares with only 37% of Naval families, who we know have become used to continuous postings in one location

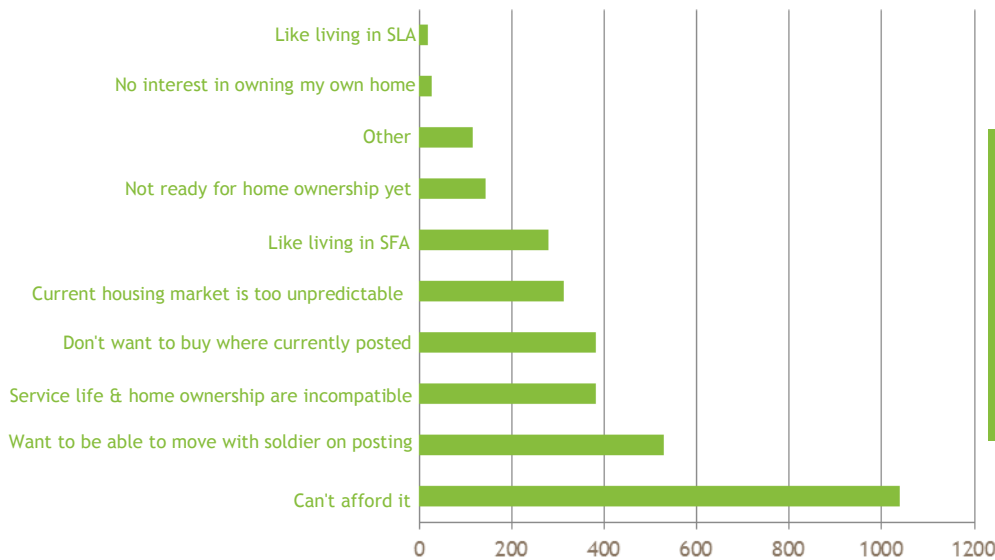
Army families' preference for mobile accompanied service is clear - 83% want to keep their family mobile so that they can serve accompanied.

Homeownership

AFF knows that asking the question 'Do you want to own your own home', is disingenuous as most people would answer 'yes' regardless of whether they can afford to or whether they would actually be buying it to live in or as an investment.

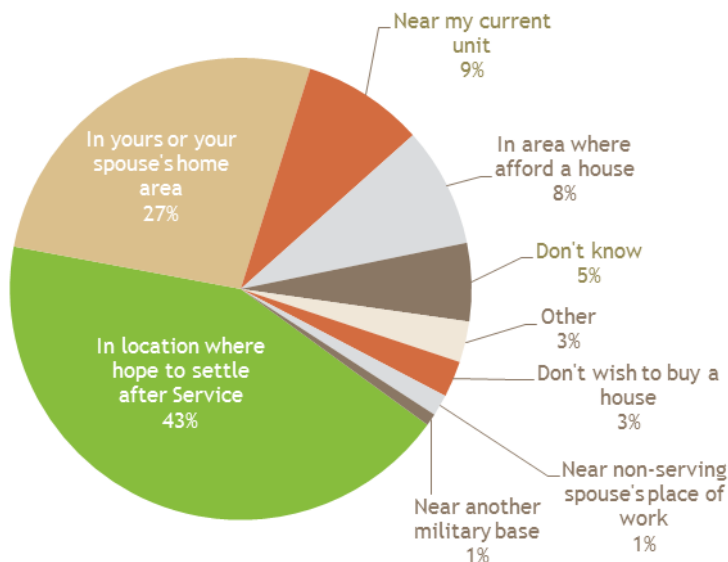
House ownership was important to 79% of respondents but the majority had bought because they either wanted to 'get a foot on the housing ladder' or as an investment. Only 24% had bought their property to provide stability for their family.

Why do you not own your own property?



The majority of our respondents said that they could not afford to buy their own home and other answers suggested a strong interest in accompanied service

If you do not currently own a property but were to buy your own home, where would you buy?

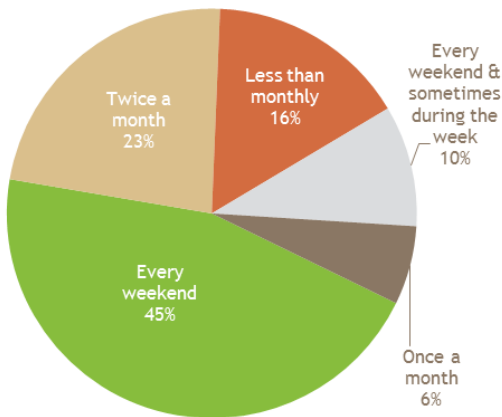


Buying a property near the soldier's current unit does not seem to be a reason for buying a property - only 9% of respondents said that they would wish to buy a property near their current unit

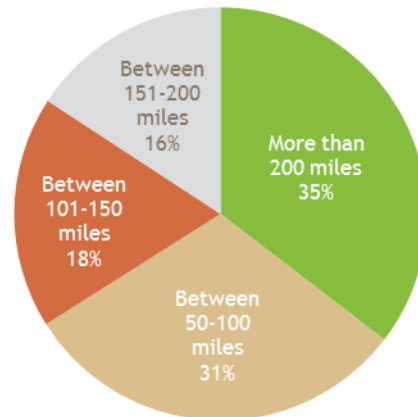
Serving married unaccompanied

AFF knows that serving married unaccompanied is not a popular choice and is potentially harmful to relationships. 48% of those who had served unaccompanied stated that it had harmed or significantly harmed their relationship and less than half of respondents were able to get home every weekend.

How often do you get home?



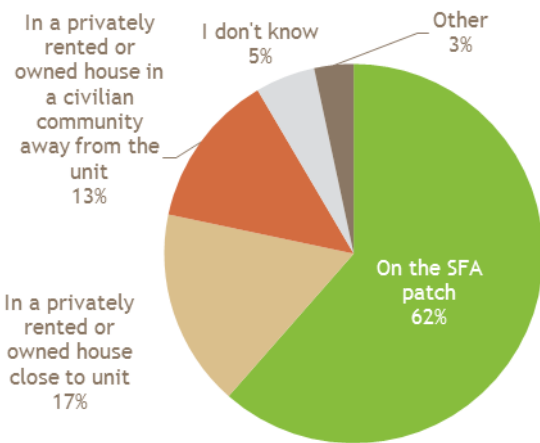
How far do they have to travel to get back to the family home?



The cost of weekly commuting is also likely to be prohibitive to soldiers and their families

These results are surprising in terms of personal cost to the soldier and the cost of the associated allowances

Given the choice where would you prefer to live?



When asked whether SFA should only be available for a limited period of time, a staggering 89% of respondents think that it should be available for the whole length of service. When asked what the impact of reduced SFA availability would be, only 1% believed that the money would be better invested elsewhere

As well as wanting to live with the serving soldier, 62% of respondents would prefer to live on a SFA patch.

AFF's View

The fiscal demands of the Treasury may well be for a reduction in the reliance of SFA but the overwhelming evidence from AFF's Housing Survey demonstrates a huge gulf between the desire to get families out of SFA and the wants and needs of those families. The evidence that AFF has collected continues to strengthen the argument for the retention of SFA to safeguard unit cohesion, support the moral component of fighting power and ensure that families continue to support their soldier's career in the Army. There is a vast cultural challenge to convince families that stability, settling in one location, is a realistic option.