

Deployment raises divorce rates for military couples

Written by Australian Business

October 12, 2013 /**24-7PressRelease**/ -- Deployment raises divorce rates for military couples

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Many of the members of the armed forces have been forced to spend a significant amount of time away from home. Whether they are currently deployed overseas or at a base in the United States, it is very difficult to be away from family and friends for such a long period of time.

Some of these soldiers are all-too-familiar with the challenges that can arise due to such extended absences. In many situations, those individuals who are married see their relationships starting to deteriorate. Because they are so far away from their loved ones, they are unable to give the marriage the attention that it needs at such a critical time, and end up deciding to file for divorce.

A recent study by the RAND Corporation in connection with the U.S. Department of Defense focused on military divorce rates for individuals who are deployed. The research noted that consecutive months of deployment increased divorce rates for both men and women serving in the military. Additionally, 97 percent of all military divorces occurred after a deployment ended.

For military members considering a divorce, there are many unique considerations that can arise during the process. Property division and child custody matters are complicated enough in civilian divorces, and when military members currently deployed are involved, it can be much more difficult to resolve.

Child custody is especially concerning, because when one of the parents is located in a different state or country, it can be hard to find an arrangement that allows this individual to retain an active role in the child's life. This can present many obstacles to the couple as they try to find an appropriate child custody agreement, and they need to be aware of their rights and obligations at this time.

When the attention turns to property division, they will frequently struggle with dividing the retirement accounts of the service member. Texas applies community property laws during this stage of the process, which means that property that was acquired during the marriage is deemed to be owned by both parties. This includes any retirement assets accumulated during

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the marriage.

If you have questions about your divorce, it is extremely important to speak to a family law attorney experienced with handling issues connected to military service. While it can be difficult to focus on these matters if you are currently deployed or away from home, you need to understand how the decisions that you are making at this time will impact your future.

An attorney can answer the questions that you may have, and also allow you to work toward an agreement that protects your best interests. Do not let the emotions that often accompany a divorce force you into making a bad decision. Take the time to learn about the options that are available for your situation, and make the choices that will be best for you and your family.