**National Association for Uniformed Services**

**Military Divorce Rate Continues to Climb**

**The divorce rate in the armed forces continues to grow, despite efforts by the military to help struggling couples.**

**The Pentagon recently reported there were an estimated 27,312 divorces among roughly 765,000 married members of the active-duty Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps in fiscal year 2009.**

**That's a divorce rate of about 3.6 percent, compared with 3.4 percent a year earlier, according to figures from the Defense Manpower Data Center.  Marriages among reservists failed at a rate of 2.8 percent compared to 2.7 the previous year.**

**The reported 3.6 percent rate is a full percentage point above the 2.6 percent reported in late 2001, when the U.S. began sending troops to Afghanistan in response to the Sept 11 terrorist attacks.**

**As in previous years, women in uniform suffered much higher divorce rates than their male counterparts: 7.7 percent compared to 3 percent for men in 2009.**

**The only comparable measure for civilian divorce rates is what the Centers for Disease Control said in 2005 that 43 percent of all first marriages end in divorce within 10 years.**

**Critics believe that the divorce rate reported by the Pentagon comes nowhere close to depicting the damage done to marriages and families by the two ongoing wars.**

**The Pentagon number doesn't count veterans, who divorce after leaving the services, let alone reflect other possible wartime consequences on families, such as increases in alcoholism or the toll on orphaned or emotionally stressed children of troops.**

**In an Army battlefield survey taken in Iraq in the spring, nearly 22 percent of young combat soldiers questioned said they planned to get a divorce or separation, compared to 12.4 percent in a survey conducted in 2003.**