This research involves analyzing a selection of about sixty blogs of mothers who have children in the military. Our purpose is to gain a better understanding as to how these women use blogging as a platform to share with others the difficulties of deployment, reach out to other mothers to form support networks, and how they use blogging as a coping mechanism to deal with their emotions during their child’s deployment.

In order to analyze and cross-examine these blogs we used a qualitative data analysis program, NVivo. All blogs were imported as PDF files in order to maintain the images and general design schemes of each blog. The most frequently coded attributes thus far have been discussions of emotions regarding their child's deployment such as anxiety and fear that their child is in harms way, discussions of how they provide their child with emotional and physical support, discussions of family difficulty as a result of their child’s deployment, general updates about how they keep in touch with their child and the use of various technology used to keep in touch, and discussion involving politics.

Thus far the blogs that have been analyzed do not show much conversation regarding politics, something that is inherently involved with war. The discussion of politics, or lack thereof, in these blogs is intriguing because it forces us to think about why these mothers avoid sparking political debate about the war on their blogs. Rather, they chose to either ignore discussion of politics all together, or approach with caution. The primary motivation for keeping these blogs is not to ignite discussion about the war, whether it is right or wrong that we are involved in one, or opinions about politicians.

One of the most frequently coded attributes thus far has been discussion about the use of technology. While blogging provides a platform for these women to get their voices heard, they also discuss the ways in which they and their children use technology to stay in touch. While blogs from five years ago primarily discuss keeping in touch with their children through email, instant messaging, and phone calls, blogs from the past year or so often talk about video chatting with their children. Nearly every blog researched thus far discusses the benefits of being able to not only hear, but also see their child on the computer screen. These mothers value the ways in which technology allows them to stay in contact with their child, especially since mailing packages and letters takes weeks if not months to arrive. The use of technology has transformed the ways in which these mothers deal with their children’s involvement in the military and stay in touch with them while they are serving.

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