

Military Culture



Who is the Military?

Army –
Soldier



Navy –
Sailor



IT'S NOT JUST A JOB

Marine



Air Force –
Airman



IT'S A WAY OF LIFE

Coast Guard
Guardian



Active Duty vs. Reserve Component

Active Duty

- Always on Active Duty
- Always Federal
- Lives on or near military base
- Most medical care through military
- Deploy as a unit
- Family deeply entrenched in the military culture

Reserve Component

- Sometimes on Active Duty
- Sometimes federalized
- Lives in home community
- Most medical care through the community
- May deploy individually
- Family not necessarily entrenched in military culture

Military Structure

- **Military Rank/Chain of Command:** Officer, Warrant Officer, Enlisted/NCO



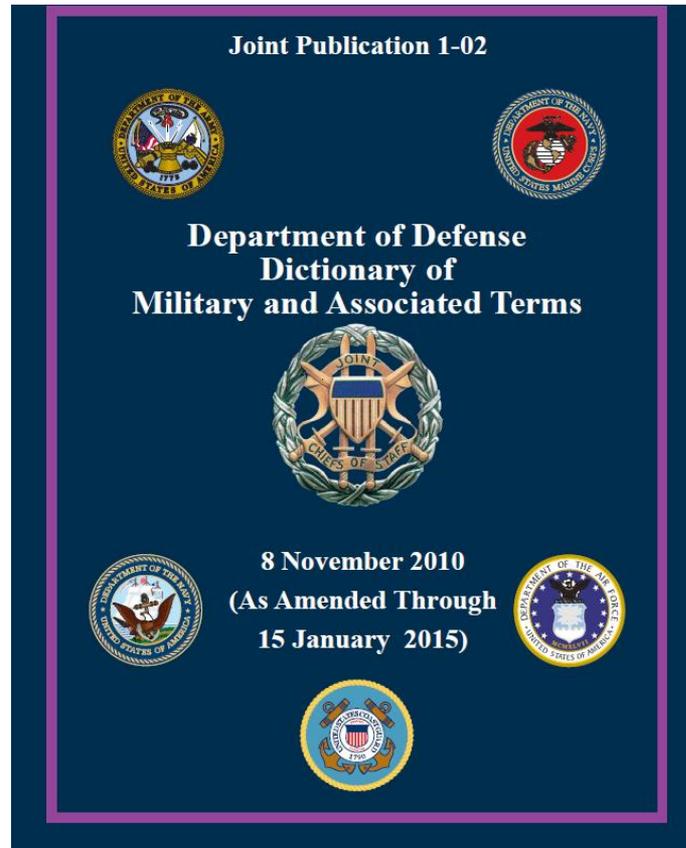
- **Specialty:** MOS, AFSC, Navy Ratings
- **Unique Identifiers:** All Insignia, Dog Tags, Customs and Courtesies



Military Terms

The military has its own special language.

Brass
Bulkhead
Porthole
Deck
Head
Chow
Leave
Cover
Wingman/Battle Buddy
Bullet Launcher
SITREP
AAR/Hotwash
Snuffy
Policing



Mandatory Fun
Hooah
Got your 6
Zero Dark Thirty
Dark Ugly
Roger
John Wayne
Top/Shirt
Louie
Weekend Warrior
SNAFU
Stand-by
Down Range

Common Acronyms & Terms

- OIF – Operation Iraqi Freedom
- OEF – Operation Enduring Freedom
- OND – Operation New Dawn
- GWOT – Global War on Terrorism
- UCMJ – United Code of Military Justice
- IED – Improvised Explosive Device
- ROE – Rules of Engagement
- DD214 – Discharge document from AD
- RC – Reserve Component
- AD – Active Duty
- Blue Star Mom
- Gold Star Family



THE AIRMAN'S CREED

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN
I AM A WARRIOR
I HAVE ANSWERED MY NATION'S CALL
I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN
MY MISSION IS TO FLY, FIGHT AND WIN
I AM FAITHFUL TO A PROUD HERITAGE,
A TRADITION OF HONOR,
AND A LEGACY OF VALOR
I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN
GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE,
MY NATION'S SWORD AND SHIELD,
ITS SENTRY AND AVENGER
I DEFEND MY COUNTRY WITH MY LIFE
I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN
WINGMAN, LEADER, WARRIOR
I WILL NEVER LEAVE AN AIRMAN BEHIND
I WILL NEVER FALTER
AND I WILL NOT FAIL



U.S. ARMY

The Soldiers Creed

I am an American Soldier.

I am a Warrior and a member of a team. I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills. I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.

Core Values, Beliefs & Norms

- **Core Values**

- **Army:** Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, Personal Courage
- **Navy and Marine Corps:** Honor, Courage, Commitment
- **Air Force:** Integrity, Service before Self, Excellence
- **Coast Guard:** Honor, Respect, Devotion to Duty

- **Common Beliefs & Norms:**

- We are the Defenders of Democracy
- Self is replaced by Team
- The *team* is a family system
- Responsibilities are clearly understood
- We *ARE* Resilient
- We rely on each other & have each others backs
- We don't want to disappoint or let the team down



Who has deployed

- 35% - Non-white
- 10%+ - are Women
- 25% - 40 or older
- 50% North – 50% Southerners
- 1/3 have a college degree
- 60% live in non-urban area
- Iraq
 - >80% - at least one tour in Iraq or in support of that war.
 - 47% of those had multiple deployment
 - 29% - two years in Iraq
- Afghanistan
 - 29% - 2 or more tours.
 - 16% - 2+ years there
- Not Iraq or Afghanistan
 - Hundreds of thousands did not serve in Iraq or Afghanistan but worked in support of operations in those nations from bases and ships in the Middle East and South Asia.
 - Those deployments often were arduous and risky and involved separation from families.

2.7 million
Post-9/11 Veterans

Deployment Cycle

Methodology for organizing, training, equipping, and sustaining rapidly responsive forces to meet the defense strategy requirements



Predictability

Warfighter Support

I left the military....

But the military never left me

A Strength in the Military can be a Challenge at Home

Military / Combat	Home / Civilian Life
No one except your buddies understand	Prefer to be with your buddies
Maintain control of weapon and gear	Someone moves or messes with MY stuff
Controlling your emotions, critical for mission success	Failing to display emotions around family and friends hurts your relationships. Seen as uncaring and detached
Discipline and obeying orders – survival depends on it.	There is no clear chain of command with family and friends
Split second decisions that are lethal – kill or be killed. Anger / aggression pumps you up.	May display hostility towards others. Overreact to minor insults.

Truths....

- Most deployed veterans will *not* develop a mental illness or suffer a brain injury but all who deploy and their families face important readjustment challenges.
- Veterans and families need to retain/regain a healthy balance despite the stress of deployment.
- Most Americans are isolated from deployments.
- Families are often invisible.
- Reality: everybody makes changes; the trick is to reconnect again..

Cultural Awareness Pitfalls

What you say and how you say it makes a difference

- I don't care if you're worried about passing your fitness test. You have to keep off your foot.
- Can't you just ask your supervisor to limit your duty time?
- What difference does it make if you don't deploy with your company?
- Did you kill anyone?
- No, we have to put you on non-deployment status. Look I don't see what the problem is. It's more important to take care of yourself than it is to deploy.
- But wouldn't you rather be discharged than have to go back over there?

Transition is difficult: many feel like they don't belong



- Every Warrior will transition in their own way
- No two deployments are the same
- Aggregate Effect
- Not All Veterans are in crisis
- Not All Veterans have served in combat
- You don't have to be in combat to have PTSD
- Veterans are NOT always angry
- Veterans are NOT just men

**We spend a lot of time taking the civilian out of the soldier.
We don't spend a lot of time putting the civilian back in.**



USING YOUR GI BILL

EXACTLY HOW IT FEELS

"Our work is appreciated, of that I am certain, There isn't a town or a city I visit where people do not convey to me their great pride in what we do."

"But I fear they do not know us. I fear they do not comprehend the full weight of the burden we carry or the price we pay when we return from battle"

Admiral Mike Mullen, CJCS, 2007-2011



2016 DEMOGRAPHICS PROFILE

ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS

Nearly 1.3 million active duty members serve in the four military Service branches: Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force. These members are an important part of the military community.



1.3 Million Active Duty Members



17.7% Officers



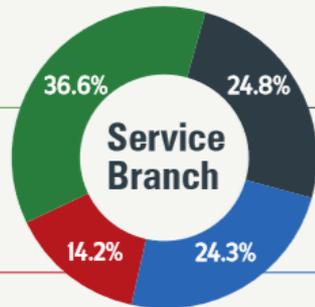
82.3% Enlisted

Army:
471,271 members

Navy:
320,101 members

Marine Corps:
313,723 members

Air Force:
183,501 members



Geographic Location

United States or U.S. Territories: **88.0%**

Europe: **5.1%**

Western Hemisphere outside U.S.: **0.2%**

East Asia: **5.0%**

Other/Unknown/ Ships Afloat: **1.1%**

North Africa: **0.5%**



Source: 2016 Demographics Profile of the Military Community (Department of Defense)
<http://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/2016-Demographics-Report.pdf>

Gender



Race/Ethnicity

31.4% of AD force Racial Minority*

15.0% of AD force Hispanic or Latino

*Racial minority includes Black or African American, Asian, American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Multi-racial, and Other/Unknown

Marital Status

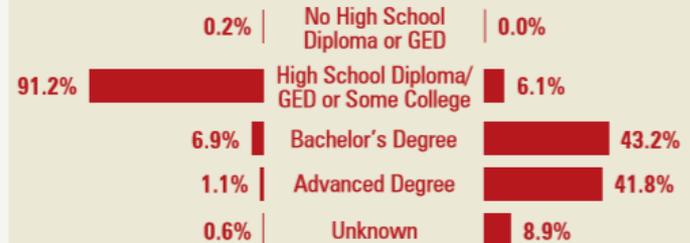


53.5% Married Active duty members

Education

1,060,141 Enlisted

228,455 Officers



Age





2016 DEMOGRAPHICS PROFILE

SELECTED RESERVE MEMBERS

More than 818 thousand Selected Reserve members serve in the six Department of Defense and one Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Reserve components: Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, and DHS's Coast Guard Reserve. These members are an important part of the military community.



818,305 Selected Reserve Members



16.1% Officers

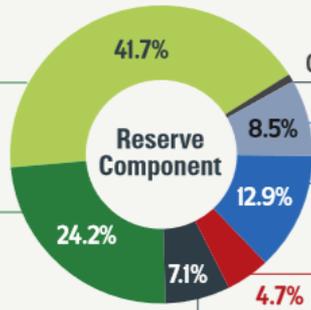


83.9% Enlisted

Army National Guard:
341,589 members

Army Reserve:
198,395 members

Navy Reserve:
57,980 members



Coast Guard Reserve:
6,573 members

Air Force Reserve:
69,364 members

Air National Guard:
105,887 members

Marine Corps Reserve:
38,517 members

Geographic Location

United States or
U.S. Territories: **98.9%**

Other/Unknown/
Ships Afloat: **0.7%**



Europe: **0.2%**

East Asia: **0.1%**

North Africa: **0.1%**

Note: Data presented here are based on Selected Reserve members who train throughout the year and participate annually in active duty training exercises.

Source: 2016 Demographics Profile of the Military Community (Department of Defense)

<http://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/2016-Demographics-Report.pdf>

Gender



80.7%
MEN



19.3%
WOMEN

Race/Ethnicity

26.1% of Selected
Reserve force

Racial Minority*

11.2% of Selected
Reserve force

Hispanic or Latino

*Racial minority includes Black or African American, Asian, American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Multi-racial, and Other/Unknown

Marital Status



44.5% Married
Selected Reserve members

Education

686,560 Enlisted

131,745 Officers

2.2%

No High School
Diploma or GED

0.0%

86.0%

High School Diploma/
GED or Some College

8.6%

9.5%

Bachelor's Degree

51.6%

1.8%

Advanced Degree

35.9%

0.4%

Unknown

3.9%

Age

25 years or younger **33.0%**

26 to 30 years **19.7%**

31 to 35 years **15.9%**

36 to 40 years **11.3%**

41 years or older **20.1%**

Nebraska's Military & Veteran Footprint

- 133,003 Veterans – 9.5% of Adult Population
 - 11,823 Women / 121,180 Men
 - 47% – 65+; 37% - 40-64; 16% - under 40
 - 11% - Retired Military
- Military Presence in 23 Communities
 - Army National Guard - 25 Readiness Centers
 - Air National Guard – 2 Communities
 - US Army Reserve – 11 Communities
 - Air Force Reserve, US Marine Corp Reserve, Navy Reserve – 1 Community
 - Offutt Air Force Base & USSTRATCOM

Current Military – 11,895

**Do you ask your
student/client/patient/employee
if they, or someone close to
them serve or have served in
the military?**

QUESTIONS DISCUSSION

***Readying Nebraska communities to
serve the needs of our Veterans,
Service Members and their families.***



Teri Clark
402-904-7983
vetset@nalhd.org



Bonnie Bessler
402-309-1543
Bonnie.j.Bessler.ctr@mail.mil