



Service Members, Veterans, and their Families

Strategic Initiative #3: Military Families

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“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. This is important, because a people uninformed about what they are asking the military to endure is a people inevitably unable to fully grasp the scope of the responsibilities our Constitution levies upon them.”

Admiral Mike Mullen
(Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff)

United States Armed Forces

The United States Military:

- Strong tradition of civilian control of the military
- The President is the overall head of the military
- The Department of Defense (DoD):
 - A federal executive department responsible for military policy
 - Led by the Secretary of Defense, a civilian and member of the President's Cabinet; serves as second-in-command of the military
- National Security Council
 - Coordinates military action with diplomacy; headed by the National Security Advisor
- Joint Chiefs of Staff
 - Made up of 6 members of the 7 Uniformed services (The Commandant of the Coast Guard is not a member); includes the head of each DoD service branch
 - Advises the President and Secretary of Defense
 - Led by the Chairman of the Joint chiefs of Staff and the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

United States Armed Forces

- There are 7 uniformed services; 5 are armed services. The others are:
 - United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps
 - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Corps
- The 5 armed forces of the United States:
 - Army (Active, Guard and Reserve)
 - Navy (Active and Reserve)
 - Marine Corps (Active and Reserve)
 - Air Force (Active, Guard and Reserve)
 - Coast Guard (Active and Reserve)

Difference Between Active and Guard/Reserve

Active

- Full-time (24/7)
- Families move with member when not deployed
- Move every 3-5 years
- Free Full benefits (medical, dental, etc.)
- Full family support programs on-post

Guard / Reserve

- Part-time
 - One weekend a month / two weeks a year (unless deployed)
- Live in the community
- Limited medical or dental benefits through the military (w/cost)
- Can be recalled to active duty within 24 hours

Values in the Armed Forces

Army	Navy	Air Force (Core Values)	Marines
Loyalty	Honor	Integrity First	Honor
Duty	Courage	Service Before Self	Courage
Respect	Commitment	Excellence in All We Do	Commitment
Selfless Service			
Honor			
Integrity			
Personal Courage			

*All swear an oath to protect the “Constitution of the United States”

Typical Army Soldier

At 24 years of age, a Soldier, on average, has moved from home, family and friends and has resided in two other states; has traveled the world (deployed); been promoted four times; bought a car and wrecked it; married and had children; has had relationship and financial problems; seen death; is responsible for dozens of Soldiers; maintains millions of dollars worth of equipment; and gets paid less than \$40,000 a year.

Health & Behavioral Health Needs

- Address Reintegration Issues
 - Trauma
 - PTSD/TBI
 - Isolation
- Suicide prevention/prevention of homelessness
- Peer support
- Education
- Access to health care
- Fulfilling and secure employment
- VA/DoD/Community agencies

Typical School Barriers

- Not being able to relate to others in their class
 - Average Freshmen-18 yo / Vet Freshman – 22 yo
 - Vet had great responsibility
- Difficulty Concentrating
- PTSD / TBI
- Depression

Engage Individuals

- Initiate conversations-
 - In what branch of the armed forces did you serve
 - Where were you stationed
 - What was your military occupational specialty (MOS) / Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC)
 - Do you have any family or friends who are deployed?
 - Were you engaged in combat?

Resources

- SAMHSA's Military Families Strategic Initiative, Service Systems Development Program: <http://www.samhsa.gov/militaryFamilies/factSheet.aspx>
- Strengthening Our Military Families (Presidential Study Directive): http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2011/0111_initiative/Strengthening_our_Military_January_2011.pdf
- SAMHSA's Military Families Strategic Initiative #3: Military Families: <http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content//SMA11-4629/05-MilitaryFamilies.pdf>
- DCoE: <http://www.dcoe.health.mil/>
- After Deployment: <http://www.afterdeployment.org/>
- TriCare: <http://www.tricare.mil/providers/>
- Vet Success (VA): <http://vetsuccess.gov/>
- Operation Immersion: http://www.samhsa.gov/samhsanewsletter/Volume_18_Number_5/MilitaryImmersionTraining.aspx
- US Dept of Labor: <http://www.dol.gov/vets/>

Questions?

Thank You!