

VA BENEFITS ACTIVITY
VETERANS DEPLOYED TO THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR
VBA Data Through Dec 2013, DMDC Data Through Oct 2013

This report summarizes participation in VA benefits programs by veterans identified by the Department of Defense as having been deployed overseas in support of the Global War on Terror (GWOT) including Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF/OND). Information is included for the following VA programs: Compensation, Insurance, Home Loan Guaranty, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment.

It is important to understand that because many GWOT veterans had earlier periods of service, the benefits activity identified in this report could have occurred either prior to or subsequent to their GWOT deployment (or both).

Chart #1
GWOT Veterans by Branch of Service

Branch of Service	Reserve Guard	Active Duty	Total
Air Force	132,058	200,203	332,261
Army	495,548	485,218	980,766
Coast Guard	2,453	6,094	8,547
Marine Corps	48,478	204,680	253,158
Navy	50,083	266,599	316,682
Other	13	182	195
Unknown	2,426	4,390	6,816
Total matched to VA systems	731,059	1,167,366	1,898,425
Unable to match to VA systems	502	774	1,276
Total	731,561	1,168,140	1,899,701

Note: Veterans' branch of service was obtained from VA's BIRLS system, which stores information for up to three periods of service. The branch of service associated with the most recent service date was used for the chart above.

**Chart #2
Gender of GWOT Veterans**

Gender	Reserve Guard	Active Duty	Total
Female	85,737	150,390	236,127
Male	641,700	1,011,567	1,653,267
Unknown	3,622	5,409	9,031
Total matched to VA systems	731,059	1,167,366	1,898,425
Unable to match to VA systems	502	774	1,276
Total	731,561	1,168,140	1,899,701

**Chart #3
Age of GWOT Veterans**

Age Group	Reserve Guard	Active Duty	Total
Under 20	94	427	521
20 - 29	165,122	372,583	537,705
30 - 39	251,008	479,756	730,764
40 - 49	185,837	215,906	401,743
50 - 59	101,553	88,241	189,794
60 - 69	25,972	8,073	34,045
Unknown	1,473	2,380	3,853
Total matched to VA systems	731,059	1,167,366	1,898,425
Unable to match to VA systems	502	774	1,276
Total	731,561	1,168,140	1,899,701

Note: Veterans' ages are calculated in whole years based on the date of birth in the BIRLS system. Any veteran with a missing or invalid date of birth, or where the calculated age was under 17 years or over 69 years, was placed in the "Unknown" age group.

**Chart #4
Average Age of GWOT Veterans**

	Reserve Guard	Active Duty
Average Age	38.6 years	34.8 years

**Chart #5
Average Length of Service for GWOT Veterans**

	Reserve Guard	Active Duty
Average Length of Service	3.8 years	9.4 years

Service-Connected Disability Compensation Program

VBA's computer systems do not contain any data that would allow us to attribute veterans' disabilities to a specific period of service or deployment. We are therefore only able to identify GWOT veterans who filed disability compensation claim at some point either prior to or following their GWOT deployment. We are not able to identify which of these veterans filed a claim for disabilities incurred during their actual overseas GWOT deployment.

Many veterans file disability compensation claims for more than one condition. The table below provides information on individual GWOT veterans, not specific claimed disabilities.

Individuals included in the category "Veterans Awarded Service-Connection" are those veterans who have at least one condition that meets eligibility requirements for service connection under VA statutes and regulations. For veterans who filed a claim for more than one condition, this category contains veterans with a full grant of all conditions as well as veterans with a combination of disabilities granted and denied.

If none of a GWOT veteran's claimed conditions meet eligibility requirements under VA statutes and regulations, these individuals are included in the category "Veterans Denied Service-Connection."

Chart #6
C&P Activity Among GWOT Veterans
(Includes claims filed both prior to and following GWOT deployment)

Category	Reserves Guard	Active Duty	Total
Total GWOT Veterans	731,561	1,168,140	1,899,701
Living GWOT Veterans	721,863	1,150,110	1,871,973
GWOT In-Service Deaths	1,060	4,776	5,836
GWOT Post Service Deaths	8,638	13,254	21,892
Total GWOT Veterans with Claims Decisions	224,577	633,352	857,929
<i>Veterans Awarded Service-Connection</i>	<i>215,665</i>	<i>627,274</i>	<i>842,939</i>
<i>Veterans Receiving Compensation*</i>	<i>196,015</i>	<i>588,727</i>	<i>784,742</i>
<i>Veterans Denied Service-Connection</i>	<i>8,912</i>	<i>6,078</i>	<i>14,990</i>
Veterans with Pending Claims	48,795	113,271	162,066
<i>Veterans with Pending Reopened Claims</i>	<i>24,444</i>	<i>55,048</i>	<i>79,492</i>
<i>Pending from First-Time Claimants</i>	<i>24,351</i>	<i>58,223</i>	<i>82,574</i>
Total GWOT Veterans Filing Disability Claims**	248,928	691,575	940,503

*Subset of "Veterans Awarded Service-Connection" category

** Includes "Total GWOT Veterans with Claims Decisions" and "Pending from First-Time Claimants."

Disabilities are evaluated according to VA regulations, and the extent of the disability is expressed as a percentage from zero percent to 100 percent disabling, in increments of 10 percent. Veterans with more than one service-connected disability receive a combined disability rating.

The chart below includes GWOT veterans awarded combined service-connected disability ratings from zero percent to 100 percent, regardless of whether the veteran receives monetary compensation.

Chart #7
GWOT Veterans Awarded Service-Connection
(by Combined Degree of Disability)

Combined Degree	Reserves Guard	Active Duty	Total
0	19,650	38,547	58,197
10	37,757	69,764	107,521
20	21,329	54,500	75,829
30	21,312	63,846	85,158
40	21,262	66,086	87,348
50	15,188	52,331	67,519
60	20,627	74,456	95,083
70	17,941	62,989	80,930
80	16,714	64,731	81,445
90	10,985	43,469	54,454
100	12,900	36,555	49,455
Total	215,665	627,274	842,939

Note: Previous versions of this chart provided counts based on a veteran's highest combined rating. Beginning in July 2008, counts are based on the current combined evaluation.

Chart #8
Ten Most Frequent Service-Connected Disabilities for GWOT Veterans
(Both Active Duty and Reserve/Guard)

Diagnostic Code	Diagnosis Description	Count
6260	Tinnitus	355,498
5237	Lumbosacral Or Cervical Strain	230,466
9411	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	212,485
5260	Limitation Of Flexion Of Leg	179,896
8100	Migraine	154,634
5242	Degenerative Arthritis Of The Spine	149,363
7805	Scars, Other	137,859
5271	Limited Motion Of The Ankle	130,584
6100	Defective Hearing	126,115
7101	Hypertensive Vascular Disease (Essential Arterial Hypertension)	112,007

Insurance Program Traumatic Injury Benefit

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection (TSGLI) is a rider under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) that provides for payment to any member of the uniformed services covered by SGLI who sustains a traumatic injury that results in certain severe losses. Through July 31, 2013, 22,720 active duty service members and veterans have applied for TSGLI. Of those, GWOT veterans filed 16,900 claims and 10,487 of those received benefits.

Chart #9a
GWOT Veterans Who Applied for TSGLI Benefits
(by Age)

Age Group	Reserves Guard	Active Duty	Total
Under 20	-	6	6
20 - 29	663	4,601	5,264
30 - 39	1,642	5,137	6,779
40 - 49	1,633	1,860	3,493
50 - 59	883	269	1,152
60 - 69	182	14	196
Unknown A	1	9	10
Veteran Total A	5,004	11,896	16,900

Note: The totals above reflect veterans, whose claims have been approved or denied.

Chart #9b
GWOT Veterans Who Received TSGLI Benefits
(by Age)

Age Group	Reserves Guard	Active Duty	Total
Under 20	-	5	5
20 - 29	450	3,502	3,952
30 - 39	967	3,327	4,294
40 - 49	693	1,050	1,743
50 - 59	294	134	428
60 - 69	55	2	57
Unknown A	-	8	8
Veteran Total A	2,459	8,028	10,487

**Chart #10a
GWOT Veterans Who Applied for TSGLI Benefits
(by Gender)**

Gender	Reserve Guard	Active Duty	Total
Female	312	462	774
Male	4,686	11,412	16,098
Unknown	6	22	28
Total	5,004	11,896	16,900

Note: The totals above reflect veterans, whose claims have been approved or denied.

**Chart #10b
GWOT Veterans Who Received TSGLI Benefits
(by Gender)**

Gender	Reserve Guard	Active Duty	Total
Female	121	223	344
Male	2,335	7,786	10,121
Unknown	3	19	22
Total	2,459	8,028	10,487

Home Loan Guaranty Program

VA's home loan guaranty program has been helping veterans purchase homes for more than 60 years. VA guaranteed home loans are made by banks and mortgage companies to veterans, servicemembers and eligible reservists. With VA backing a portion of the loan, veterans can receive a competitive interest rate without a downpayment, making it easier to buy a home.

This benefit can be used more than once if needed to 1) refinance an existing VA guaranteed loan at a lower interest rate or 2) to purchase a home that will again be used as the person's primary residence (eligible to do this normally after paying off any previous loans.)

Chart #11
Home Loan Guaranty Program Participation by GWOT Veterans

	Reserve Guard	Active Duty	Total
GWOT Veterans with VA Loans	250,825	409,569	660,394
Total Loans Made to GWOT Veterans	441,271	754,186	1,195,457
Dollar Amount of All Loans to GWOT Veterans	\$71.7b	\$137b	\$208.7b

Education Programs

The chart below reflects participation by GWOT veterans in VA education benefit programs since September 11, 2001. Participants may have been entitled to more than one benefit. For example, a reservist may have received Chapter 1606 benefits until he or she became eligible to receive Chapter 1607 benefits. This participant would be reported in both columns in the chart below.

Chart #12*
Education Program Participation Among GWOT Veterans
Since September 11, 2001

Type of Training	Chapter 33	Chapter 30	Chapter 1606	Chapter 1607	Total
Graduate	84,014	33,345	11,166	10,080	138,605
Under Graduate	333,061	173,764	129,163	53,229	689,217
Junior College	241,426	130,382	81,024	28,370	481,202
Non-college Degree	71,043	43,952	12,587	7,685	135,267
Total	729,544	381,443	233,940	99,364	1,444,291

***Note:** This data is based on DMDC separations through Sep 30, 2009, compared to VA records as of Dec 31, 2013.

The Post-9/11 GI-Bill (Chapter 33) provides financial support for education and housing to individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate service on or after September 11, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days. Veterans must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Montgomery GI Bill Active-Duty (Chapter 30) provides up to 36 months of education benefits for degree and certificate programs, flight training, apprenticeship/on-the-job training, and correspondence courses. Generally, benefits are payable for 10 years following release from active duty.

Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606) provides up to 36 months of education benefits to members of the reserve elements of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, and members of the Army National Guard, and the Air National Guard. This benefit may be used for degree and certificate programs, flight training, apprenticeship/on-the-job training, and correspondence courses. Benefits generally end the day a member separates from the Selected Reserve or National Guard. For those who are activated, eligibility is extended beyond separation for a period of time equal to time served on active duty plus four months.

Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) (Chapter 1607) provides educational assistance to members of the Reserve components called or ordered to active duty in response to a war or national emergency as declared by the President or Congress. This new program makes certain reservists who were activated for at least 90 days after September 11, 2001, eligible for education benefits or eligible for increased benefits.

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program - Chapter 31

Chart #13
VR&E Activity Among GWOT Veterans
 (Includes participation either prior to and following GWOT deployment)

Current Case Status	Reserves	Active Duty	Total
Applicant	895	2,907	3,802
Evaluation and Planning	1,957	6,658	8,615
Extended Evaluation	335	1,000	1,335
Independent Living	147	206	353
Rehabilitation to Employability	6,855	23,093	29,948
Employment Services	693	2,153	2,846
Interrupted	1,032	2,722	3,754
Unknown	106	117	223
Subtotal	12,020	38,856	50,876
Rehabilitated	4,561	13,319	17,880
Discontinued	1,799	5,515	7,314
Total	18,380	57,690	76,070

Chart #13a
VR&E Status By Disability Rating Among Service-Connected GWOT Veterans
 (Includes participation either prior to and/or following GWOT deployment)

Case Status	0%	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%	Totals
Applicant	188	192	207	329	392	308	507	503	506	361	309	3,802
Employment Services	9	53	148	291	325	293	436	359	423	305	204	2,846
Evaluation and Planning	921	158	346	580	766	730	1,029	1,001	1,182	1,028	874	8,615
Extended Evaluation	41	31	45	65	86	88	156	173	197	197	256	1,335
Independent Living	-	-	1	3	6	8	12	32	56	72	163	353
Interrupted	47	42	127	232	318	284	470	512	635	504	583	3,754
Rehabilitation to Employability	285	578	1,423	2,450	3,250	2,905	4,533	4,128	4,566	3,209	2,621	29,948
Unknown	34	29	14	18	15	9	24	19	22	20	19	223
Current Participants	1,525	1,083	2,311	3,968	5,158	4,625	7,167	6,727	7,587	5,696	5,029	50,876
Rehabilitated	23	284	1,203	1,855	2,152	1,816	2,605	2,246	2,384	1,676	1,636	17,880
Discontinued	22	116	456	615	690	624	931	926	1,136	816	982	7,314
Total VR&E Participants	1,570	1,483	3,970	6,438	8,000	7,065	10,703	9,899	11,107	8,188	7,647	76,070

Chart #13b
VR&E Activity Among Service-Connected GWOT Veterans
(Enrolled in Chapter 31)

Combined Degree	Total	VR&E Participants	% eligible who enrolled in VR&E
0%	58,197	1,570	2.7%
10%	107,521	1,483	1.4%
20%	75,829	3,970	5.2%
30%	85,158	6,438	7.6%
40%	87,348	8,000	9.2%
50%	67,519	7,065	10.5%
60%	95,083	10,703	11.3%
70%	80,930	9,899	12.2%
80%	81,445	11,107	13.6%
90%	54,454	8,188	15.0%
100%	49,455	7,647	15.5%
Total	842,939	76,070	9.0%

Note: Veterans rated 0% are not typically eligible but may receive services if they are enrolled at 10% or higher and rating is subsequently reduced.

Applicant: A veteran's case is assigned to applicant status when the VA receives an application (VAF-1900) for services under Chapter 31.

Employment Services: Services to assist in obtaining and/or maintaining suitable employment.

Evaluation and Planning: Determination of feasibility of a vocational goal and/or evaluation of the veteran's ability to function independently within the veteran's family and community.

Extended Evaluation: Determine the current feasibility of the veteran with a serious employment handicap to achieve a vocational goal.

Rehabilitation to Employability: Services and training necessary for entry into employment in an identified suitable occupational objective.

Independent Living Program: Services that are needed to enable a veteran to achieve maximum independence in daily living, including home accommodations, counseling, and educational services, as determined necessary.

Rehabilitated: The goals of a rehabilitation/employment/independent living program have been substantially achieved.

Interrupted: Temporary suspension of the program warranted due to a veteran's individual circumstances.

Discontinued: All services and benefits are terminated.

Serious Employment Handicap: A significant impairment of a veteran's ability to prepare for, obtain, or maintain employment, as determined by a VA counselor.

Sources

DoD:

- Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) East, cumulative count of service members deployed to OIF/OEF/OND, from September 11, 2001 through Oct 31, 2013.
- DMDC West, extract of OIF/OEF/OND service members discharged to civilian status from September 11, 2001 through Oct 31, 2013.

VBA:

- Beneficiary Identification and Records Locator Subsystem (BIRLS), as of Dec 31, 2013.
- Corporate records as of Dec 31, 2013.
- Pending Issue File (PIF), as of the close of business on Dec 31, 2013
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service Chapter 31 file, as of Dec 31, 2013.
- Loan Guaranty data, as of Dec 31, 2013.
- TSGLI file, as of July 31, 2013.
- Education Service data, as of Dec 31, 2013.

Questions

Questions may be referred to Vesta Gueschkova in the Office of Performance Analysis and Integrity at (202) 461-9757.