

**VA BENEFITS ACTIVITY**  
**VETERANS DEPLOYED TO THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR**  
**VBA Data Through Sep 2014, DMDC Data Through Jun 2014**

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	137,827	216,276	354,103
Army	506,406	521,167	1,027,573
Coast Guard	2,491	6,507	8,998
Marine Corps	49,274	218,312	267,586
Navy	52,532	279,980	332,512
Other	13	193	206
Unknown	2,329	4,478	6,807
Total matched to VA systems	750,872	1,246,913	1,997,785
Unable to match to VA systems	494	778	1,272
<b>Total</b>	<b>751,366</b>	<b>1,247,691</b>	<b>1,999,057</b>

**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**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Reserve Guard</b>	<b>Active Duty</b>	<b>Total</b>
Female	89,124	160,802	249,926
Male	658,194	1,080,721	1,738,915
Unknown	3,554	5,390	8,944
Total matched to VA systems	750,872	1,246,913	1,997,785
Unable to match to VA systems	494	778	1,272
<b>Total</b>	<b>751,366</b>	<b>1,247,691</b>	<b>1,999,057</b>

**Chart #3  
Age of GWOT Veterans**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Reserve Guard</b>	<b>Active Duty</b>	<b>Total</b>
Under 20	61	421	482
20 - 29	151,912	359,988	511,900
30 - 39	267,517	539,949	807,466
40 - 49	188,049	229,246	417,295
50 - 59	112,205	104,966	217,171
60 - 69	29,352	9,942	39,294
Unknown	1,776	2,401	4,177
Total matched to VA systems	750,872	1,246,913	1,997,785
Unable to match to VA systems	494	778	1,272
<b>Total</b>	<b>751,366</b>	<b>1,247,691</b>	<b>1,999,057</b>

**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**

	<b>Reserve Guard</b>	<b>Active Duty</b>
Average Age	39.2 years	35.3 years

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

	<b>Reserve Guard</b>	<b>Active Duty</b>
Average Length of Service	3.9 years	9.5 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)**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Reserves Guard</b>	<b>Active Duty</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Total GWOT Veterans</b>	<b>751,366</b>	<b>1,247,691</b>	<b>1,999,057</b>
Living GWOT Veterans	740,288	1,227,229	1,967,517
GWOT In-Service Deaths	1,064	4,806	5,870
GWOT Post Service Deaths	10,014	15,656	25,670
<b>Total GWOT Veterans with Claims Decisions</b>	<b>244,283</b>	<b>705,506</b>	<b>949,789</b>
Veterans Awarded Service-Connection	235,722	699,589	935,311
Veterans Receiving Compensation	215,964	659,534	875,498
Veterans Denied Service-Connection	8,561	5,917	14,478
<b>Veterans with Pending Claims</b>	<b>40,054</b>	<b>90,031</b>	<b>130,085</b>
Veterans with Pending Reopened Claims	13,917	34,962	48,879
<b>Pending from First-Time Claimants</b>	<b>26,137</b>	<b>55,069</b>	<b>81,206</b>
<b>Total GWOT Veterans Filing Disability Claims*</b>	<b>270,420</b>	<b>760,575</b>	<b>1,030,995</b>

\* 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)**

<b>Combined Degree</b>	<b>Reserves Guard</b>	<b>Active Duty</b>	<b>Total</b>
0	19,758	40,055	59,813
10	38,990	73,012	112,002
20	21,916	56,814	78,730
30	22,274	67,317	89,591
40	22,389	70,520	92,909
50	16,707	57,281	73,988
60	23,014	83,046	106,060
70	20,879	72,427	93,306
80	19,888	76,549	96,437
90	13,679	54,567	68,246
100	16,228	48,001	64,229
<b>Total</b>	<b>235,722</b>	<b>699,589</b>	<b>935,311</b>

**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)**

<b>Diagnostic Code</b>	<b>Diagnosis Description</b>	<b>Count</b>
6260	Tinnitus	407,896
5237	Lumbosacral Or Cervical Strain	265,972
9411	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	249,139
5260	Limitation Of Flexion Of Leg	209,808
8100	Migraine	182,013
7805	Scars, Other	166,550
5242	Degenerative Arthritis Of The Spine	161,231
5271	Limited Motion Of The Ankle	151,275
6100	Defective Hearing	141,139
6847	Sleep Apnea Syndromes (Obstructive, Central, Mixed)	128,852

## **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 17,501 claims and 10,920 of those received benefits.

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

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Reserves Guard</b>	<b>Active Duty</b>	<b>Total</b>
Under 20	-	6	6
20 - 29	537	4,096	4,633
30 - 39	1,678	5,906	7,584
40 - 49	1,616	2,117	3,733
50 - 59	977	328	1,305
60 - 69	213	19	232
70 and Above	-	-	-
Unknown Age	1	7	8
<b>Veteran Total Age</b>	<b>5,022</b>	<b>12,479</b>	<b>17,501</b>

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

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

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Reserves Guard</b>	<b>Active Duty</b>	<b>Total</b>
Under 20	-	5	5
20 - 29	363	3,171	3,534
30 - 39	1,006	3,886	4,892
40 - 49	706	1,212	1,918
50 - 59	331	165	496
60 - 69	64	4	68
Unknown Age	-	7	7
<b>Veteran Total Age</b>	<b>2,470</b>	<b>8,450</b>	<b>10,920</b>

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

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Reserve Guard</b>	<b>Active Duty</b>	<b>Total</b>
Female	313	492	805
Male	4,703	11,966	16,669
Unknown	6	21	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,022</b>	<b>12,479</b>	<b>17,501</b>

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

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

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Reserve Guard</b>	<b>Active Duty</b>	<b>Total</b>
Female	120	244	364
Male	2,347	8,189	10,536
Unknown	3	17	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,470</b>	<b>8,450</b>	<b>10,920</b>

## 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 down payment, 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**

	<b>Reserve Guard</b>	<b>Active Duty</b>	<b>Total</b>
GWOT Veterans with VA Loans	271,848	458,670	730,518
Total Loans Made to GWOT Veterans	<b>478,073</b>	<b>844,597</b>	<b>1,322,670</b>
<b>Dollar Amount of All Loans to GWOT Veterans</b>	\$79.68b	\$156.59b	\$236.27b

## 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	101,486	35,252	11,556	10,497	158,791
Under Graduate	388,696	179,164	133,764	54,923	756,547
Junior College	278,815	132,362	83,273	28,817	523,267
Non-college Degree	94,510	44,960	13,086	7,954	160,510
<b>Total</b>	<b>863,507</b>	<b>391,738</b>	<b>241,679</b>	<b>102,191</b>	<b>1,599,115</b>

**Note:** This data is based on DMDC separations through June 30, 2014, compared to VA records as of September 30, 2014.

**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)**

<b>Current Case Status</b>	<b>Reserve Guard</b>	<b>Active Duty</b>	<b>Total</b>
Applicant	908	3,178	4,086
Employment Services	853	2,713	3,566
Evaluation and Planning	1,745	6,142	7,887
Extended Evaluation	386	1,130	1,516
Independent Living	147	211	358
Interrupted	956	2,528	3,484
Rehabilitation to Employability	8,006	28,193	36,199
Unknown	109	75	184
<b>Current Participants</b>	<b>13,110</b>	<b>44,170</b>	<b>57,280</b>
Rehabilitated	5,380	15,917	21,297
Discontinued	2,150	6,576	8,726
<b>Total VR&amp;E Participants</b>	<b>20,640</b>	<b>66,663</b>	<b>87,303</b>

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

<b>Case Status</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Applicant	172	190	223	336	377	371	528	517	598	412	362	4,086
Employment Services	844	178	287	541	642	561	904	1,022	1,123	862	923	7,887
Evaluation and Planning	35	29	33	67	97	92	158	201	232	258	314	1,516
Extended Evaluation	2	1	1	1	6	8	11	29	54	86	159	358
Independent Living	305	664	1,580	2,706	3,477	3,317	5,194	4,981	5,761	4,466	3,748	36,199
Interrupted	10	64	171	311	372	366	518	519	563	372	300	3,566
Rehabilitation to Employability	14	40	128	205	278	228	423	465	596	469	638	3,484
Unknown	27	29	12	15	16	12	14	10	15	18	16	184
<b>Current Participants</b>	<b>1,409</b>	<b>1,195</b>	<b>2,435</b>	<b>4,182</b>	<b>5,265</b>	<b>4,955</b>	<b>7,750</b>	<b>7,744</b>	<b>8,942</b>	<b>6,943</b>	<b>6,460</b>	<b>57,280</b>
Rehabilitated	24	305	1,301	2,080	2,427	2,086	3,049	2,709	3,003	2,190	2,123	21,297
Discontinued	26	117	463	660	785	715	1,097	1,090	1,442	1,061	1,270	8,726
<b>Total VR&amp;E Participants</b>	<b>1,459</b>	<b>1,617</b>	<b>4,199</b>	<b>6,922</b>	<b>8,477</b>	<b>7,756</b>	<b>11,896</b>	<b>11,543</b>	<b>13,387</b>	<b>10,194</b>	<b>9,853</b>	<b>87,303</b>

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

<b>Combined Degree</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>VR&amp;E Participants</b>	<b>% eligible who enrolled in VR&amp;E</b>
0%	59,813	1,459	2.4%
10%	112,002	1,617	1.4%
20%	78,730	4,199	5.3%
30%	89,591	6,922	7.7%
40%	92,909	8,477	9.1%
50%	73,988	7,756	10.5%
60%	106,060	11,896	11.2%
70%	93,306	11,543	12.4%
80%	96,437	13,387	13.9%
90%	68,246	10,194	14.9%
100%	64,229	9,853	15.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>935,311</b>	<b>87,303</b>	<b>9.3%</b>

**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 June 30, 2014.
- DMDC West, extract of OIF/OEF/OND service members discharged to civilian status from September 11, 2001 through June 30, 2014.

### VBA:

- Beneficiary Identification and Records Locator Subsystem (BIRLS), as of September 30, 2014.
- Corporate records as of September 30, 2014.
- Pending Issue File (PIF), as of the close of business on September 30, 2014
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service Chapter 31 file, as of September 30, 2014.
- Loan Guaranty data, as of September 30, 2014.
- TSGLI file, as of July 31, 2013.
- Education Service data, as of October 2, 2014.

## Questions

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