

VA BENEFITS ACTIVITY VETERANS DEPLOYED TO THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

June 2007 Update

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 Terrorism (GWOT). Information is included for the following VA programs: Compensation, Insurance, Home Loan Guaranty, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment.

This update provides data on VA program participation for 720,499 GWOT veterans separated from military service through February 2007.

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	78,437	54,420	132,857
Army	250,104	139,072	389,176
Coast Guard	314	448	762
Marine Corps	25,429	62,759	88,188
Navy	20,765	82,908	103,673
Other	4	14	18
Unknown	2,147	1,878	4,025
Total matched to VA systems	377,200	341,499	718,699
Unable to match to VA systems	918	882	1,800
Total	378,118	342,381	720,499

Note: The veteran's 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	39,426	38,500	77,926
Male	334,702	300,110	634,812
Unknown	3,072	2,889	5,961
Total matched to VA systems	377,200	341,499	718,699
Unable to match to VA systems	918	882	1,800
Total	378,118	342,381	720,499

**Chart #3
Age of GWOT Veterans**

Age Group	Reserve Guard	Active Duty	Total
Under 20	149	262	411
20 - 29	128,903	226,847	355,750
30 - 39	112,927	61,883	174,810
40 - 49	97,830	45,114	142,944
50 - 59	32,814	6,033	38,847
60 -69	3,797	223	4,020
Unknown	780	1,137	1,917
Total matched to VA systems	377,200	341,499	718,699
Unable to match to VA systems	918	882	1,800
Total	378,118	342,381	720,499

Note: Veterans' ages are calculated as the number of whole years between the date of birth in the BIRLS system and February 28, 2007. 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	35.8 years	29.7 years

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

	Reserve Guard	Active Duty
Average Length of Service	3.6 years	7.5 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 a 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
Deployed Servicemembers	419,534	1,084,647	1,504,181
Total GWOT Veterans	378,118	342,381	720,499
Living GWOT Veterans	377,381	339,815	717,196
GWOT In-Service Deaths	737	2,566	3,303
Total GWOT Veterans with Claims Decisions	64,153	110,490	174,643
Veterans Awarded Service-Connection	54,166	103,172	157,338
Veterans Receiving Compensation	41,041	90,769	131,810
Veterans Denied Service-Connection	9,987	7,318	17,305
Veterans with Pending Claims (<i>as of 5-31-07</i>)	19,088	20,941	40,029
Veterans with Pending Reopened Claims	5,643	6,324	11,967
Pending from First-Time Claimants	13,445	14,617	28,062
Total GWOT Veterans Filing Disability Claims*	77,598	125,107	202,705

* 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%	10,334	11,351	21,685
10%	14,895	20,950	35,845
20%	7,886	15,520	23,406
30%	5,958	15,213	21,171
40%	5,032	13,270	18,302
50%	2,644	7,693	10,337
60%	2,844	7,978	10,822
70%	1,755	4,823	6,578
80%	1,230	3,193	4,423
90%	530	1,254	1,784
100%	1,057	1,928	2,985
Total	54,165	103,173	157,338

Note: Includes corporate data. Previous reports included CPMR only.

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

Diagnostic Code	Diagnosis Description	Count
6260	Tinnitus	40,325
5237	Lumbosacral or cervical strain	34,774
6100	Defective hearing	29,104
5299	Generalized, Elbow and Forearm, Wrist, Multiple Fingers, Hip and Thigh, Knee and Leg, Ankle, Foot, Spine, Skull, Ribs, Coccyx	23,078
9411	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	19,015
5271	Limited motion of the ankle	17,240
5260	Limitation of flexion of leg	16,960
5242	Degenerative arthritis of the spine	13,345
5010	Arthritis, due to trauma, substantiated by x-ray findings	12,417
7101	Hypertensive vascular disease (essential arterial hypertension)	12,394

Insurance Program Traumatic Injury Benefit

Traumatic Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (TSGLI) is a traumatic injury protection 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 May 31, 2007, 6,017 active duty servicemembers and veterans have applied for TSGLI. Of those, 3,352 applications were filed by GWOT veterans and of that total, 1,816 veterans received benefits.

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

Age Group	Reserve Guard	Active Duty	Total
Under 20	-	1	1
20 - 29	547	1,248	1,795
30 - 39	508	343	851
40 - 49	456	69	525
50 - 59	160	2	162
60 -69	12	-	12
Unknown	-	6	6
Total	1,683	1,669	3,352

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

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

Age Group	Reserve Guard	Active Duty	Total
Under 20	-	1	1
20 - 29	303	848	1,151
30 - 39	221	228	449
40 - 49	131	43	174
50 - 59	37	-	37
60 -69			
Unknown	-	4	4
Total	692	1,124	1,816

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

Gender	Reserve Guard	Active Duty	Total
Female	90	40	130
Male	1,585	1,621	3,206
Unknown	8	8	16
Total	1,683	1,669	3,352

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

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

Gender	Reserve Guard	Active Duty	Total
Female	23	24	47
Male	667	1,094	1,761
Unknown	2	6	8
Total	692	1,124	1,816

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 Loan	95,878	66,760	162,638
Total Loans Made to GWOT Veterans	148,635	99,301	247,936
Dollar Amount of All Loans to GWOT Veterans	\$16,617,160,229	\$12,205,879,366	\$28,823,039,595

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 30	Chapter 1606	Chapter 1607	TOTAL
Graduate	5,253	5,465	2,485	13,203
Under Graduate	51,020	68,184	19,608	138,812
Junior College	65,488	45,570	10,648	121,706
NCD	14,957	6,568	1,985	23,510
Total	136,718	125,787	34,726	297,231

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	Reserve Guard	Active Duty	Total
Applicant	377	990	1,367
Employment Services	116	294	410
Evaluation and Planning	816	1,884	2,700
Extended Evaluation	126	279	405
Independent Living	41	48	89
Interrupted	238	621	859
Rehabilitation to Employability	1,512	4,884	6,396
Unknown	81	17	98
Current Participants	3,307	9,017	12,324
Rehabilitated	606	540	1,146
Discontinued	269	234	503
Total VR&E Participants	4,182	9,791	13,973

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

Evaluation and Planning: Determination of feasibility of a vocational goal and/or evaluation 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.

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

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 servicemembers deployed to OEF/OIF, from September 11, 2001 through February 2007.
- DMDC West, extract of OEF/OIF servicemembers discharged to civilian status from September 2001 through February 2007.
- The DMDC list of 720,499 deployed GWOT veterans represents 48% of the cumulative deployed GWOT servicemember population of 1,504,181 through February 2007.

VBA:

- Beneficiary Identification and Records Locator Subsystem (BIRLS), as of the end of the month May 2007
- Compensation and Pension Master Record (CPMR), active records ("A" type) as of the end of the month May 2007
- CPMR, terminated records ("E" type) as of the end of the month March 2007
- Corporate records as of June 6, 2007
- Pending Issue File (PIF), as of the close of business on May 31, 2007
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service Chapter 31 file, as of the end of the month May 2007
- Loan Guaranty data, as of June 10, 2007
- TSGLI file, as of May 31, 2007
- Education Service data, as of May 18, 2007* (*Education Service compared data to the OEF/OIF deployed GWOT servicemember population through January 2007*)

Questions

Questions may be referred to the Office of Performance Analysis and Integrity at (202) 273-6811.