

**VA BENEFITS ACTIVITY
VETERANS DEPLOYED TO THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR
Through October 31, 2008**

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). 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 991,347 GWOT veterans separated from military service through June 30, 2008 and those veterans who self-reported to VA through October 31, 2008.

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	90,541	93,960	184,501
Army	306,285	209,761	516,046
Coast Guard	403	1,983	2,386
Marine Corps	32,580	92,382	124,962
Navy	28,271	128,656	156,927
Other	5	40	45
Unknown	2,231	2,791	5,022
Total matched to VA systems	460,316	529,573	989,889
Unable to match to VA systems	747	711	1,458
Total	461,063	530,284	991,347

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	49,020	65,957	114,977
Male	407,601	459,121	866,722
Unknown	3,695	4,495	8,190
Total matched to VA systems	460,316	529,573	989,889
Unable to match to VA systems	747	711	1,458
Total	461,063	530,284	991,347

**Chart #3
Age of GWOT Veterans**

Age Group	Reserve Guard	Active Duty	Total
Under 20	169	388	557
20 - 29	148,516	299,605	448,121
30 - 39	135,842	118,161	254,003
40 - 49	123,792	91,406	215,198
50 - 59	43,348	16,522	59,870
60 -69	7,220	1,095	8,315
Unknown	1,429	2,396	3,825
Total matched to VA systems	460,316	529,573	989,889
Unable to match to VA systems	747	711	1,458
Total	461,063	530,284	991,347

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	36.5 years	31.6 years

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

	Reserve Guard	Active Duty
Average Length of Service	3.7 years	8.6 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 Service members	491,645	1,276,635	1,768,280
Total GWOT Veterans	461,063	530,284	991,347
Living GWOT Veterans	458,805	523,474	982,279
GWOT In-Service Deaths	860	3,587	4,447
GWOT Post Service Deaths	1,398	3,223	4,621
Total GWOT Veterans with Claims Decisions	96,104	215,257	311,361
Veterans Awarded Service-Connection	86,234	208,471	294,705
Veterans Receiving Compensation	72,708	186,633	259,341
Veterans Denied Service-Connection	9,870	6,786	16,656
Veterans with Pending Claims (as of 10-31-08)	19,523	37,570	57,093
Veterans with Pending Reopened Claims	9,393	15,226	24,619
Pending from First-Time Claimants	10,130	22,344	32,474
Total GWOT Veterans Filing Disability Claims*	106,234	237,601	343,835

* 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	13,526	21,838	35,364
10	21,101	35,382	56,483
20	11,777	27,304	39,081
30	9,786	28,331	38,117
40	8,686	26,413	35,099
50	4,996	16,653	21,649
60	5,782	19,588	25,370
70	3,880	13,201	17,081
80	3,035	9,956	12,991
90	1,373	4,616	5,989
100	2,292	5,189	7,481
Total	86,234	208,471	294,705

NOTE: Previous versions of this chart provided counts based on the highest combined rating a veteran received. This version now reports the current or last rating. As a result, the number of veterans reported with a combined 100% is lower than previous reports.

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

Diagnostic Code	Diagnosis Description	Count
6260	Tinnitus	93,080
5237	Lumbosacral Or Cervical Strain	65,684
9411	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	46,331
5242	Degenerative Arthritis Of The Spine	41,984
6100	Defective Hearing	40,219
5260	Limitation Of Flexion Of Leg	39,253
5024	Tenosynovitis	36,177
7101	Hypertensive Vascular Disease (Essential Arterial Hypertension)	34,776
5271	Limited Motion Of The Ankle	33,951
7805	Scars, Other	31,599

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 October 31, 2008, 8,891 active duty servicemembers and veterans have applied for TSGLI. Of those, GWOT veterans filed 6,120 claims and 3,527 of those received benefits.

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

Age Group	Reserve Guard	Active Duty	Total
Under 20	-	3	3
20 - 29	709	2,592	3,301
30 - 39	721	872	1,593
40 - 49	680	230	910
50 - 59	247	15	262
60 -69	29	-	29
Unknown	-	22	22
Total	2,386	3,734	6,120

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

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

Age Group	Reserve Guard	Active Duty	Total
Under 20	-	3	3
20 - 29	414	1,783	2,197
30 - 39	326	576	902
40 - 49	209	128	337
50 - 59	64	2	66
60 -69	1	-	1
Unknown	-	21	21
Total	1,014	2,513	3,527

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

Gender	Reserve Guard	Active Duty	Total
Female	126	109	235
Male	2,255	3,600	5,855
Unknown	5	25	30
Total	2,386	3,734	6,120

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

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

Gender	Reserve Guard	Active Duty	Total
Female	39	63	102
Male	973	2,428	3,401
Unknown	2	22	24
Total	1,014	2,513	3,527

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	122,333	132,923	255,256
Total Loans Made to GWOT Veterans	187,499	199,860	387,359
Dollar Amount of All Loans to GWOT Veterans	\$22.3b	\$26.5b	\$48.8b

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	11,440	6,819	5,212	23,471
Under Graduate	86,802	80,983	29,499	197,284
Junior College	89,693	51,932	15,940	157,565
Non-college Degree	24,013	7,856	3,765	35,634
Total	211,948	147,590	54,416	413,954

Note: This data is based on DMDC separations thru June 30, 2008, compared to VA records as of October 02, 2008.

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	552	1,682	2,234
Employment Services	259	816	1,075
Evaluation and Planning	1,245	3,962	5,207
Extended Evaluation	265	639	904
Independent Living	69	108	177
Interrupted	509	1,343	1,852
Rehabilitation to Employability	3,038	11,153	14,191
Unknown	77	34	111
Current Participants	6,014	19,737	25,751
Rehabilitated	1,085	1,798	2,883
Discontinued	389	581	970
Total VR&E Participants	7,488	22,116	29,604

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	5	120	194	318	379	254	341	278	156	85	104	2,234
Employment Services	2	24	110	170	199	128	156	116	98	42	30	1,075
Evaluation and Planning	16	164	432	737	790	595	821	547	518	266	321	5,207
Extended Evaluation	9	28	42	85	84	88	122	116	104	64	162	904
Independent Living	-	-	1	2	3	6	12	16	26	32	79	177
Interrupted	9	46	147	189	265	219	283	210	206	103	175	1,852
Rehabilitation to Employability	17	290	1,169	1,992	2,282	1,721	2,302	1,691	1,381	676	670	14,191
Unknown	31	27	7	11	6	7	9	3	3	2	5	111
Current Participants	89	699	2,102	3,504	4,008	3,018	4,046	2,977	2,492	1,270	1,546	25,751
Rehabilitated	15	112	408	446	450	306	374	284	218	134	136	2,883
Discontinued	5	40	167	171	145	95	111	73	73	37	53	970
Total VR&E Participants	109	851	2,677	4,121	4,603	3,419	4,531	3,334	2,783	1,441	1,735	29,604

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%	35,364	109	0.3%
10%	56,483	851	1.5%
20%	39,081	2,677	6.8%
30%	38,117	4,121	10.8%
40%	35,099	4,603	13.1%
50%	21,649	3,419	15.8%
60%	25,370	4,531	17.9%
70%	17,081	3,334	19.5%
80%	12,991	2,783	21.4%
90%	5,989	1,441	24.1%
100%	7,481	1,735	23.2%
Total	294,705	29,604	10.0%

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.

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 service members deployed to OIF/OEF, from September 11, 2001 through June 30, 2008.
- DMDC West, extract of OIF/OEF service members discharged to civilian status from September 11, 2001 through June 30, 2008.

VBA:

- Beneficiary Identification and Records Locator Subsystem (BIRLS), as of October 31, 2008
- Compensation and Pension Master Record (CPMR), active records ("A" type) as of October 31, 2008
- CPMR, terminated records ("E" type) as of September 30, 2008
- Corporate records as of October 31, 2008
- Pending Issue File (PIF), as of the close of business on October 31, 2008
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service Chapter 31 file, as of October 31, 2008
- Loan Guaranty data, as of October 31, 2008
- TSGLI file, as of October 31, 2008
- Education Service data, as of October 02, 2008

Questions

Questions may be referred to Jim Clayton in the Office of Performance Analysis and Integrity at (202) 461-9048.