

# Veterans Programs- Evolving Services & Best Practices

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# Overview

- Veterans by the Numbers
- Military Veterans and Community Colleges
- Women in the Military
- Veterans Services at Community Colleges
- Non-Veteran Staff Serving Veterans
- Reaching Out to Non-Benefit Receiving Veterans
- Best Practices on Your Campus

# Veterans by the Numbers

- ❖ Total number of men and women deployed between 9/11/01 and 8/30/11: 2.33 million
- ❖ 91, 700 Operation New Dawn (in/around Iraq as of June 20, 2011)
- ❖ 111, 700 Operation Enduring Freedom (in/around Afghanistan as of June 30, 2011)
- ❖ Of that total, 1.35 million have separated from the military
- ❖ Less than half a percent of the U.S. population serves in the military
- ❖ There are 22.6 million veterans in the U.S. Of which 8% are women

# Veterans by the Numbers

- ❖ Between 2002 and 2011 the number of veterans who used VA health care: 711,986
- ❖ Of those who used VA health care: 38 per 100,000 committed suicide
- ❖ Unemployment rate among Iraq and Afghanistan veterans is more than 13 percent
- ❖ Young male veterans unemployed: 21% Young female veterans unemployed: 16%
- ❖ In 2010, unemployment rate among veterans 25 years or older with a Bachelors degree: 4%; among 25 years or older with Associate's degree: 10%; among 25 years or older with only a high school graduate: 12%
- ❖ 20 percent of Iraqi and Afghanistan war veterans will experience mental health issues such as PTSD and TBI
- ❖ HUD report in 2010: 67,495 veterans are homeless (point-in-time count)
- ❖ Number of female homeless veterans doubled from 2006 to 2010 high of: 3,328

# Veteran by the Numbers

- California Community College Enrollment
  - ❖ 2008-2009: 22,000 veterans enrolled in community colleges
  - ❖ 2009-2010: over 26,600 veterans utilized education benefits
  - ❖ Also in 2009, more than 8,000 active military enrolled
  - ❖ 2010-2011 it is expected that 34,000 veterans will be enrolled in higher educational institutions with over 80 percent enrolling in community colleges

# Veteran by the Numbers

- College of San Mateo
  - ❖ From 2008- 2010 veteran certification increased by 163% largely due to the Post 9/11 GI Bill
  - ❖ Fall 2010: 300 veterans, reservists and dependents enrolled
  - ❖ Fall 2010: 173 Veterans Receiving GI Bill benefits
  - ❖ Fall 2011, 2012, ...???

# Veteran by the Numbers

## College of the Canyons

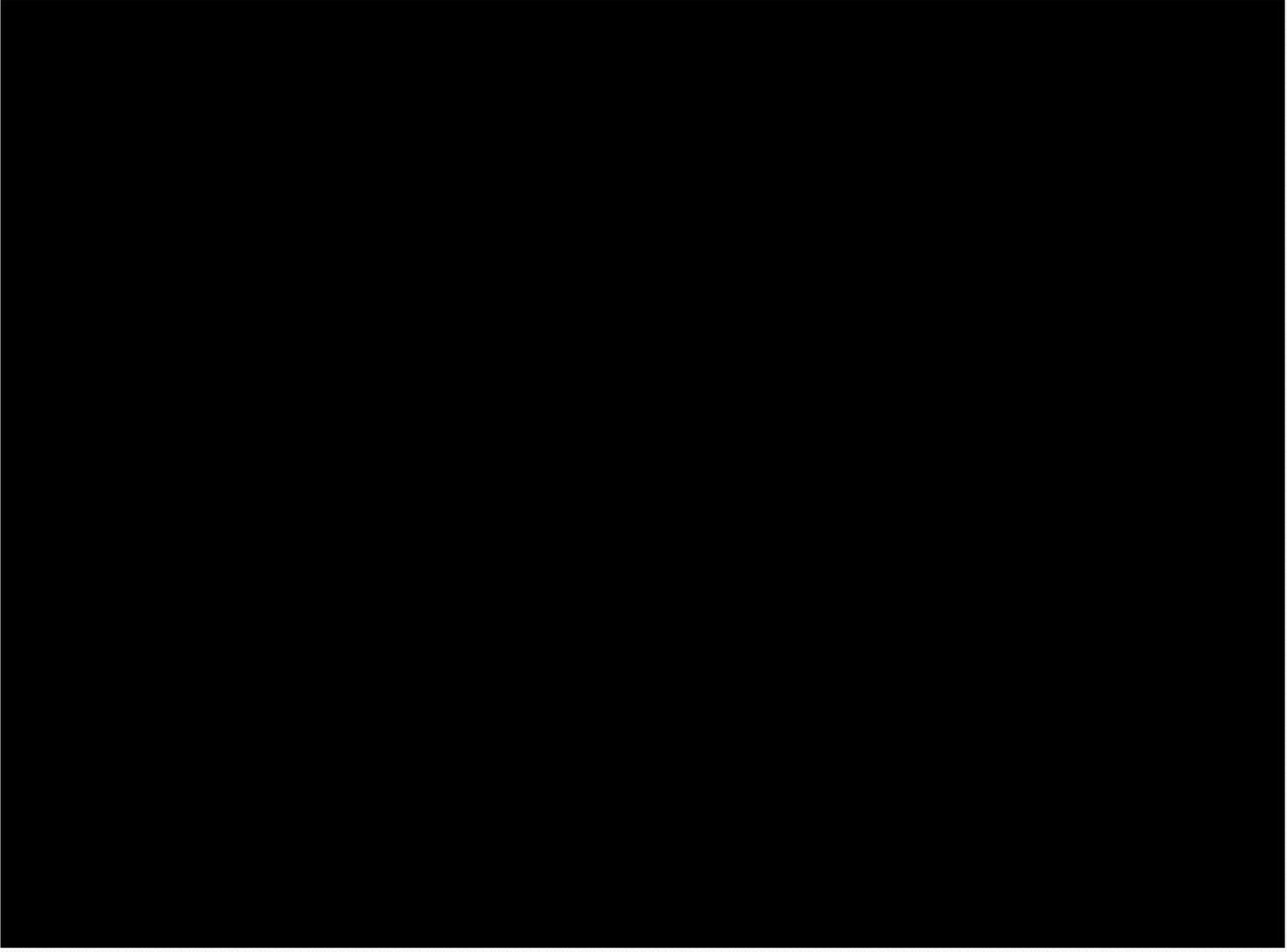
- ❖ From 2008- 2010 veteran certification increased by 374% largely due to the Post 9/11 GI Bill (from 98 student to 465 students)
- ❖ Fall 2010: 465 veterans, reservists and dependents receive benefits
- ❖ Fall 2011: 689 veterans, reservists, and dependents enrolled in the Veteran's Program and/or received benefits.
- ❖ During the fall 2011 semester 475 students used the computer lab in the veterans center.

# Women in the Military

- 10% of Armed Forces
- Expected to increase to 25% by 2025
- More than 255,000 women have served in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan
- Of those more than 140 women have died in Iraq and Afghanistan
- New regulations effective summer 2012 institutionalize women's role in combat
- Barred from infantry hinders women from military career advancement

# *SERVICE: When Women Come Marching Home*

- <http://www.servicethefilm.com/>
- <http://vimeo.com/22874367>



# Military Sexual Trauma

- The definition of MST used by the VA is given by U.S. Code (1720D of Title 38). It is “psychological trauma, which in the judgment of a VA mental health professional, resulted from a physical assault of a sexual nature, battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment which occurred while the Veteran was serving on active duty or active duty for training.”
- About 1 in 5 women and 1 in 100 men seen in VHA respond "yes" when screened for MST. Though rates of MST are higher among women, there are almost as many men seen in VA that have experienced MST as there are women.

# Affects of MST

- Strong emotions. Feeling depressed; having intense, sudden emotional responses to things; feeling angry or irritable all the time.
- Feelings of numbness. Feeling emotionally "flat"; trouble feeling love or happiness.
- Trouble sleeping. Trouble falling or staying asleep; bad dreams or nightmares.
- Trouble with attention, concentration, and memory. Trouble staying focused; often finding your mind wandering; having a hard time remembering things.
- Problems with alcohol or other drugs. Drinking to excess or using drugs daily; getting drunk or "high" to cope with memories or unpleasant feelings; drinking to fall asleep.
- Trouble with reminders of the sexual trauma. Feeling on edge or "jumpy" all the time; not feeling safe; going out of your way to avoid reminders of the trauma; trouble trusting others.
- Problems in relationships. Feeling alone or not connected to others; abusive relationships; trouble with employers or authority figures.
- Physical health problems. Sexual issues; chronic pain; weight or eating problems; stomach or bowel problems.

# Veterans' Services at Community Colleges

- ❖ Veterans Centers
- ❖ Student Veterans Clubs
- ❖ Community Resources
- ❖ Orientations
- ❖ Courses, Learning Communities
- ❖ Psychological Services for veterans and their families

# Veterans Resource Centers

- Focused support
- Array of Information
- Accessibility of Information
- Welcoming center
- One-stop potential

# Veterans Resource Centers

## Addresses Veterans Transitional Needs

- Provides camaraderie
- Assists in rebuilding a community
- Veteran to veteran learning
- Acknowledges military culture
- Safe environment to address mental health issues

# CSM Veterans Resource Opportunity Center



# College of San Mateo Veterans Services

- Veterans Resource & Opportunity Center Lecture and Film Series  
*SERVICE: When women come marching home*  
Wed May 16, 2012  
12:10 pm - 2:00 pm  
CSM Theatre Building 03
- Loving a Veteran  
Understanding, communicating & building happy & healthy relationships  
Tue May 15, 2012  
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm  
CSM College Center Building 10, Room 192

# Operation Homecoming: A Learning Community Designed for Veterans

Operation Homecoming helps returning veterans get off to a good start at CSM by providing opportunities to:

- Work with other veterans in a collaborative and supporting environment
- Become connected with college resources such as the Veterans Resource Center, counseling and tutoring
- Receive support to strengthen reading, writing and study skills
- Increase the visibility and recognition of veterans on campus

# Non-Veteran Student Services Staff Serving Veterans

- Cultural competence
- Measuring effectiveness
- Strategies to serving student veterans
- What type of training is needed for:
  - A&R staff
  - Counseling staff
  - Financial Aid staff
  - Faculty

**Table 15.1**  
**Issues of Difference and Conflict**

<b>Military</b>	<b>Academia</b>
<b>Organization</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Strong Structure Clear Relationships among Components	Weak Structure Fuzzy Relationships among Components
<b>Values &amp; Beliefs</b>	<b>Values &amp; Beliefs</b>
Duty, Honor, Country Service Bravery Obedience Intolerant of Ambiguity	Freedom of Inquiry Education Intellect Questioning Tolerance of Ambiguity
<b>Relation to Wider Society</b>	<b>Relation to Wider Society</b>
Service Ethic Quite Removed Conservative	Iconoclastic Somewhat Removed Liberal

- <http://www.veteranstoday.com/2011/08/31/a-clash-of-cultures-veterans-and-non-veterans/>

# An Iraq War Veteran Speaks to a Student



# Veterans Not Receiving Benefits

- Understanding why veterans are coming to college
- Programs and courses that appeal to veterans
- Broadening the scope of veterans services
- Acknowledging multiple generations of veterans
- Reaching out to veterans not enrolled in our colleges:
  - American Legion
  - Collaborative groups
  - USO

# Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP)

The VRAP offers 12 months of training assistance to Veterans who:

- Are at least 35 but no more than 60 years old
- Are unemployed
- Received an other than dishonorable discharge
- Are not be eligible for any other VA education benefit program (e.g.: the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Assistance)
- Are not in receipt of VA compensation due to unemployability
- Are not enrolled in a federal or state job training program
- The Department of Labor and the Department of Veterans Affairs **will begin accepting applications on May 15, 2012.**



Best practices on your campus...