



**What do we know---and not know---about  
service members as college students?**

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**Put on your data boots!**

**We've got a trek ahead of us!**



## **First Data Sources: National Center for Education Statistics (U.S.E.D.)**

- **Beginning Postsecondary Students  
Longitudinal Study 1995/96 – 2001 (6 years)**
- **Beginning Postsecondary Students  
Longitudinal Study 2003/04 - - - (in progress,  
follow-up in 2006; next follow-up 2009)**



# Military representation in the cohorts, and problems with that representation

- BPS95/96: All military 33k
- BPS03/04: Active duty 18  
Reserves 34  
Veterans 65

NOTES: Enrollments at locations outside the 50 states are not included. This affects the Active Duty line in particular.

Status is self-reported.

These are weighted numbers in a total Beginning Postsecondary Students population of 3.9 million.



## Age distribution of military among beginning postsecondary students, 1995 v. 2003

	20 and less	21-23	24-29	30+
'95: All	14%	23%	44%	19%
'03: Active duty	28	35	22	15
'03: Reserves	53	21	9	17
'03: Veterans	1	14	34	51



## Race/ethnicity distribution of military among beginning postsecondary students, 1995 v. 2003

	White	Black	Latino	Other
'95: All	76%	15%	5%	4%
'03: Active duty	61	24	4	6
'03: Reserves	59	16	12	8
'03: Veterans	56	28	9	4



## First institution attended by military among beginning postsecondary students, 1995 v. 2003

	4-Year	Community college	Other sub-bacc
'95: All	20%	65%	15%
'03: Active duty	37	53	10
'03: Reserves	34	57	9
'03: Veterans	11	63	26



## **First year enrollment intensity: military beginning postsecondary students, 1995/6 and 2003/04**

	<b>Full-time</b>	<b>Part-time</b>	<b>Mixed</b>
<b>1995/6: All military</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>2003/04: Active duty</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Reserves</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Veterans</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>9</b>



**Inflation adjusted change in aid to military among  
beginning postsecondary students, 1995/6 to  
2003/04**

	<b>1995/96</b>	<b>2003/04</b>
<b>Tot Fed Aid: All Military</b>	\$4806	
<b>Reserves</b>		\$3744
<b>Veterans</b>		\$6123
<b>Veterans Aid: All Military</b>	\$3314	
<b>Reserves</b>		\$2785
<b>Veterans</b>		\$3450



**Inflation Adjusted Net Price to Military Among  
Beginning Postsecondary Students, 1995/96 v.  
2003/04**

	<b>1995/96</b>	<b>2003/04</b>
<b>All military</b>	\$3,140	
<b>Active Duty</b>		\$6,542
<b>Reserves</b>		\$5,431
<b>Veterans</b>		\$4,820



**All military beginners in 1995/96 Highest degree earned in 6 years; highest degree expected at year 6**

	<b>Earned by 2001</b>	<b>Expected 2001</b>
<b>Graduate</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>Bachelor's</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Associate's</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Certificate</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>No deg, enrolled</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Not. Applicable</b>
<b>No degree</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>19</b>



**Academic majors of military beginners of 2003/04,  
two years later (2006)—columns will not add to 100.0%**

	<b>Active</b>	<b>Reserves</b>	<b>Veterans</b>
<b>No major</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Business</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Engin/ComputSci/IT</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Other Science/Math</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Humanities/SocialSci</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Health-related</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Education</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>

# What are our data problems?

- **We get beginning postsecondary students only; we don't pick up those who have started higher education, then joined the military, then either took courses under the VEP and/or returned to higher education.**
- **We miss participation outside the 50 states, even when delivered by an IHE in the 50 states.**
- **Multi-institutional attendance is picked up only in transcript-based grade longitudinal studies.**

# The more critical data lapse

- **We can't follow the connections from VEP to veterans' education participation. AARTS and SMART are not connected to any other data system, whereas CCAF is connected.**
- **If we know what and how much people study in the VEP, we can design advisement and transitions to veterans' education status better.**
- **If we can see the trajectories, we can make adjustments for both the equity agenda and the national knowledge distribution agenda.**



## **Data Sources #2**

- **Defense Manpower Data Center: Officer and Enlisted End Strength by Education, 2004 and 2006**
- **VetPop2004**
- **National Survey of Veterans, 2001**



## The potential population, starting with Active Duty **Enlisted**, 2006

	<b>Army</b>	<b>Navy</b>	<b>Air Force</b>	<b>Marines</b>
<b>HS or Less</b>	86%	91%	78%	94%
<b>Some college, includ. Assoc.</b>	8	4	<b>16</b>	3
<b>Bachelor's</b>	5	1	5	1
<b>Graduate</b>	1	<1	1	<1



## The potential population, starting with Active Duty **Officers**, 2006

	<b>Army</b>	<b>Navy</b>	<b>Air Force</b>	<b>Marines</b>
HS or Less	<1%	<1%	<1%	<b>9%</b>
Some college, including Assoc.	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<1	2
Bachelor's	53	52	46	73
Graduate	35	17	50	16



# Paradox Among Veterans, 2001

	Vietnam Era	Post-Vietnam	Gulf War
E&T Benefits Extremely Important	37%	45%	55%
Received E&T Benefits	49	35	30

# Target Populations for Increased Participation and Completion

- **Focus on completion for those with “some college” but no degree**
- **Focus on participation for enlisteds with high school diplomas, but use the filter and motivator of at least one CLEP exam**
- **Reserves and National Guard who served on active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan and who do not hold degrees at any level**

# What do we need for more informed analysis?

- **A new National Survey of Veterans (the last one was in 2001)**
- **Inclusion of course-taking by Active Duty service members in U.S.E.D. data**
- **Longitudinal study following VEP participants through separation and into civilian life**
- **Veterans' sub-sample in U.S.E.D. NPSAS cross-sectional data.**

# And a new graduation rate survey formula that counts just about everybody

- **Include part-time beginners in all terms, not just fall---but set an attempted credit threshold.**
- **Include those who earn their degree from a different institution than the one in which they started.**
- **Measure Associate's degree completion at 4 and 6 years (instead of 3).**
- **Measure Bachelor's degree completion at 6 and 9 years (instead of just 6).**

**All of this will render the uniformed military visible as students---both in active duty and veterans status!**

**And if you want them counted, here are  
some people who have to hear from you---  
very, very soon:**

- **Senate:**

**Kennedy, Webb, and McCaskill (D)**

**Enzi, Hagel, and Alexander (R)**

**House:**

**Miller and Hinojosa (D)**

**McKeon, Keller, and Souder (R)**