Deconstructing the Campus Military Community

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

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Objectives

- Why it matters
- Military identities and five key subdivisions of military identity
- Overlaps of groups
- Literature & Research
Why it matters

• Students affairs loves identities
• Meeting students where they are
• Being approachable
• Different challenges that come with each identity
• Challenging stereotypes
Why it matters

• May or may-not seek a military identity
• Identity always overlaps with other identities
• May or may not seek others with military experience
• Handles stereotypes of the military and their experience every day
Veterans

• Multiple definitions for “veteran” even within the military community
  – People that have served and are now done with their service
  – People that have deployed overseas
• Usually on the GI Bill
• Generally a non-traditional student
Active Duty

- Still currently serving in the US military
- Rarest group on campus
- Unless you are near a base, probably has full-time job for the military such as local recruiter or ROTC cadre
- Generally a non-traditional student
- May be on GI Bill or Tuition Assistance Program
Reserves

• Generally serves “one weekend a month, two weeks a year” which can cause academic conflicts
• May be on a lesser form of the GI Bill
• May be a traditional or non-traditional student
• Calls to active duty are generally known a couple months in advance
National Guard

• Generally serves “one weekend a month, two weeks a year” which can cause academic conflicts
• May be on a lessor form of the GI Bill
• May be a traditional or non-traditional student
• Calls to active duty can be in response to state emergencies and have short notice
Reserve Officer Training Corps

- Generally serves via attending a twice a class and a lab on campus each week plus a weekend or two each semester.
- Summer after junior year, attends extended training
- Generally a traditional student though overlap with other groups is not uncommon
• Multiple categories are possible
• Intersection of identities is almost always present
• Some students may have a stronger sense of their military identity or a stronger desire for it than others

• Arminio, J., Grabosky, T. & Lang, J. (2014) Student Veterans and Service Members in Higher Education (Key Issues on Diverse College Students), (Routledge)


Wrap Up

• No one military experience is the same
• Take the time to get know each student’s unique military experiences
• Students may wish to be “camouflaged” and we need to respect that
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