Why Military Culture Matters: 
*The Military Member’s Experience*

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Objectives

• Understand military structure and processes
• Describe the demographics of today’s military
• Understand the diversity of military acronyms
• Describe stresses by mission and conflict
What is the Military?

“Not just a job, a way of life.”

Duty ▪ Honor ▪ Courage

A Vet is a Vet

History and Purpose

Governed by Civilians
Common Reasons Why Members Join

- Defined in Terms of Values with Both Personal and Social Significance
- Challenge
- Service/Sacrifice
- Education/Training Opportunities
- Economic Issues—Bonus
- Sense of Adventure/Escape Life Situation
Commonalities of the Services

- Recruiting
- Testing
- Training
- Core Values
- Fitness
- Joint Service
- Some Language
- Rank is Great Equalizer
## Military Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SERVICE</th>
<th>ARMY</th>
<th>AIR FORCE</th>
<th>NAVY</th>
<th>MARINE CORPS</th>
<th>COAST GUARD</th>
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<tr>
<td>ACTIVE DUTY</td>
<td>539,675</td>
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<td>NATIONAL GUARD</td>
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<td>RESERVE</td>
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<td>75,322</td>
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<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>1,097,050</td>
<td>556,430</td>
<td>450,775</td>
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</table>
Military Structure

• Military Rank/Chain of Command: Officer, Warrant Officer, Enlisted/NCO

• Specialty: MOS, AFSC, Navy Ratings

• Unique Identifiers: All Insignia, Dog Tags, Customs and Courtesies
Core Values
Duty • Honor • Country

- **Army**: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, Personal Courage

- **Navy and Marine Corps**: Honor, Courage, Commitment

- **Air Force**: Integrity, Service before Self, Excellence

- **Coast Guard**: Honor, Respect, Devotion to Duty
Military Operational Organization

• Status:
  – Active Duty
  – National Guard
  – Reserve

• Doctrine and Regulations
Not Just a Weekend Warrior Anymore!!
MILITARY OPERATIONAL ORGANIZATION

• Organizations:
  - Numbered Forces & Unified Commands
  - Army: Corps, Division, Brigade, Battalion, Company, Platoon, Squad
  - AF: Wing, Group, Squadron, Flight
  - Navy: The Fleet, Task Forces
  - Marine Corps: Fleet Marine Force, Marine Air Ground Task Force, Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Expeditionary Unit
Military Demographics

- Specifics vary by service
- All volunteer force—38 yrs
- >2.3 M total serving in uniform today vs. 15 M in WWII
- Fewer installations
- Average age is older
- Racial integration in 1948
- 15% are women
- Higher education, ASVAB
Training
Basic Principles of Recruit Training

• **Marines:** Rise at 0500, train until 2000
• **Army:** Rise at 0600, train until 1900
• **Navy:** Rise at 0900, train until 1100, lunch until 1300, train until 1600
• **Air Force:** Rise at 1000, breakfast in bed, lunch at 1200, nap at 1400, training ceases at 1500
Training

• Basic military training—more similarities between the services now

• Advanced/Technical: differs by service and specialty

• Ancillary Training: OPSEC, COMSEC, ATSO, Sexual Harassment

• Professional Military Education: differs by service and rank (officer/enlisted)
Differences of the Services

• Mission
• Individual Service Culture
  – How to grow leaders
• Uniforms—ABUs, ACUs, service & mess
• Rank Insignia: Army/Air Force vs. Navy
• Language:
  – “Down range,” Post/Base
  – Acronyms—AMC, APC, TAG, CBT, BOG, TDY, PCS, AOR, FOB
Uniforms of the U.S. Armed Forces

Air Force

Navy

Coast Guard

Army

Marines
### Examples of U.S. Military Rank

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Army</th>
<th>Navy/Coast Guard</th>
<th>Air Force</th>
<th>Marine Corps</th>
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<td>E-2</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Army Rank" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Navy Rank" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Air Force Rank" /></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Private (PV2)</td>
<td>Seaman Apprentice (SA)</td>
<td>Airman (Amn)</td>
<td>Private First Class (PFC)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Private First Class (PFC)</td>
<td>Seaman (SN)</td>
<td>Airman First Class (A1C)</td>
<td>Lance Corporal (LCpl)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Corporal (CPL)</td>
<td>Petty Officer Third Class (PO3)</td>
<td>Senior Airman (SrA)</td>
<td>Corporal (Cpl)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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History of Recent Conflicts

- **World War II (1941-1945)**
  - 14M w/400K deaths and 670K wounded
- **Korean War (1950-1953)**
  - 1.7M w/36K deaths and 92K wounded
- **Vietnam (1961-1975)**
  - 6.2M w/58K deaths and 153K wounded
- **Lebanon (1982-84)**
  - 241 deaths

*Military advisors 1950 - 1961*
History of Recent Conflicts

• Grenada (1983)
  • 19 deaths & 116 wounded

• Panama (1989)
  • 23 deaths & 324 wounded

• Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm (1990-91)
  • 700K w/383 deaths & 487 wounded

• Somalia (1993)
  • 43 deaths

• Bosnia (1993-95)
  • 12 deaths & 6 wounded

• Kosovo (1998-99)
  • 20 deaths & 2 wounded
The Current Conflicts

- Operation Enduring Freedom/OEF (2001-present)
  - > 2.3 million have served
  - 52% Active Duty; 48% Guard & Reserve
  - 6,508 Deaths & 49,085 Wounded (as of 19 July 2012)
Commonality in Conflict-Stressors

• Harsh, Lethal Environment (Personal Threat/Loss of Life)
• Number and Length of Deployments
• Personal Hx/Experience Prior to Deployment
• Perception of Expectations Fulfilled
• Separation from Family
• Specific Challenges for Guard/Reserve Leadership
Differences between Conflicts-Stressors

- Length of Conflict
- Threat
- Technology/Individual Protective Equipment
- Weapons
- Environmental Exposures
- Media Influence
- Role of VSOs
- Casualties/Types of Injuries
Positives of Military Service

- Courage
- Leadership Under Fire
- Unit Cohesion/Sense of Purpose and Mission/Camaraderie
- “Never Leave a Soldier Behind”
- Confidence
- Dedication/Sense of Pride
- Maturity—focus, sense of family appreciation
QUESTIONS?
Resources

• DOD DICTIONARY OF MILITARY TERMS:
  www.dtic.mil/doctrine/dod_dictionary

• OFFICER AND ENLISTED RANKS:
  www.defense.gov/specials/insignias