

Service Member Profile

Service member by branch

According to the Department of Defense's 2009 Demographics Profile, there are 2,527,229 service members in active duty (57.3 percent), Reserve (24.0 percent) and National Guard (18.7 percent) service.

- The majority of active duty service members¹ are in the Army (37.9 percent), followed by the Air Force (22.7 percent), Navy (22.4 percent), Marine Corps (14.0 percent) and the Coast Guard (3.0 percent)
- The Selected Reserve¹, which encompasses both the Reserve and the National Guard, is broken down as follows: Army National Guard (33.6 percent), Army Reserve (26.2 percent), Air Force Reserve (10.3 percent), Air National Guard (10.1 percent), Navy Reserve (10.1 percent), Marine Corps Reserve (8.8 percent) and Coast Guard Reserve (0.9 percent)

Age of service member:

Nearly half of those serving in active duty are 25 years old or younger (45.3 percent). Reservists and National Guardsmen are typically older than those on active duty; slightly more than one-third of the Selected Reserve is 25 years or younger (33.7 percent).

- The average age for those on active duty is 28 years old (Army: 29; Air Force: 30, Navy: 29; Marine Corps: 25; Coast Guard: 30) (Defense Manpower Data Center, 2008)
- Nearly three-fourths of those enlisted on active duty are 30 years old or younger (72.7 percent), but fewer in the Selected Reserve are this young (57.9 percent)
- Similarly, officers in the Selected Reserve were more likely to be 36 years old or older (70.7 percent) than those on active duty (44.5 percent)

Education level of service members

- Nearly all service members have at least a high school diploma or equivalent (active duty: 98.1 percent; Selected Reserve: 95.6 percent);² the general population 25 years old or older with at least a high school diploma or equivalent is 86.7 percent
- The majority of active duty officers (86.0 percent) and Selected Reserve officers (85.0 percent) have a bachelor's degree or higher (all active duty: 17.9 percent; all Selected Reserve: 19.0 percent); the general population 25 years old or older with a bachelor's degree or higher is 29.5 percent

¹ Includes both enlisted and officer personnel, unless otherwise noted.

² Approximately 1% for each group has their education level listed as "Unknown".

Marital status of service members

- Slightly more than half of active duty service members are married (55.8 percent), while just less than half of Selected Reserve members are married (48.5 percent); a majority of officers (active duty: 70.1 percent; Select Reserve: 71.8 percent) and around half of enlisted personnel (active duty: 53.1 percent; Selected Reserve: 44.0 percent) report themselves as married; in addition, 6.6 percent of active duty members and 2.6 percent of the Selected Reserve are in a dual-military marriage
- More than one-third (38.4 percent) of active duty members are married with children³ and 5.3 percent are single parents; among the Selected Reserve, one-third (33.7 percent) are married with children and 9.0 percent are single parents
- In 2009, divorce rates reached 3.6 percent for active duty couples and 2.8 percent for Reservists, a full percentage point higher than they were in 2001 (Associated Press, 2009)
- In 2010, 7.8 percent of women in the military got a divorce, compared with 3 percent of military men (Associated Press, 2011)

Race/ethnicity in the military

- The majority of all service members classify themselves as white (active duty: 70.3 percent; Selected Reserve: 76.0 percent)
- The largest racial minority is African American (active duty: 17.0 percent; Selected Reserve: 14.9 percent)
- Hispanic ethnicity is a subcategory of each racial classification; overall, 10.7 percent of the active duty force and 9.2 percent of Selected Reserve reported a Hispanic ethnicity

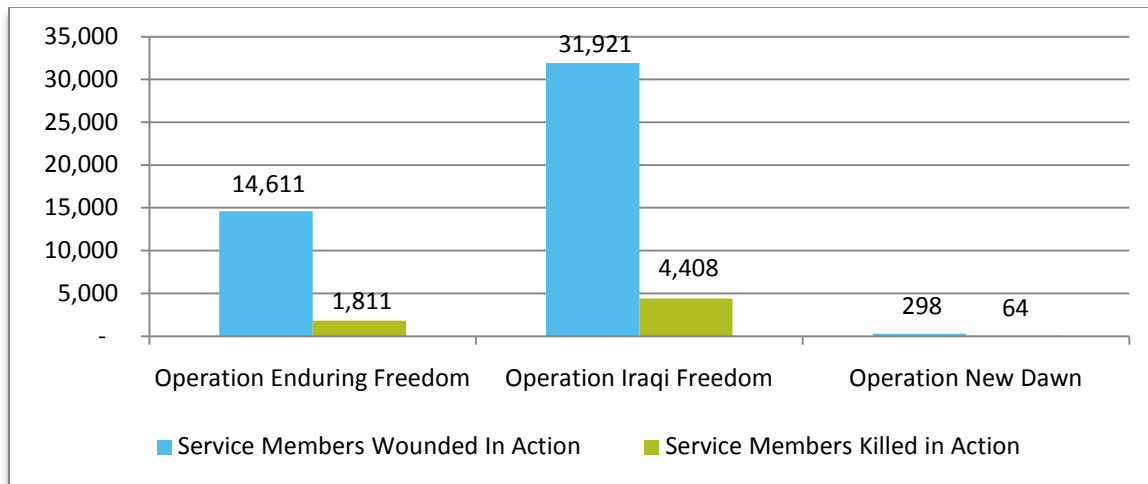
Women service members:

- Currently, one in seven active duty service members and one in six Selected Reservist are women
- For women in the military, marriages are more than twice as likely to end in divorce as those of their male comrades – and up to three times as likely if they are enlisted
- About half of all married women in the military are married to a fellow service member, compared with less than 10 percent of military men (Associated Press, 2011)

³ Children are defined as minor dependents age 20 or younger or dependents age 22 and younger enrolled as full-time students.

Wounded or killed in theater

In the conflicts since Sept. 11, 2001, many service members have been injured or have lost their lives in service to our nation. As of October 31, 2011 (Department of Defense, 2011):



Work cited

Unless otherwise noted, all information from Department of Defense's 2009 Demographics Profile of the Military Community

- Associated Press. (2009, November 28). Military divorce edges up due to stress. *The Military Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.military.com/news/article/military-divorce-edges-up-due-to-stress.html>
- Associated Press. (2011, March 8). Females in military struggle with higher divorce rate *USATODAY*. Retrieved from http://www.usatoday.com/news/military/2011-03-08-Female-military-divorce_N.htm
- Defense Manpower Data Center. (2008). *Active duty demographic profile* [PowerPoint slides]. Retrieved from <http://www.slideshare.net/pastinson/us-military-active-duty-demographic-profile-presentation>
- Department of Defense. (2010). *Demographics 2009 profile of the military community*. Retrieved from http://cs.mhf.dod.mil/content/dav/mhf/QOL-Library/PDF/MHF/QOL%20Resources/Reports/2009_Demographics_Report.pdf
- Department of Defense. (2011, October 31). *Causal status*. Retrieved from <http://www.defense.gov/news/casualty.pdf>