Outline of Presentation

- Opening Video
- Profiles of Military Combat Students
  - Know Your Population
  - Interpreting Basics of Military Rank Structure
  - Video
- What Academic Advisors Should Know Concerning Veterans
  - Policies/Procedures
  - Best Practice Examples
- Resources
  - Campus-based Examples
  - NACADA Resources
  - National Resources
- Combat-related Trauma
  - Video
  - Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
  - Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
  - Posttraumatic Growth (PTG)
- Wrap-up – Conversations/Questions

Know Your Population

- [http://www.halfofus.com/video/?videoID=76 &chapterID=1](http://www.halfofus.com/video/?videoID=76 &chapterID=1)

Know Your Population

Source: American Public University System

American Public University System (APUS) is the nation’s largest provider of higher education to military and civilian students.

Of the more than 10,000 students enrolled at APUS, approximately 20 percent are active or former military personnel. The University’s Student and Military Support Center administers a campus-wide program that assists students with the application process, online learning, and more. Since 2006, APUS has more than doubled its enrollment of veterans, active-duty, and reserves-service members who are studying online or on the ground.

Institutional Analysis Office

ASU Veteran Students

- 1,763 using GI Bill
- Roughly 16% female
- Typically 22–28 years old
- Many already have families

Who is the military combat Veteran?

A Selective Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NATIONAL STATISTICS</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>356,018</td>
<td>352,826</td>
<td>346,023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Active Duty</td>
<td>256,821</td>
<td>256,301</td>
<td>257,000</td>
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<td>85,500</td>
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<td>698,923</td>
<td>694,627</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>Active Duty</th>
<th>Reserve</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>35,700</td>
<td>36,900</td>
<td>72,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Military</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2017</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Institutional Analysis Office
**Know Your Population**

- How are Veterans coded in Student Information System (PeopleSoft, Banner, etc.).
- What offices on your campus can provide you with specific data?
- What do you do with this data once you have it? Who needs to know?

**Interpreting Basics of Military Rank Structure**

- The different branches of service and their missions/values
- The difference between Officers, Enlisted, and specialty ranks
- Basics of what ranks mean, both for you and for the service member
- What heuristics you can use when you know a student’s rank, but not the student
- What to avoid

**United States Marine Corps-Basics**

- Honor, courage, commitment are the USMC's Core Values.
- The smallest of the military branches, not counting the Coast Guard in war time.
- The USMC is the nation's main expeditionary fighting force, and is more often than not, forward deployed.
- Every marine is first a rifleman.
- There are only a few USMC installations in the USA.
- The USMC is technically a branch of the US Navy.
- USMC personnel are divided into 3 main categories-officer, warrant officer, and enlisted.
- Of the service branches, it tends to be the most challenging, physically speaking.
- For this reason, eligibility requirements to become an officer or enlisted marine have lower age caps than the other branches.

**United States Navy-Basics**

- Founded on the principles of courage, equality, and fairness.
- Missions focus on sea power, allowance of safe and free trade routes, and global altruism.
- Like the USMC, the USN has air, sea, and land components.
- Unlike the Marine Corps, not every sailor or officer is fundamentally considered a rifleman.
- Both the Navy and the Air Force have a focus on space exploration.
- The Navy supports other branches’ efforts, such as in aviation.

**United States Air Force-Basics**

- Founded on the Core Values of Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do.
- The youngest of the military branches, established in 1947.
- Focuses on supporting security of United States through air and space exploitation, but also has land and sea components.
- Supports ground forces with air support during missions.
- Only 4% of those in the Air Force are actually pilots.

**United States Army-Basics**

- The Army's Core Values are Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage.
- The oldest and largest of the military branches, established in 1775 and currently comprised of 675,000 soldiers.
- Missions are primarily ground-focused, with a wide variety of specialties between combat and support.
Officer/Enlisted

Requirements for Officers (O)
• Bachelor’s Degree normally required
• Go through Officer Candidate School, Officer Candidate Course, Reserve Officers’ Training Course, or Direct Commission
• Go through specialized officer training
• Usually between 18-30 years of age

Requirements for Enlisted (E)
• High School Diploma
• Go through Basic Training
• Go through Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) training
• Usually between 17-29 years of age

Best sites for seeing actual insignias and rank structure for all services:
• www.defense.gov/about/insignias
• http://www.goarmy.com/about/ranks-and-insignia.html
• http://www.goarmy.com/benefits/money/basic-pay-active-duty-soldiers.html
• http://usmilitary.about.com/cs/generalinfo/a/military101.htm
• http://www.goarmy.com/about/service-options/enlisted-soldiers-and-officers/warrant-officers.html

Words from Veterans
• http://www.halfofus.com/video/?videoID=78&chapterID=1

What Academic Advisors Should Know Concerning Veterans
• Pertinent Policies and Procedures
  – GI Bill only pays for classes in the program of study
  – Veteran Activity Sheet – document appropriate classes, etc.
  – Very last term – electives allowed if they are taking at least one class to complete their degree requirements
  – Military School Credit Issue
  – Military Spouses and Children resources

What Academic Advisors Should Know Concerning Veterans
• Awareness of, but not sole focus on, military benefits (VA, MGIB, TA, PTSD resources, etc.) as an augment to academic advising.
• Awareness of military culture and some of its basic jargon (e.g., Officers vs. Enlisted vs. Warrant Officer, ranking system, etc.) to shorten a student’s need to explain their life story if we can already decode it to an extent.

What Academic Advisors Should Know Concerning Veterans
• Socratic method of academic inquiry—many military students and veterans don’t know what they don’t know.
  – A new academic mindset of ‘practicing democracy, not just protecting it.’
• Tying the theoretical to the vocational.
• Pipelines to employment and resume development.
Resources – Campus Based

- Veteran Safe Zones (SDSU, LBSU, ASU)
- Campus-wide Care Team
- Veterans Advisor Specialist (specialist in each key office on campus)
- Veterans Administration (VA) (office or representative on campus).

- ASU 10 Things We Would Like Advisors To Know Handout (examples).

- The VA will not pay for courses which do not advance students towards their degrees.
- The VA calculates full-time status differently than the university does.
- Dropping classes can cost them money.
- It may be better for them to take a failing grade.

- Montclair State University
  - GNED 100-03 - Adult Academic Success Seminar

  - Instructor: Denise Rodak
  - E-mail: rodakd@mail.montclair.edu
  - Office: Morehead Hall 206; (973) 655-5172
  - Room: UN-2004
  - Term: Fall 2012
  - Meetings: Wednesdays 8:15-9:55AM

  - "Any nation that separates its scholars from its warriors will have its thinking done by cowards and its fighting by fools." - Thucydides

Resources - NACADA

- NACADA Advising Veterans Interest Group
- NACADA Clearinghouse
  - http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/clearinghouse/advisingissues/veterans.htm
  & http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Clearinghouse/links/military.htm

Resources - National

- http://www.studentveterans.org/ - Student Veterans of America
- http://www.va.gov/ - US Department of Veterans Affairs
Resources - Articles

- Compound to Campus: Transitioning from the Military to Academia. [http://www.higheredjobs.com/HigherEdCareers/interviews.cfm?ID=385&title=Compound%20to%20Campus%3A%20Transitioning%20from%20the%20Military%20to%20Academia]
- Veterans' Graduation Rates are Focus of New Partnership. [http://chronicle.com/article/Veterans-Graduation-Rates/136503/?cid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en]

Combat Related Trauma

- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Posttraumatic Growth (PTG)

Combat Related Trauma

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) - The “Signature Wound”

- A blow or jolt to the head or a penetrating head injury that disrupts the function of the brain, caused largely by improvised explosive devices (IEDs)
- In the military between 2000 and the second quarter of 2011, more than 220,000 service members sustained a TBI
- Of the 27,862 TBIs counted in the year 2009, about 78% (21,859) were classified as mild

Combat Related Trauma

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

Small percentage overall, and not limited to combat veterans:

- 8% - 20% of the adult population in the United States
- 21% of firefighters
- 6% - 12% of police officers
- 15% - 30% of combat veterans

Combat Related Trauma

PTSD – It all begins with the Fight or Flight Response

- Hard-wired instinct
- Essential tool for survival
- Begins when we perceive something as a threat
- When triggered, the brain alerts the body to danger and initiates a series of important physiological, emotional, and mental changes
PTSD can involve persistent re-experiences, including:

- Intrusive memories of the event
- Recurrent, distressing dreams about the event
- Acting or feeling as if the event is reoccurring
- Mental and physical discomfort when reminded of the traumatic event (e.g., event anniversary date)

Posttraumatic Growth – Five Domains:

- Increased appreciation for life
- More meaningful relationships
- Increased sense of personal strength
- Changed Priorities
- Richer existential and spiritual life

What Questions Do You Have?

- Small Group Potential Discussions
  - Are academic advisors on my campus prepared to assist veterans?
  - What resources are available on my campus to assist with becoming more aware of veteran student issues?
  - What are trouble spots at my institution for veterans and how can that change?
  - What else do you need to know about veteran students to help them be successful?
  - What resources for combat related trauma
  - How does your campus define veterans?