

# **MILITARY 101:**

*Military Basics Every American Should Know*

Paul Clarke, Lt Col, USAF (ret.)

&

Ian Thomson, Fellow  
Clean Energy Advocate

**What words come to mind when you think of the military?**

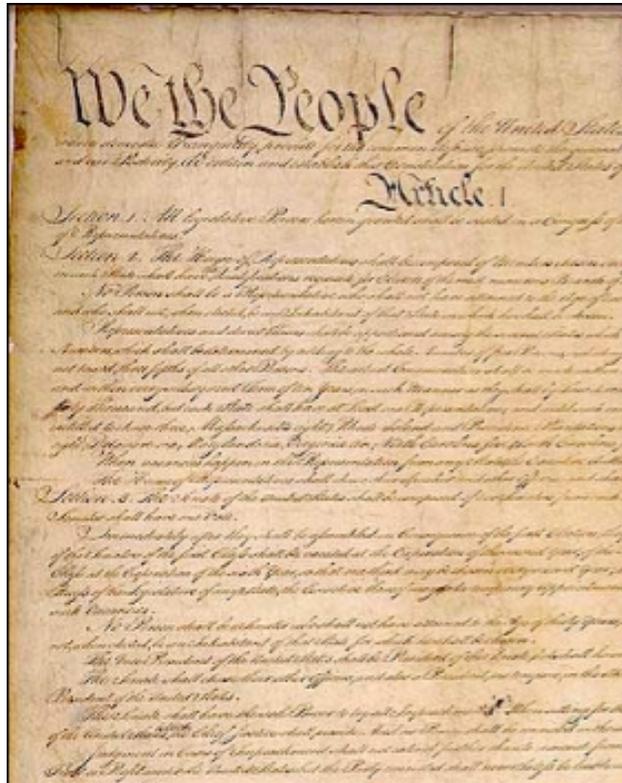
**What is your gut impression of people who serve in the military?**

Military 101 serves to make you more comfortable engaging with the military

- **Understand military structure and values**
- **Provide answers to the basic questions you've been embarrassed to ask**
- **Break down persistent myths and empower you to reach out**

Understanding the military means  
understanding a culture

# The military is inherently apolitical



**Service-members  
swear an oath to the  
Constitution.**

**Not to a Party or a  
particular President.**

**It doesn't set policy. It executes it.**

# Agenda

**I. Organization (I & II)**

**II. Demographics**

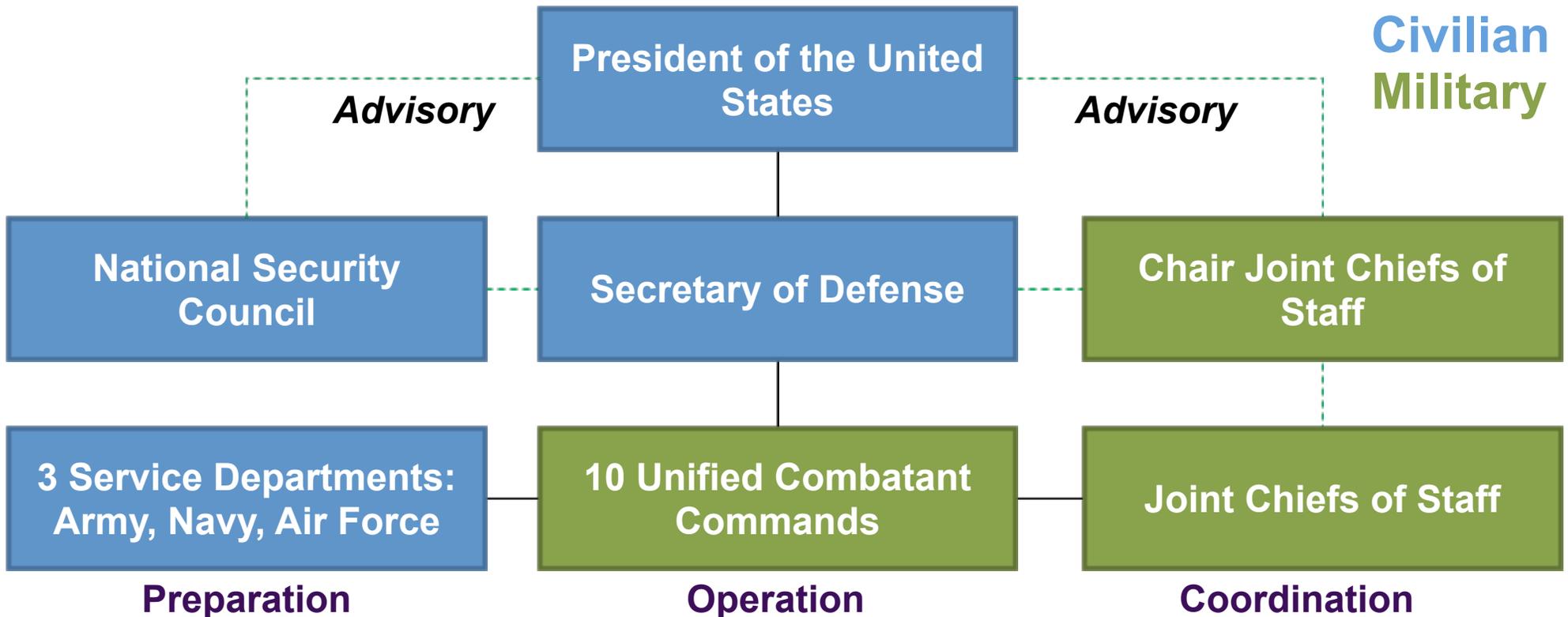
**III. Values**

**IV. Energy**

# I. Organization

Leadership & Structure

Policy decisions are made by civilians.  
The military only advises.



**This includes decisions regarding social policy.**



## The Secretary of Defense:

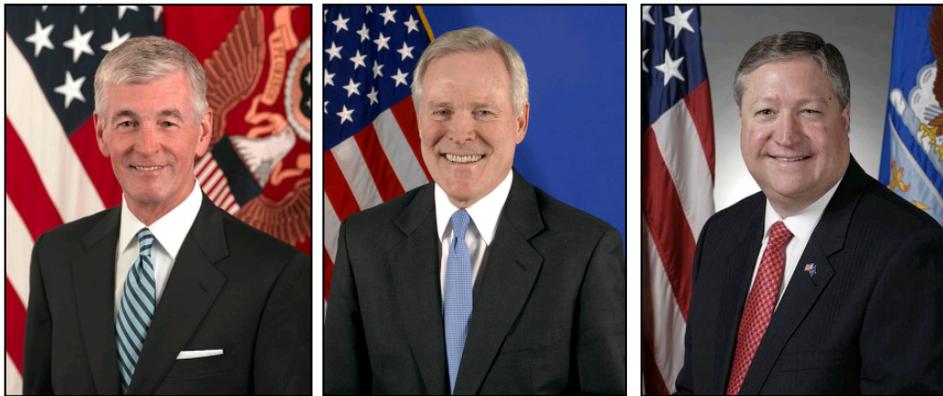
➤ The SecDef is a civilian nominated by President and confirmed by Senate. The SecDef serves in President's Cabinet and directs the DOD.

➤ Operational command runs:  
President → SecDef →  
Combatant Commanders



## Three Service Departments

➤ Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force are civilians nominated by President and confirmed by Senate. They serve under SecDef and direct their respective Departments.



➤ The Marine Corps is within the Dept of Navy.

➤ They prepare, train, and equip forces. They do not command ongoing operations.

# Each service has its own mandate



## Army

Large scale and long term ground operations



## Air Force

Air and space operations



## Coast Guard

Shore operations, now under DHS



## Navy

Naval security, transport, and force projection



## Marine Corps

“First to fight;” Rapid naval deployment and ground operations

**But there is some overlap...and friendly competition.**

# Not all military personnel are “soldiers”



**Army = soldier**



**Navy = sailor**



**Coast Guard = coastguardsman**

**Air Force =  
airman**



**Marines = Marine**



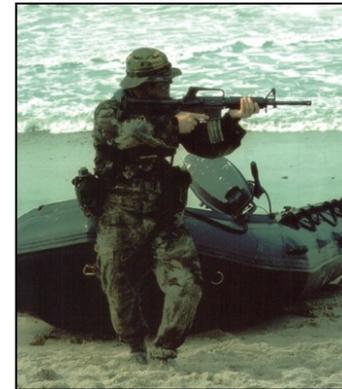
**Using the correct term is critical to your credibility.  
When in doubt, use “service-member.”**

10 Combatant Commanders combine members from all services (Military).

6 Regional Commands:  
Think “CENTCOM”

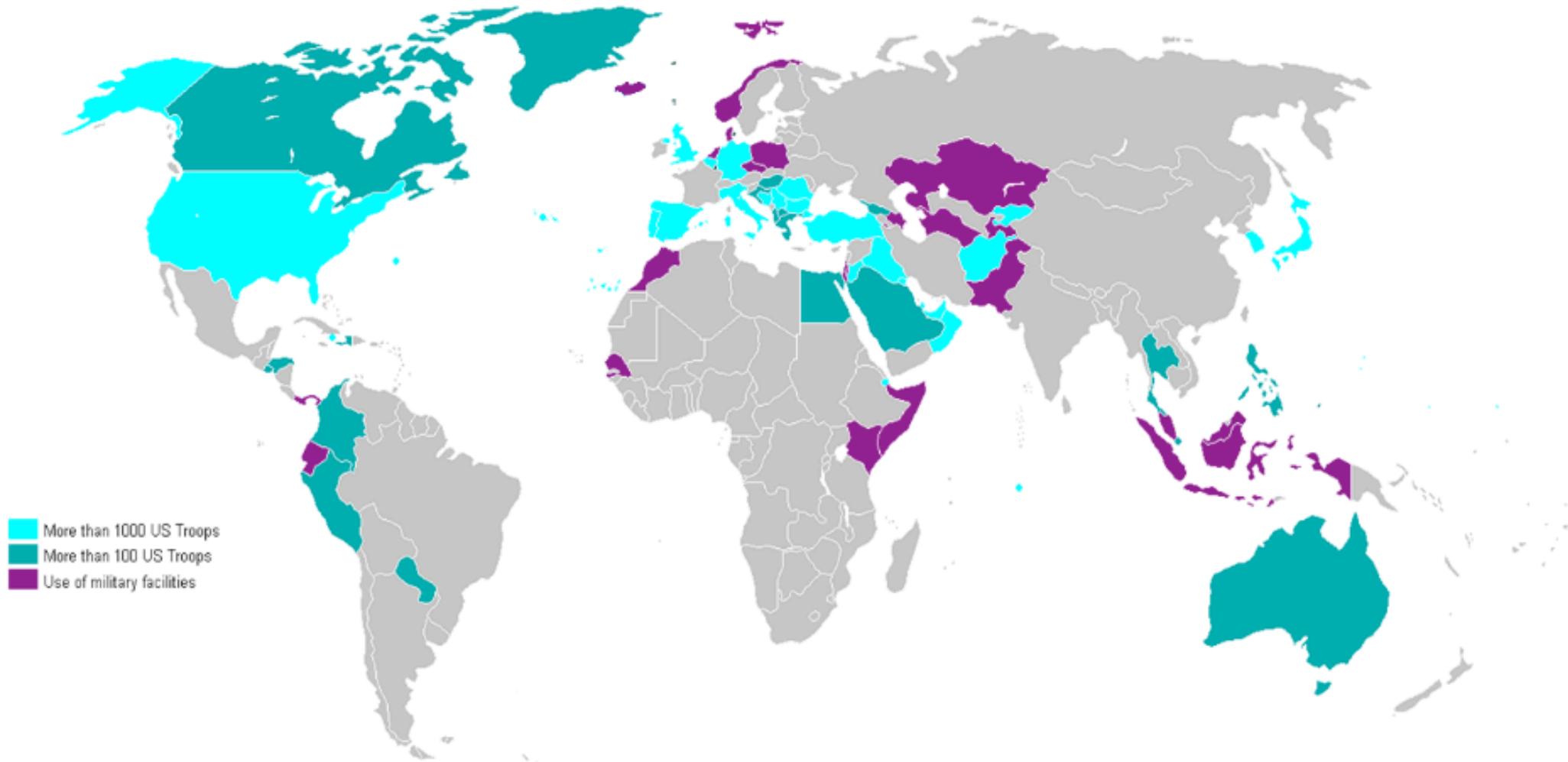


4 Functional Commands:  
Think “SOCOM”



These Commanders are have operational command.

# The military is deployed worldwide

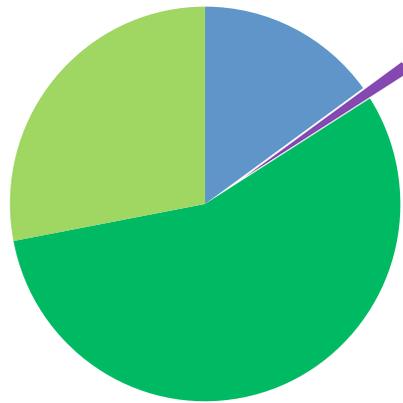


**It is not just our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.**

# Organization II:

## The People

There are 2 basic ways to serve:  
as Enlisted or as an Officer.



■ Officers = 15%

■ Warrant Officers = 1%

■ Non-Commissioned Officers = 56%

■ Junior Enlisted = 28%

**Enlisted and officer service members serve in  
hundreds of specialized occupational roles.**

Enlisted Ranks join up. They carry out the activities needed to achieve the mission.



**They can become Non-Commissioned Officers. But don't call them "sir/ma'am."  
They work for a living.**

# Commissioned Officers lead the mission.

	Army, Marines, & Air Force	Navy & Coast Guard
	General	Admiral
	Colonel	Captain
	Lieutenant Colonel	Commander
	Major	Lieutenant Commander
	Captain	Lieutenant
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant	Lieutenant Junior Grade
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant	Ensign

**They receive commissions from the President, after ROTC, Academies, or Officer Candidate School.**



## Reserves & National Guard

- Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines have Reserve forces. They are federally commanded.
- State governors command Army/Air National Guard. President can “Federalize” them to serve with Army or Navy.
- Reserve and Guard units train one weekend a month and two full weeks a year. They can be “activated” for longer service.

# The rules of activation have changed

**Since 2001, reserves have moved from a role of support to active duty in Iraq & Afghanistan. In 2007, reserves comprised 28% of U.S. forces in Iraq.**

# II. Demographics

The services adopted an all volunteer force in 1973. Who volunteers today?



Today, the military is less than 1% of the U.S. population



**Compare with WWII: 14-15% of the population served; Vietnam: 6-7% served as a result of the draft.**

A draft might be good for society,  
but most in the military don't want it



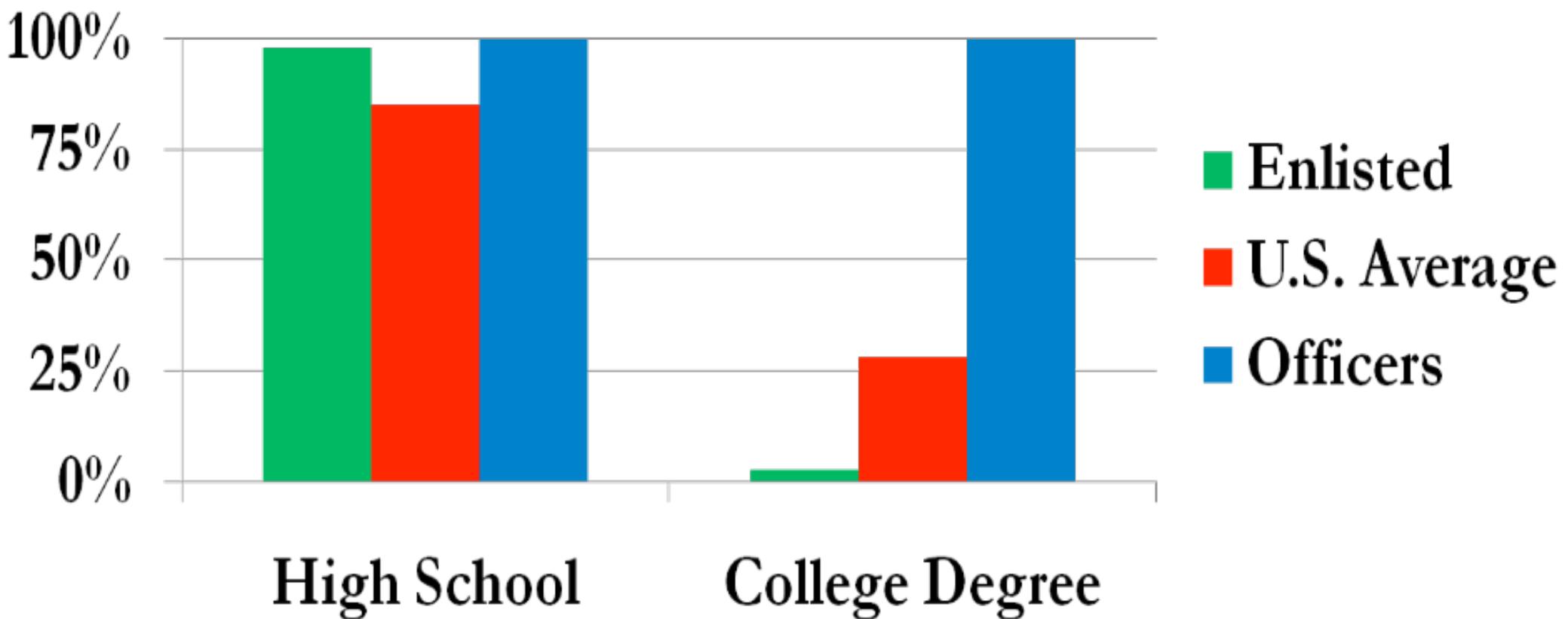
**They don't want to be “protected” by  
someone who doesn't want to be there**

Only 25 percent of the population between 17 and 24 are eligible to enlist...



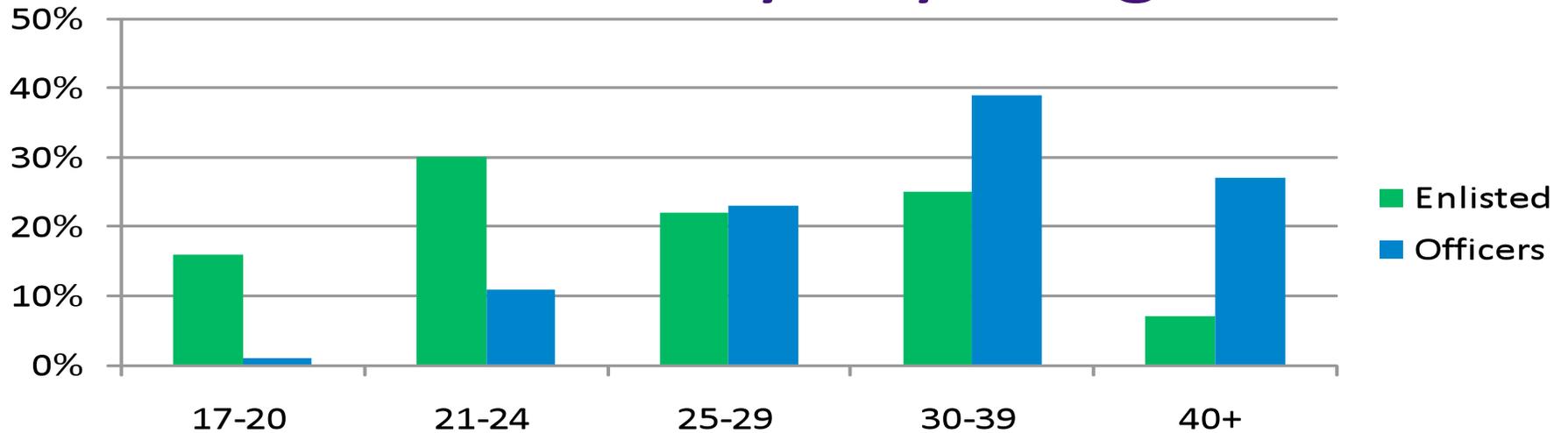
**Restrictions are stringent & qualifications are high.**

# The military is educated

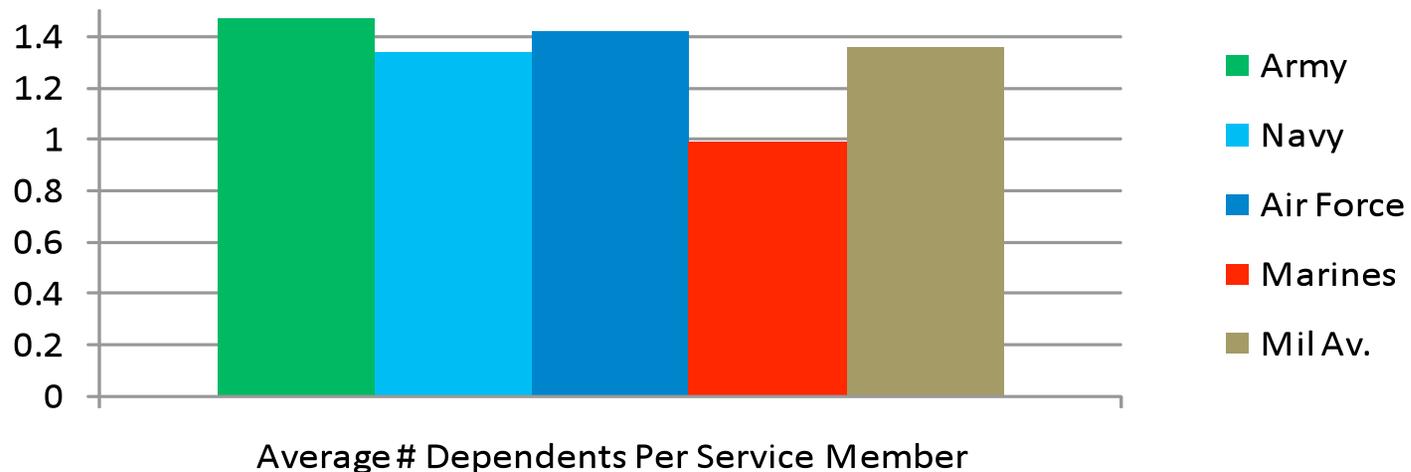


**Service-members don't get "stuck in Iraq."**

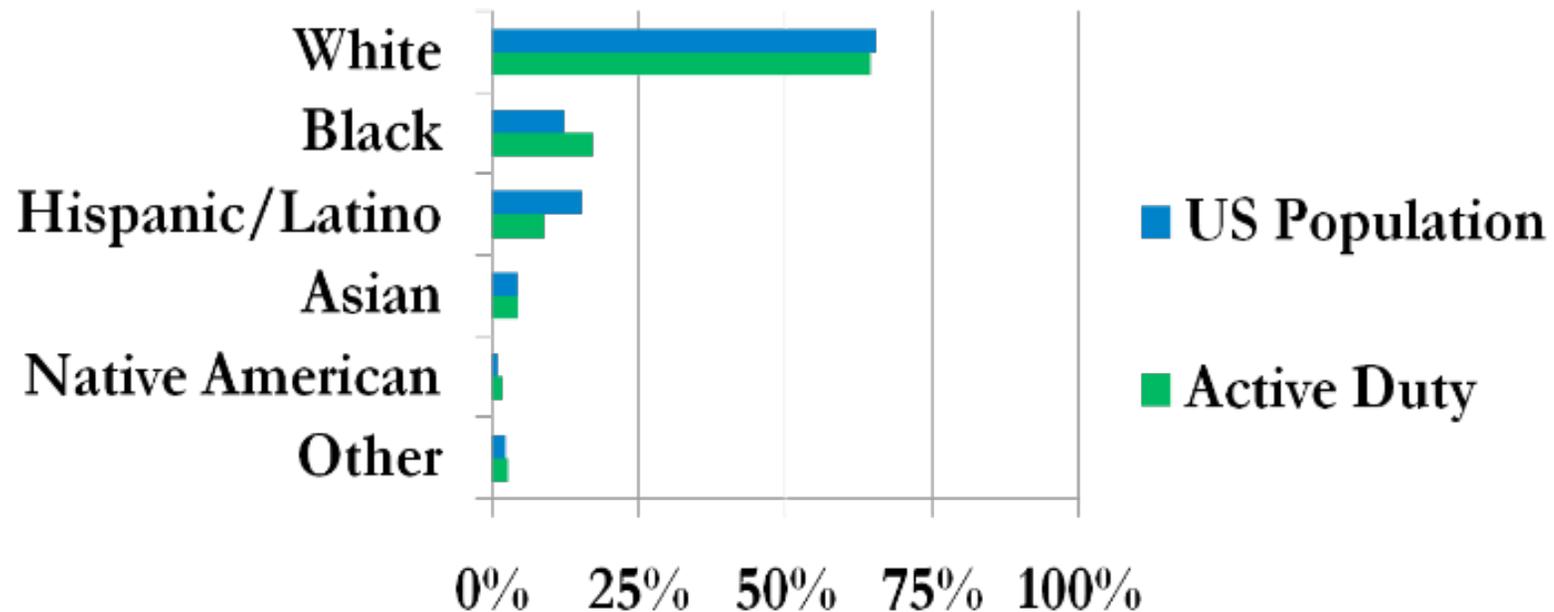
# The military is young...



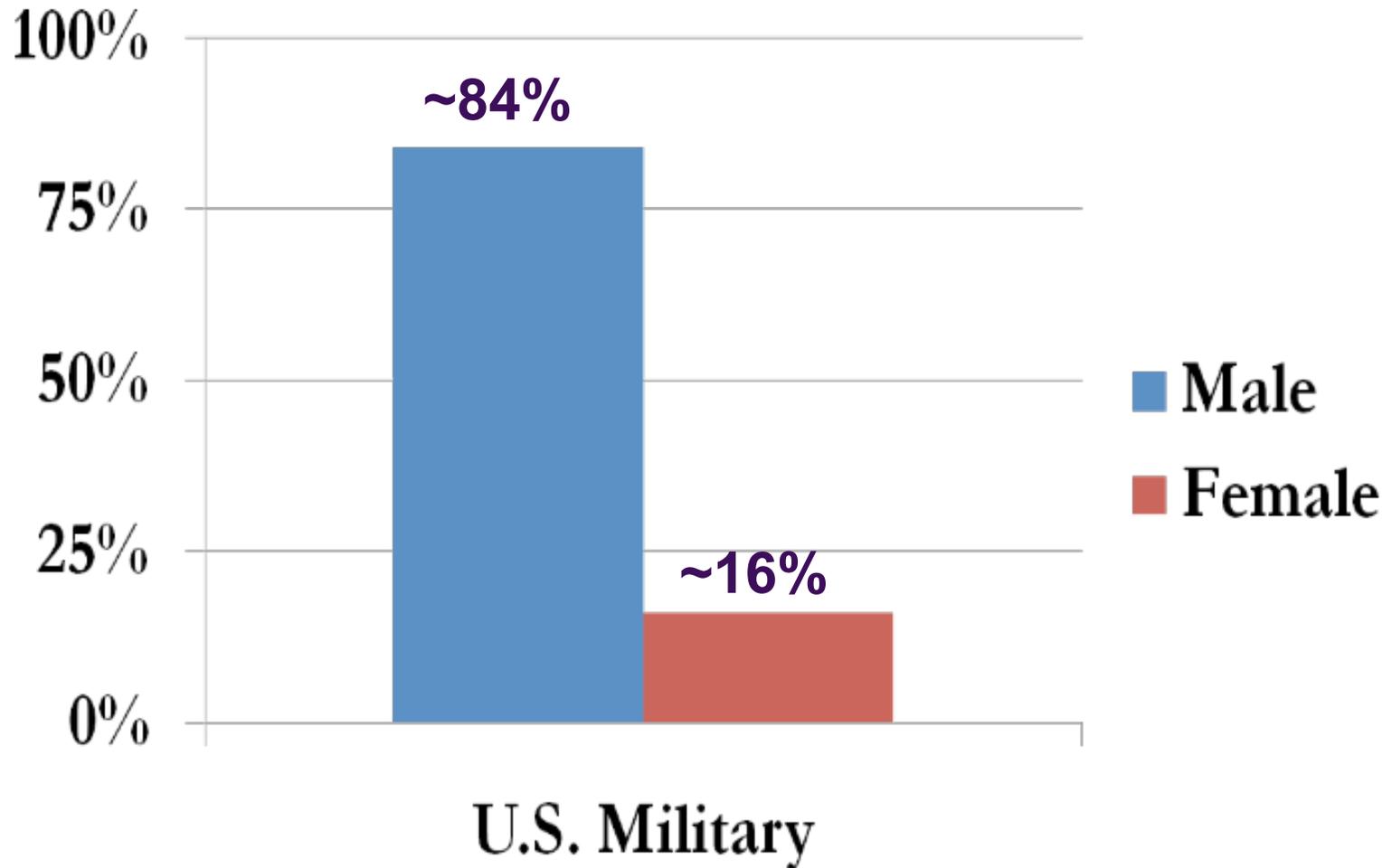
# ...and often married w/children...



# The military is nearly ethnically representative of the U.S. population...



...and mostly male.





***Army MP Leigh Ann Hester, first woman to win Silver Star for 2005 counter-ambush in Iraq***

## **Women in the Military**

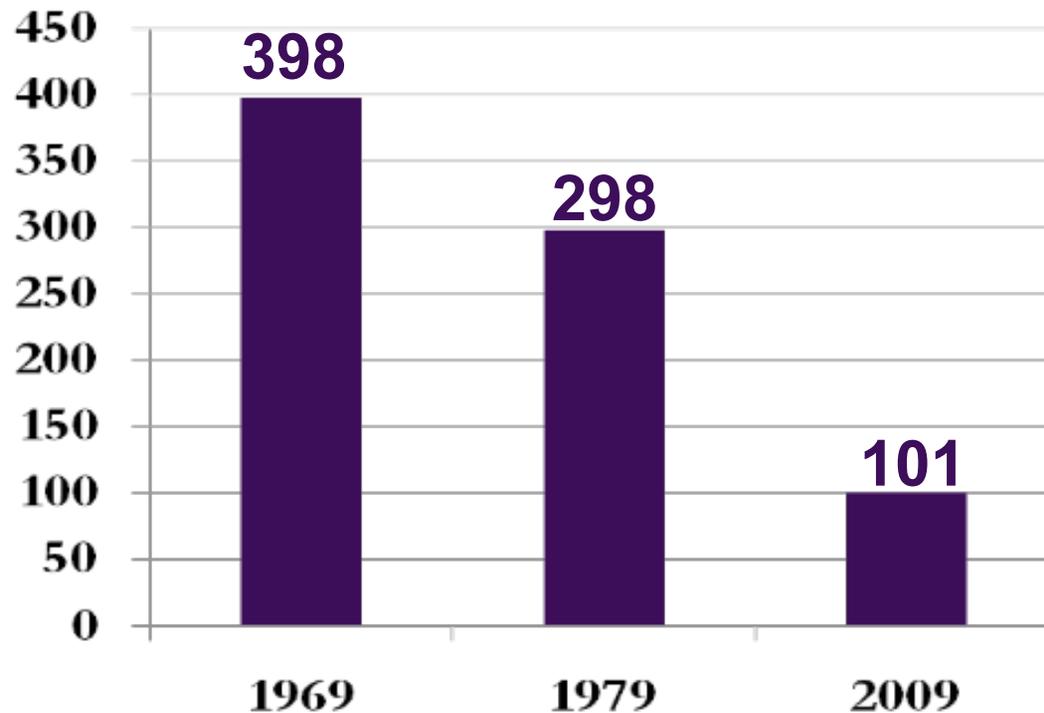
- **In WWII, 270,000 U.S. women served military (2% of force).**
- **Truman signed 1948 Women's Armed Services Integration Act mandating women in military.**
- **LBJ signed a 1967 law ending 2% cap on female recruitment.**
- **No women in infantry, armor, artillery, & SF but yes in staff, aircraft, search teams, and subs (2012).**

Veterans comprise a much larger swath of the U.S. population (7-8% as of Feb 2010) than active-duty



**The VA counts 23.1 million living Vets plus 37 million dependents = 20% population.**

# But very few Vets serve in Congress



Vets in House & Senate

**Today's legislation affecting war is being made by legislators with LESS combat experience.**

# III. Values

In the military, values like loyalty and honor are what you live or die on



## 7 Official Army Values:

**Loyalty, Duty  
Respect  
Selfless Service  
Honor, Integrity,  
Personal Courage**

**Think about how an Honor Code violation differs in school versus on the battlefield- what are the consequences?**

# There are a number of values we share

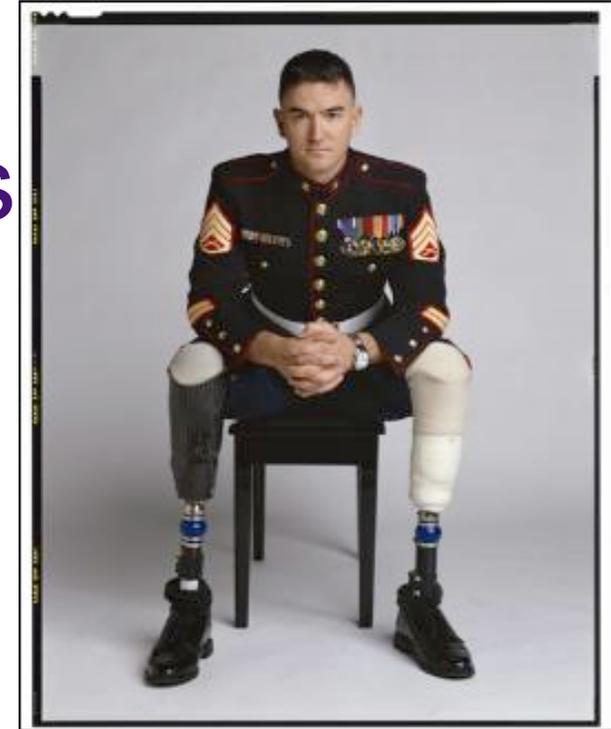
- **Privileged should help the underprivileged**
- **Community should take care of each other**  
*(Leave no man behind...)*
  - **Commitment to doing the right thing**
- **Respect for merit/disdain for unearned privilege**



We need to move beyond old stereotypes

**MYTH:** The military likes making war.

**FACT:** It's complicated.



**Troops are the first to see the costs of war.**

# IV. Energy



**DoD Move Beyond Energy Platitudes for the DoD**  
*An Ecosystem to engage the Private Sector & Academia*

A bright sunburst graphic with rays emanating from a central point, set against a blue gradient background that transitions from dark blue at the top to white at the bottom.

## **Why Renewables and Energy Efficiency?**

- Operational Surety
- Environmental Stewardship
- Geostrategic Imperatives
- National Economic Interest
- Constrained Resources (Cost)

**Energy Efficiency = Combat Effectiveness**

A bright sunburst graphic with rays emanating from a central point, set against a blue gradient background that transitions from dark blue at the top to white at the bottom.

## **Fiscal Realities and Federal Mandates**

Unlock Private Partnerships and Leverage FFRDC

- Sharing development Risk
- Understanding private industry
- Prioritizing for impact
- Leveraging scale
- Facilitating communication

## **Developing Technologies as well as Projects**

# Questions?

[Clarkeusaf@aol.com](mailto:Clarkeusaf@aol.com)

*me@ianthomson.net*

# **Additional Charts/Background for Reference**

# Complete List of the Combatant Commands

## Regional

## Functional

- **Africa Command (AFRICOM)**
- **Central Command (CENTCOM)**
- **European Command (EUCOM)**
- **Pacific Command (PACOM)**
- **Northern Command (NORTHCOM)**
- **Southern Command (SOUTHCOM)**
- **Special Operations Command (SOCOM)**
- **Joint Forces Command (JFCOM)**
- **Strategic Command (STRATCOM)**
  - **Cyber Command (CYBERCOM)**
- **Transportation Command (TRANSCOM)**

# Further Detail on Enlisted Ranks:

- Junior enlisted are “Pay Grade” E-1 to E-3 [Air Force E-1 to E-4]. Their service is about accomplishing the mission.
- Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) E-4 to E-9 [Air Force E-5 to E-9] lead other enlisted and support officers. NCOs and senior NCOs often have more experience than officer counterparts.
- Warrant Officers began as enlisted, specialized, and now serve as duty expert officers.



# Further Detail on Commissioned Officers:

- **3 Ways to Become an Officer:** ROTC Programs, Military Academies, Officer Candidate School (college grad & enlisted becoming officers)
- **Junior Officers (O-1 to O-3) – 0 to 5 years of experience**
  - The decision-makers on the ground, leading small units of 20-250
- **Mid-level Officers (O-4 to O-6) – 5 to 20 years of experience**
  - Typically command larger units that can be expected to operate independently for short periods of time
- **Senior Officers (O-7 to O-10) – more than 20 years of experience**
  - Advise national policy and lead or staff large units
  - Set the military's official tone, but have less contact with the mass military



# Army: Ranks, Titles, Insignias, Abbreviations

Increasing Seniority



## Enlisted rank Structure

US DoD Pay grade	E-1	E-2	E-3	E-4	E-5	E-6	E-7	E-8	E-9				
Insignia	No Insignia												
Title	Private	Private	Private First Class	Specialist	Corporal	Sergeant	Staff Sergeant	Sergeant First Class	Master Sergeant	First Sergeant	Sergeant Major	Command Sergeant Major	Sergeant Major of the Army
Abbreviation	PV1 *	PV2 *	PFC	SPC *	CPL	SGT	SSG	SFC	MSG	1SG	SGM	CSM	SMA

## Warrant Officer Rank Structure

US DoD Pay Grade	W-1	W-2	W-3	W-4	W-5
Insignia					
Title	Warrant Officer One	Chief Warrant Officer Two	Chief Warrant Officer Three	Chief Warrant Officer Four	Chief Warrant Officer Five
Abbreviation	WO1	CW2	CW3	CW4	CW5

## Officer Rank Structure

US DoD Pay Grade	O-1	O-2	O-3	O-4	O-5	O-6	O-7	O-8	O-9	O-10	Special *
Insignia											
Title	Second Lieutenant	First Lieutenant	Captain	Major	Lieutenant Colonel	Colonel	Brigadier General	Major General	Lieutenant General	General	General of the Army
Abbreviation	2LT	1LT	CPT	MAJ	LTC	COL	BG	MG	LTG	GEN	GA

Source: <http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/insignias/officers.html>



# Air Force: Ranks, Titles, Insignias, Abbreviations

← Increasing Seniority

## Enlisted Rank Structure

Pay grade	E-9		E-8		E-7		E-6	E-5	E-4	E-3	E-2	E-1
Insignia												No Insignia
Title	Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force	Command Chief Master Sergeant	Chief Master Sergeant*	Senior Master Sergeant*	Senior Master Sergeant*	Master Sergeant*	Master Sergeant*	Technical Sergeant	Staff Sergeant	Senior Airman	Airman First Class	Airman Airman Basic
Abbreviation	CMSAF	CCM	CMSgt	SMSgt	SMSgt	MSGt	MSGt	TSgt	SSgt	SrA	A1C	Amn AB

## Officer Rank Structure

Pay grade	Special *	O-10	O-9	O-8	O-7	O-6	O-5	O-4	O-3	O-2	O-1
Insignia											
Title	General of the Air Force	General	Lieutenant General	Major General	Brigadier General	Colonel	Lieutenant Colonel	Major	Captain	First Lieutenant	Second Lieutenant
Abbreviation	GOAF	Gen	Lt Gen	Maj Gen	Brig Gen	Col	Lt Col	Maj	Capt	1st Lt	2d Lt

Wartime Only



# Navy: Ranks, Titles, Insignias, Abbreviations

Increasing Seniority →

## Enlisted Rate Structure

Pay Grade	E-1	E-2	E-3	E-4	E-5	E-6	E-7	E-8	E-9		
Insignia	No Insignia										
Title	Seaman Recruit	Seaman Apprentice	Seaman	Petty Officer Third Class	Petty Officer Second Class	Petty Officer First Class	Chief Petty Officer	Senior Chief Petty Officer	Master Chief Petty Officer	Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy	
Abbreviation	SR	SA	SN	PO3	PO2	PO1	CPO	SCPO	MCPO	FLTCM/CMDCM	MCPON

## Warrant Officer Rank Structure

Pay Grade	W-1	W-2	W-3	W-4	W-5
Insignia	No W-1 rank				
Title		Chief Warrant Officer 2	Chief Warrant Officer 3	Chief Warrant Officer 4	Chief Warrant Officer 5
Abbreviation		CWO2	CWO3	CWO4	CWO5

## Officer Rank Structure

Pay Grade	O-1	O-2	O-3	O-4	O-5	O-6	O-7	O-8	O-9	O-10	Wartime Only
Insignia											
Title	Ensign	Lieutenant Junior Grade	Lieutenant	Lieutenant Commander	Commander	Captain	Rear Admiral (Lower Half)	Rear Admiral (Upper Half)	Vice Admiral	Admiral	Fleet Admiral
Abbreviation	ENS	LTJG	LT	LCDR	CDR	CAPT	RDML	RADM	VADM	ADM	FADM



# Marine Corps: Ranks, Titles, Insignias, Abbreviations

← Increasing Seniority →

## Enlisted Rank Structure

Pay grade	E-9			E-8		E-7	E-6	E-5	E-4	E-3	E-2	E-1
Insignia												No Insignia
Title	Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps	Sergeant Major	Master Gunnery Sergeant	First Sergeant	Master Sergeant	Gunnery Sergeant	Staff Sergeant	Sergeant Corporal	Sergeant Corporal	Lance Corporal	Private First Class	Private
Abbreviation	SgtMajMarCor	SgtMaj	MGySgt	1stSgt	MSgt	GySgt	SSgt	Sgt	Cpl	LCpl	PFC	Pvt

## Warrant Officer Rank Structure

Pay Grade	W-5	W-4	W-3	W-2	W-1
Insignia					
Title	Chief Warrant Officer Five	Chief Warrant Officer Four	Chief Warrant Officer Three	Chief Warrant Officer Two	Warrant Officer One
Abbreviation	CW05	CW04	CW03	CW02	WO

## Officer Rank Structure

Pay grade	O-10	O-9	O-8	O-7	O-6	O-5	O-4	O-3	O-2	O-1
Insignia										
Title	General	Lieutenant General	Major General	Brigadier General	Colonel	Lieutenant Colonel	Major	Captain	First Lieutenant	Second Lieutenant
Abbreviation	Gen	LtGen	MajGen	BGen	Col	LtCol	Maj	Capt	1stLt	2ndLt