

# **GREEN ZONE TRAINING**

## **AN INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT STUDENT VETERANS**

**Presented by: Jamie Richards**

**Director of the Veterans Success Center**

# WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF GREEN ZONE TRAINING?

Create an environment of support

Raise awareness

Better assist our veteran and military students by:

- Communicating
- Aware of resources

*You are NOT expected to be experts*



# AGENDA

1. Who are our students
2. The military experience
3. Transitioning from military to campus
4. Benefits
5. Our initiatives

# COMMONLY USED TERMS

Service Member—Generic term to encompass anyone who is serving

Veteran—Any individual who served in the U.S. military

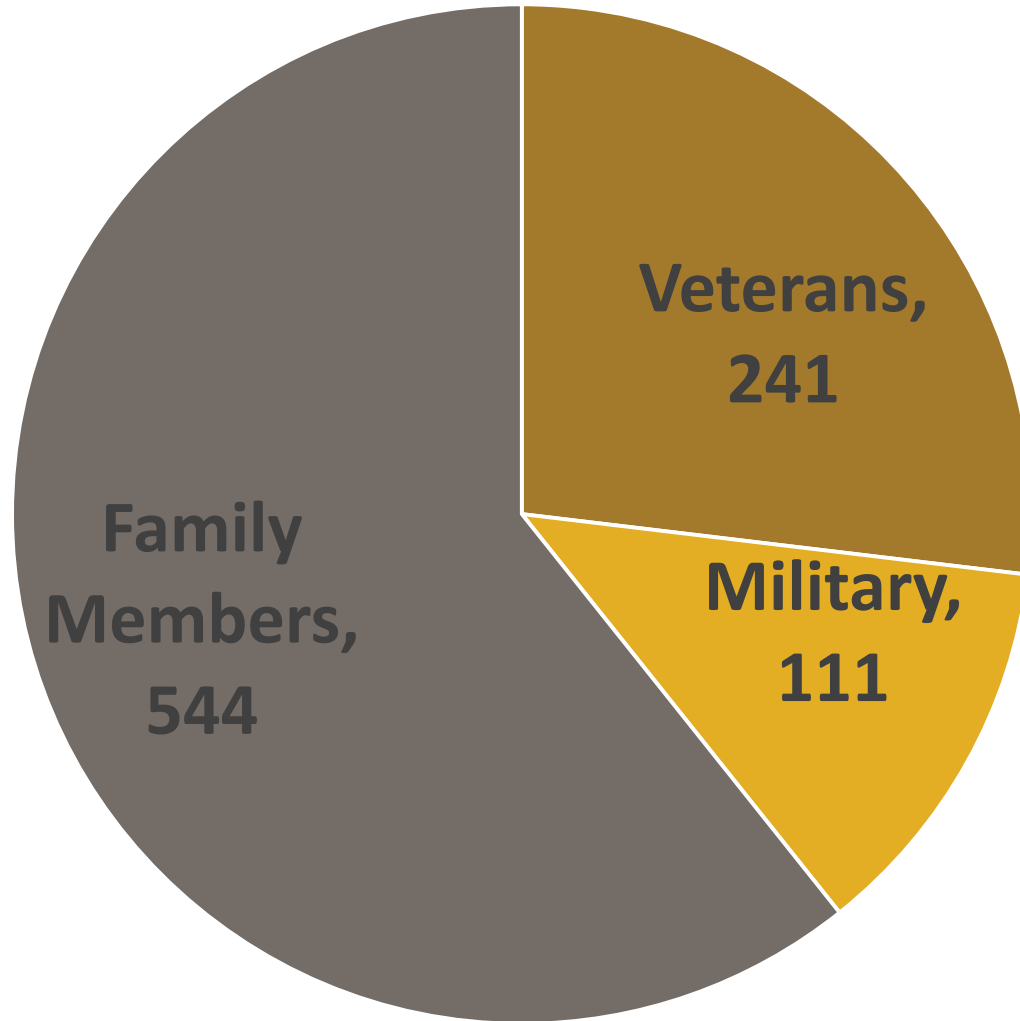
Combat Veteran—Any veteran who served in combat zone and/or saw combat

## **GOLDEN TICKETS!**

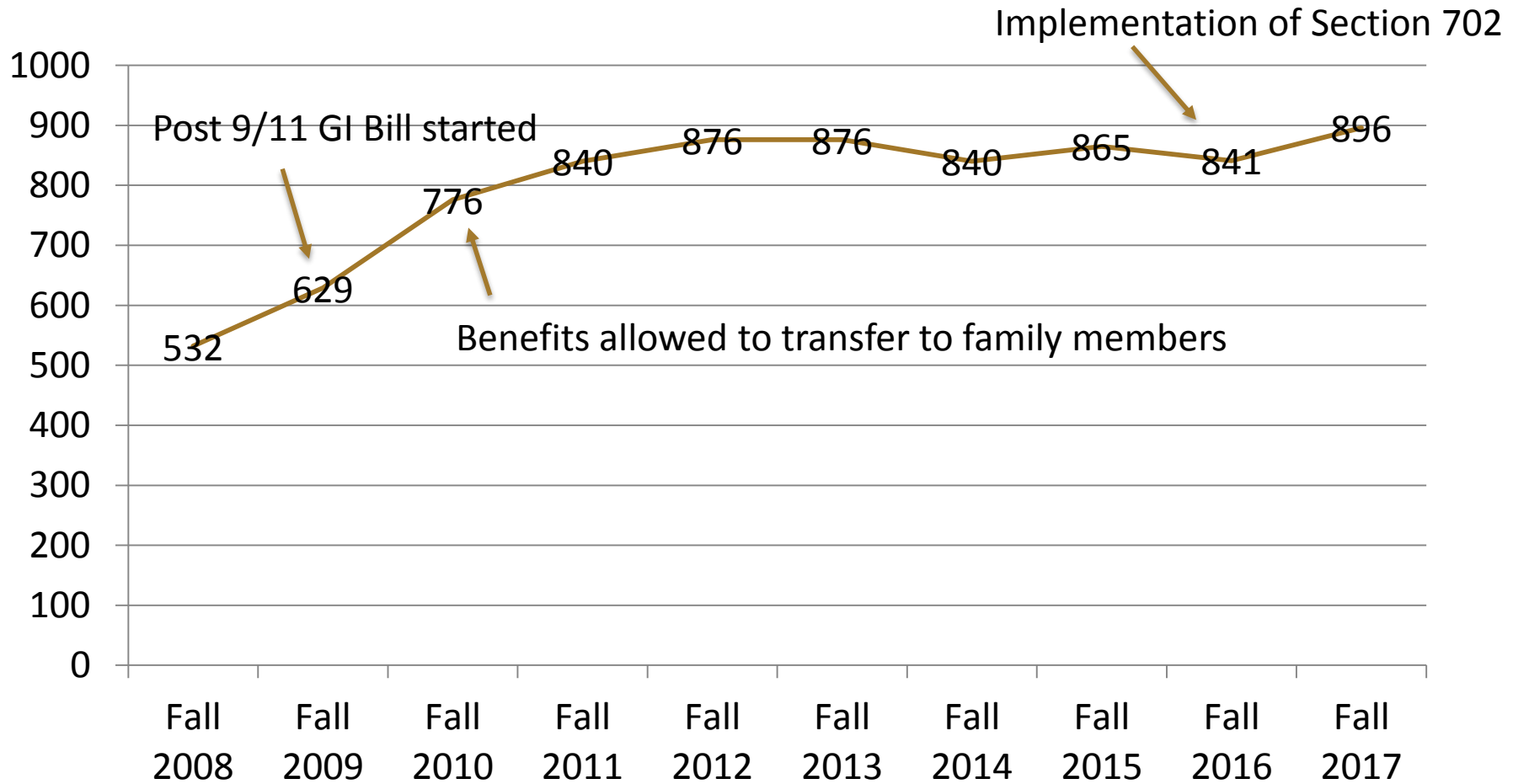
**DD-214**—Form used to document discharge from active duty

**COE**—Certificate of Eligibility—paperwork provided by the VA for GI Bill Benefits

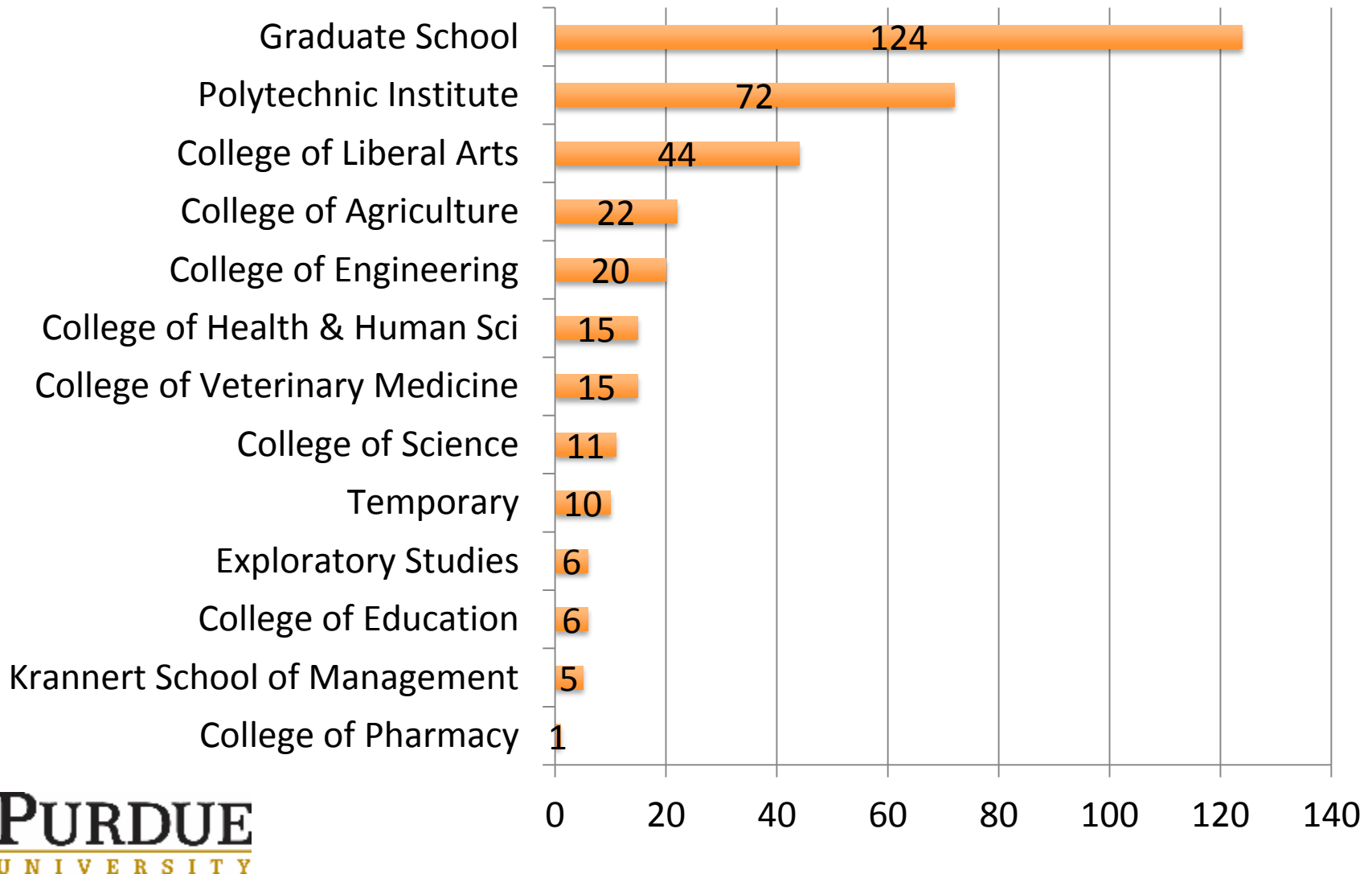
# MIX OF TOTAL POPULATION FALL 2017



# TOTAL POPULATION SINCE 2008



# VET/MIL BY COLLEGE/SCHOOL FALL 2017



# RETENTION/GRADUATION RATES AND AVERAGE GPA

2009 Cohort	First Year Retention	Six Year Graduation
Veteran Students only	91.7%	68.3%
All Purdue	87.3%	73.8%

AVERAGE GPA	GPA
Veteran Students	3.1
Military Students	3.0
Family Students	2.6
All Purdue	3.1

- *Nationwide non-veteran undergraduate graduation rate is 66% and for student veterans it is 72%.*
- *Nationwide non-veteran undergraduate GPA is 2.94 and for student veterans it is 3.35.*



# PURDUE'S MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS

## VETERAN STUDENTS

### General Demographics

- Caucasian males
- Much older than average Purdue student
- 60% are residents

### Comparisons

- Purdue has higher percentage of female veterans on campus (27%) than females serving in the military (17%)
  - However, this is still below the percentage of females in entire Purdue population (43%)
- The race and ethnicity of veteran students is more similar to Purdue's distribution

## MILITARY STUDENTS

### General Demographics

- Caucasian males
- Slightly older than average Purdue student
- 93% are residents

### Comparisons

- Percentages of females within military students and total military are comparable
  - However, this is well below female representation in entire Purdue population
- While more diverse than Purdue's overall diversity, black military students are underrepresented

# MILITARY COMMITMENTS

## Active Duty

Always ready

Full-time job

Deployments

No significant active duty  
installation in the state

Some personnel stationed in the  
state or temporarily stationed to  
attend Purdue

## Reserve or National Guard

One weekend a month, two  
weeks a year

Often times long weekend

Individual and Unit Readiness

Deployments

Little or no control over their  
commitments

Local armory

Other common locations; Camp  
Atterbury, Crane, Indianapolis,  
Muskatutuk, Grissom, Ft.  
Wayne...

# TYPICAL EXPERIENCE

## Typical Enlisted Experience

- 3-6 enlistment
  - Recruit training
  - Initial school
  - (Advanced training)
  - Report to unit
  - Continual advanced training
- 
- E1-E9

## Typical Officer Experience

- College education
  - Initial officer training
  - (Advanced training)
  - Report to unit
  - Continual advanced training
  - Sometimes graduate school
- 
- O1-O10

# VETERAN COMMITMENTS

## VA Healthcare System

- Appointments made months in advance
- Little or no control over the dates/times
- VA clinic in West Lafayette
- Full service facilities are in Danville and Indy
- Get fixed or go to class?

# FAMILY MEMBER COMMITMENTS

Pre-deployment briefings

Last day prior to leaving

Welcome home from deployment

Post-deployment briefings

# **TRANSITIONING FROM MILITARY TO CAMPUS**

**GREEN ZONE TRAINING**

# TRANSITION STRENGTHS

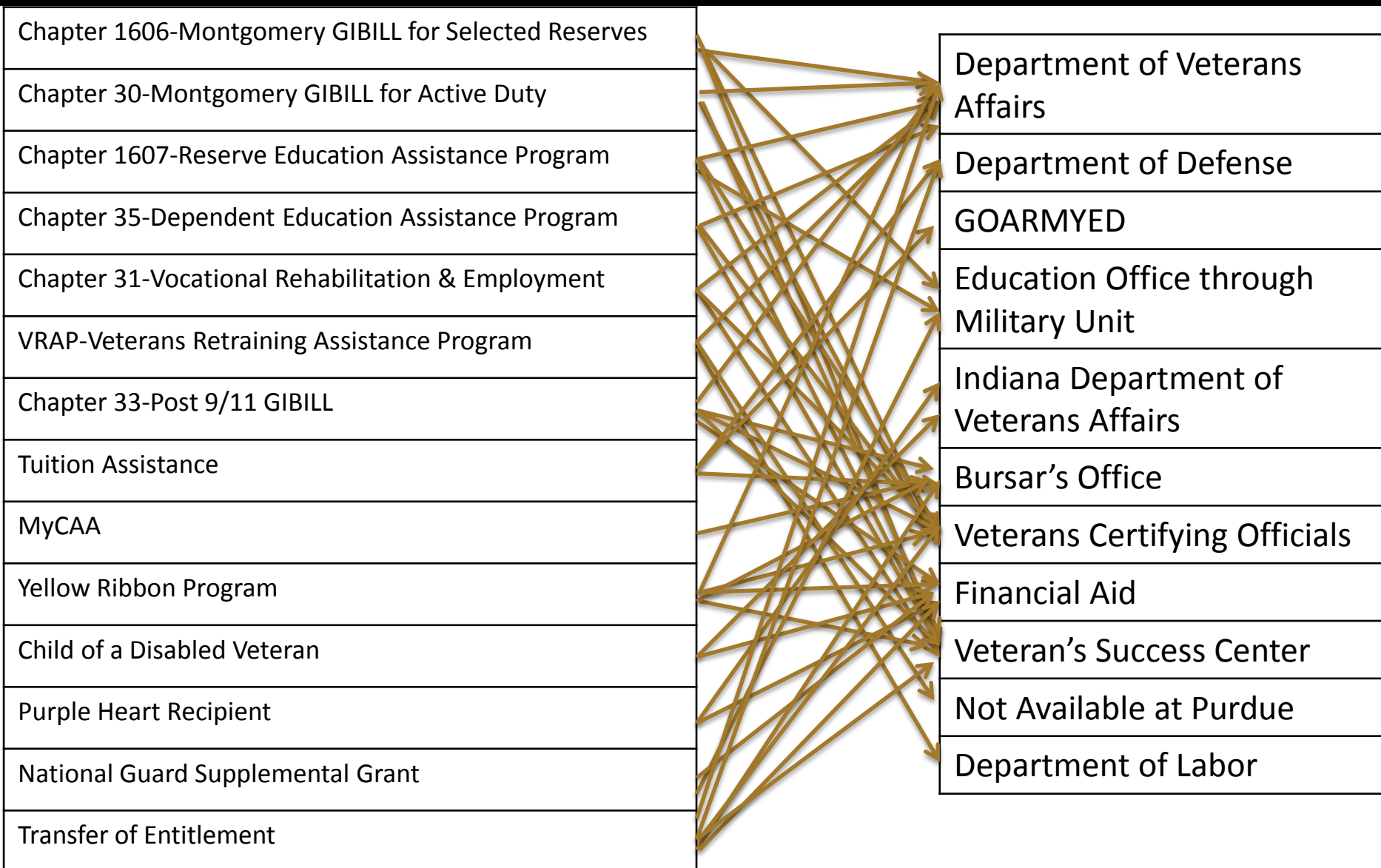
## Unique Perspective:

- Established identity
- Life experiences
- A more worldly view

## Valuable Skills:

- Leadership
- Followership
- Motivation
- Stress management

# BENEFITS CONFUSION—WHO IS ON FIRST?





# SOCIAL CHALLENGES

- Classmates
  - Different Ages
  - Different Interests
- Loss of Community
- Politics—pointy end of the spear

Strengths	Perceptions
Pride, honor and integrity Directness Personal sacrifice Confidence	Nationalistic Abrasive, impatient or rude Team before individual Arrogance

# FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

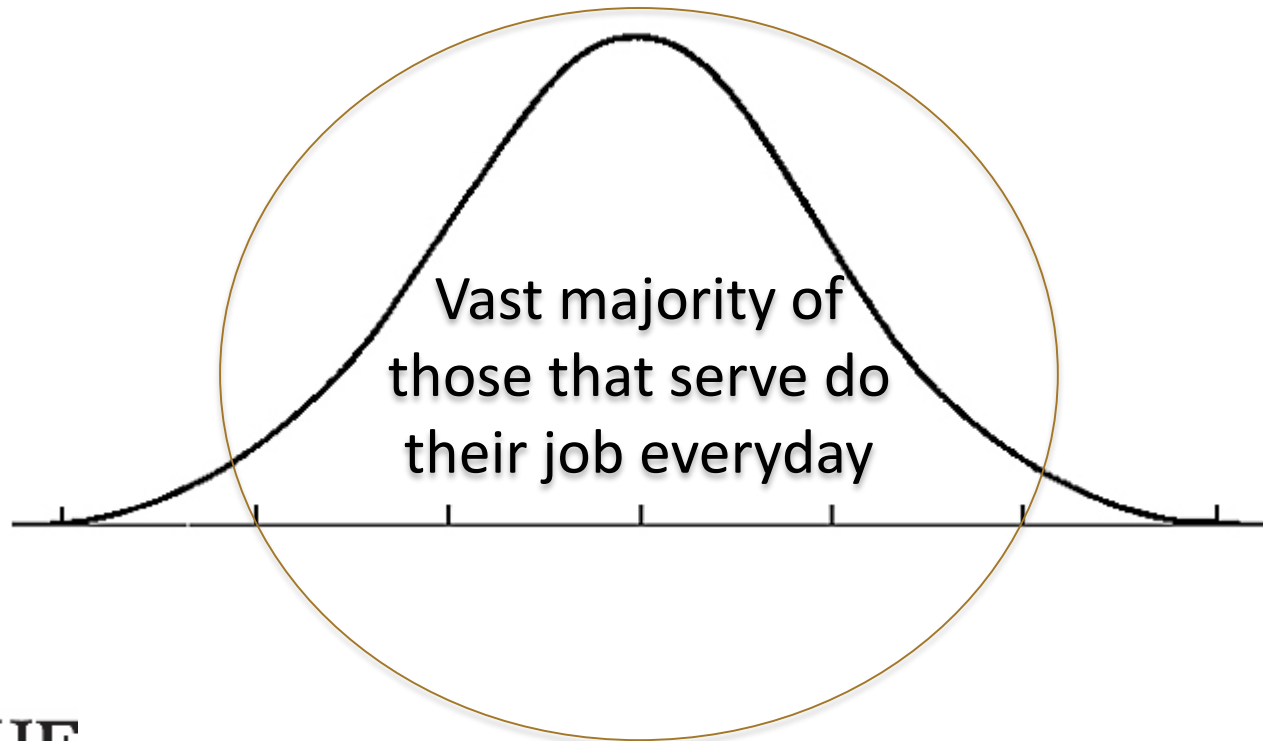
- Different Benefits and Payment Structures
- VA Disability or Retirement Pay Problems
- Housing Expenses for Families
- During semester starts, GI Bill payments can be greatly delayed
- There is no status indicator for benefits!

BENEFIT STATUS

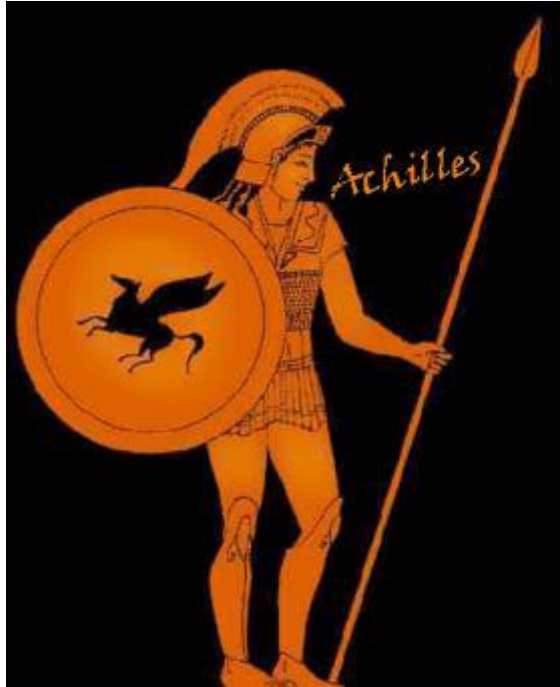
# VISIBILITY/IDENTITY CHALLENGES

## Real or Perceived?

- All veterans are heroes
- All veterans are broken



# TURNING OFF THE SWITCH



*The Ten Year Warrior*

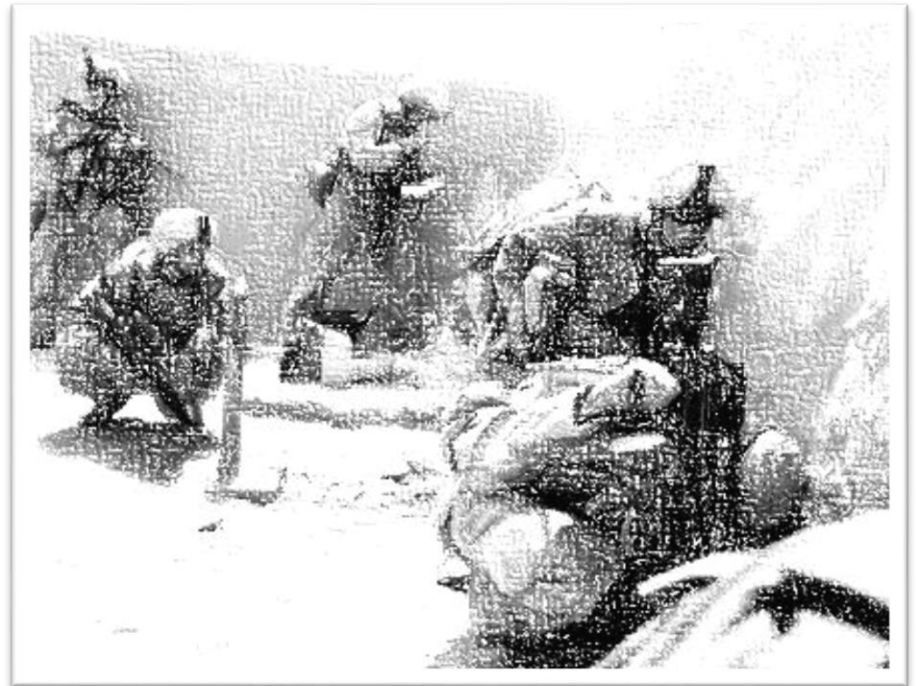


*The Return Home*

# TRANSITIONING FROM THE BATTLEMIND

## Survival Skills

**B**uddies  
**A**ccountability  
**T**argeted aggression  
**T**actical awareness  
**L**ethally armed  
**E**mootional control  
**M**ission Security  
**I**ndividual Responsibility  
**N**on-Defensive Driving  
**D**iscipline and Ordering



# VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES ON CAMPUS

## Goal = Student Success

In most instances these are new disabilities

Unaware of their disability rights

Learning may now be a challenge

May be difficult asking for help

Social and family reintegration difficulties

Injuries may cause personality disorders

## Develop Trust

Communicate early and often

Have an open dialogue about frustrations

Help them focus on their personal mission

Become part of their team

**Connect with DRC  
sooner rather  
than later...**

# COMMUNICATING WITH THE VETERAN/MILITARY STUDENT

If a Veteran or Service Member openly discusses his or her experiences:

- Do not interrupt
- Do not minimize
- Do not inject your political beliefs
- Just listen...

# HELP DIRECT TRAFFIC

## **Veterans Success Center—First Stop Shop**

Access to benefits

Purdue Student Veterans Organization—Camaraderie

Peer Advisors for Veterans in Education—Resource network

Education to Occupation—Career Development

Disability Resource Center—Hearing, PTS, mTBI, TBI, or other disabilities

CAPS—Mental Health

PUSH—Physical Health

Office of the Dean of Students: Advocacy and Support Center— support and advocacy

Center for Career Opportunities—Job searches

Span Plan—Nontraditional student support

Tippecanoe County Veterans Service Officer—VA claims and access to benefits

West Lafayette VA Clinic—intake center, primary care physician

**If someone is really hurting, get them immediate  
help through emergency channels...**



# CURRENT GI BILLS AVAILABLE AT PURDUE

Chapter 33

- Post 9/11 GI Bill; Veteran, Spouse, or Dependents

Chapter 30

- Montgomery GI Bill- Active Duty

Chapter 1606

- Reserve / National Guard

Chapter 31

- Vocational Rehabilitation

Chapter 35 (DEA)

- Spouse or Dependent of Veteran

*Processed in the Veterans Success Center*

# OTHER BENEFITS

## Other Federal Benefits

Tuition Assistance  
Military Contracts

*Processed in the Bursar's Office*

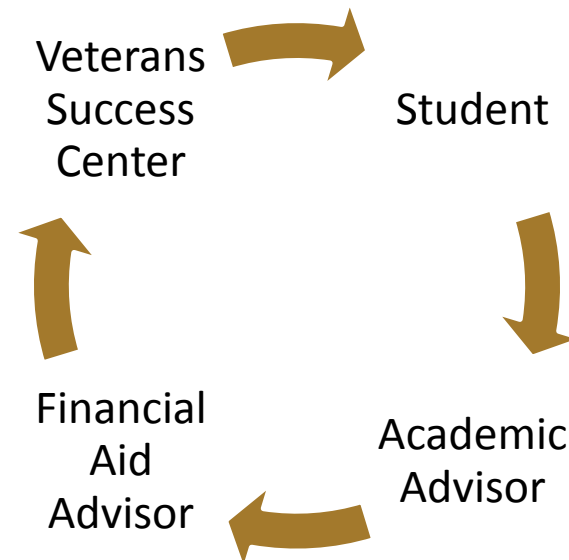
## State Benefits

National Guard Supplemental  
Grant  
Child of a Disabled Veteran  
Purple Heart Recipient

*Processed through Financial Aid*

# KEY POINTS

- All courses have to apply to current major/minor student is pursuing for the current term
- All change of enrollment, increase or decrease, could affect benefits
- Summer term benefits pay differently
- We all need to communicate



# RESIDENCY

There is numerous legislation that effects residency for military, veterans, and benefit using family members:

- VSC helps by validating military paperwork, recommending, and routing paperwork, but Residency Office approves

# ACTIVATION AND ABSENCE POLICIES

## Recall to Active Duty

- For students recalled to active duty provides them a policy to back out of classes
- Many variables and very individual decision
- Our office helps vet legitimacy

## Military Absence Policy

- Designed to provide 15 days of absence each academic year due to annual training or long weekends
- Must contact the Office of the Dean of Students to initiate
- Our office helps vet legitimacy

# PRIORITY REGISTRATION

- All Veteran and Military students have priority registration
- File Locker to Advisor Lead in each College
- Coded in BANNER as SVETERAN in SGASADD
- If student indicates they should be, but not, then get them to the Veterans Success Center ASAP

# JST AND TRANSFER CREDITS

As an institution we are required by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense to review all military transcripts and award credit as deemed appropriate.

Our office facilitates the requesting of transcripts and getting them into queue for review by credit evaluation.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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