Understanding Military Culture: Part I

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In collaboration with:
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IDMH
INSTITUTE FOR DISASTER MENTAL HEALTH
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT NEW PALTZ

New Paltz
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
Office of Veteran & Military Services

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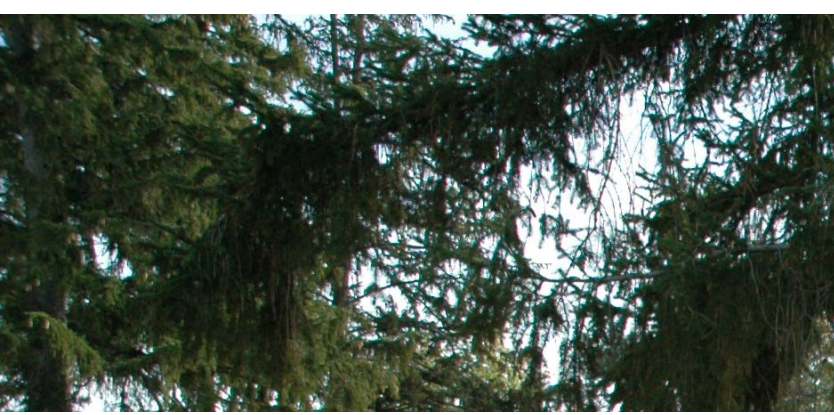# Why Learn About Military Culture?

1. Helps you tailor programs, strategies and interventions to better serve military-affiliated students

2. Helps you communicate more effectively

3. Helps students feel understood and respected

Defining a Military-Affiliated Student

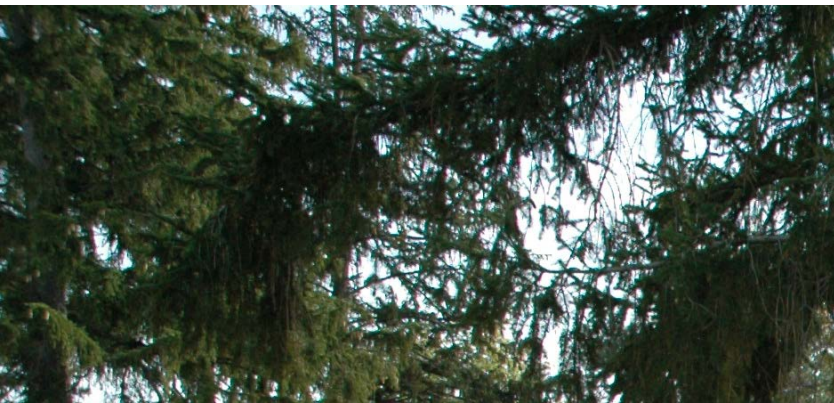Service Members, Veterans and Dependents
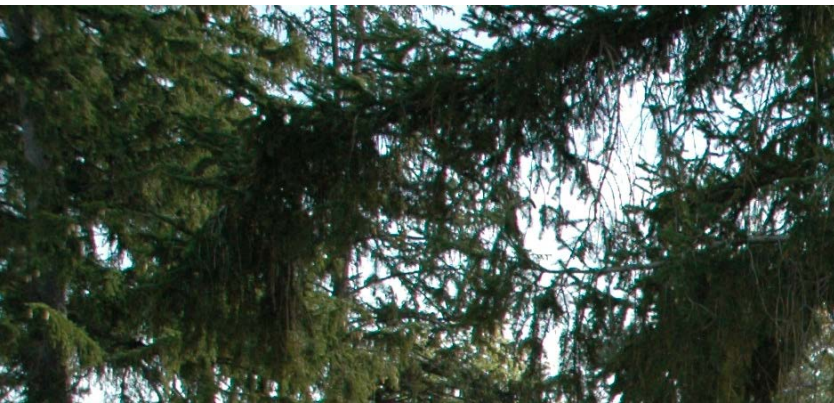
Defining a "Service Member"

Active Service
- ◦ Active Duty
- ◦ Reserve
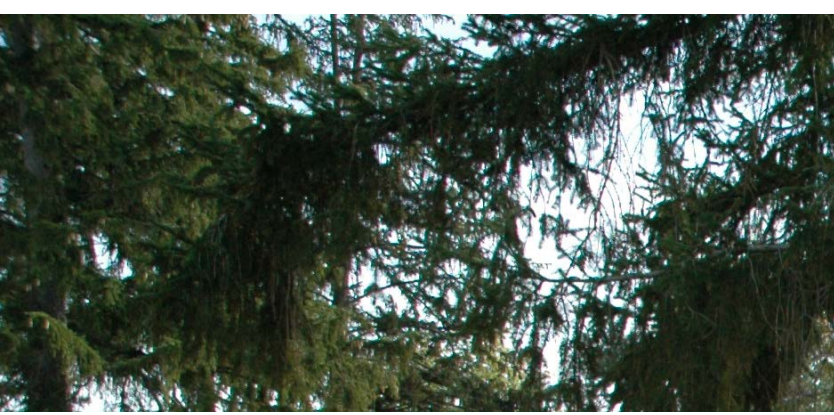- ◦ National Guard

Credit: Mohawk Valley

Defining a "Veteran"

The VA's general definition is:

◦ <u>Veteran Eligibility:</u> For the purposes of VA health benefits and services, a person who served in the active military service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than *dishonorable* is a Veteran.

◦ <u>Minimum Duty Requirements:</u> Most Veterans who enlisted after September 7, 1980, or entered active duty after October 16, 1981, must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty in order to be eligible.

Credit: Mohawk Valley
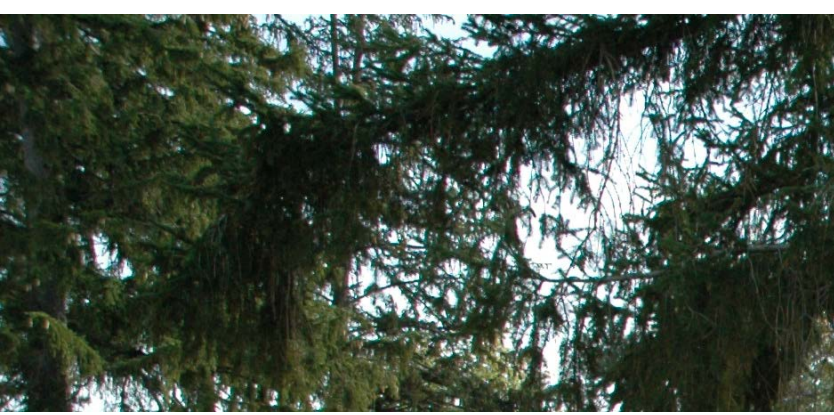
Defining a "Dependent"

"Dependent" is a government definition used to determine eligibility for benefits

◦ Spouse (including same sex spouses)
◦ Children
◦ Step-children

Credit: Mohawk Valley

Defining a "Military-Affiliated Student"

*Those who are excluded from government eligibility definitions can still be impacted emotionally:

1. Those with "Other than Honorable" Discharges
2. Siblings
3. Parents
4. Non-married individuals with partners in service

Comprehensive military background policies could inform work with all of these students who might be on your campus

U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves and National Guard - New York Population

Population

Army Active Duty: 19,980

Navy Active Duty: 2,184
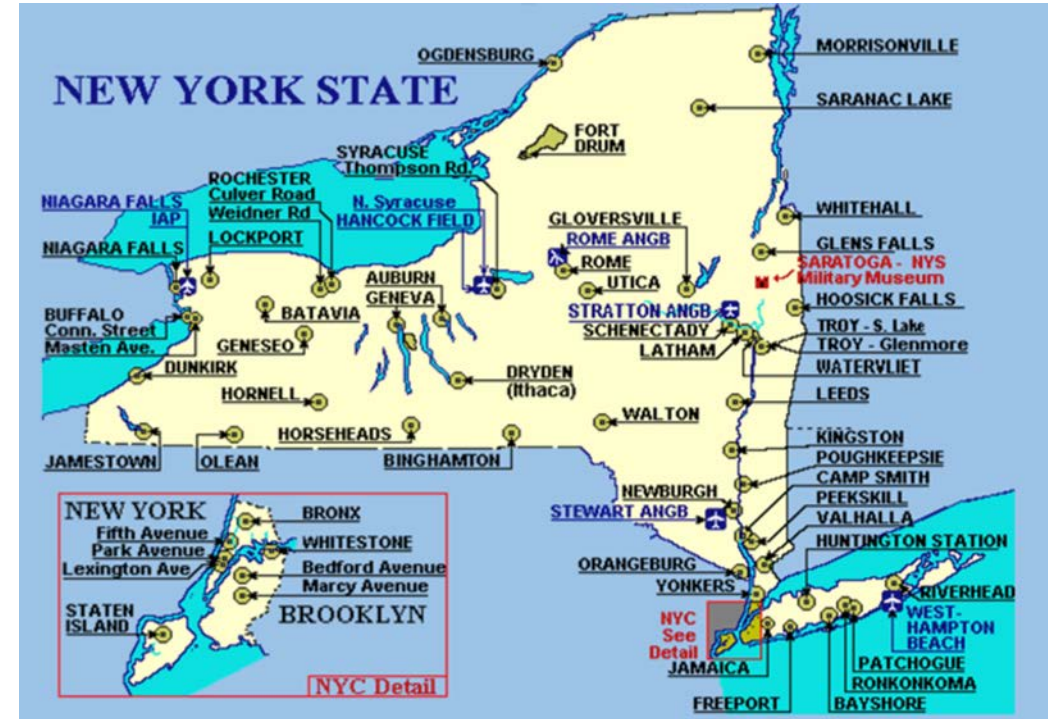
Air Force Active Duty: 327

Marine Active Duty: 698

Coast Guard Active Duty: 1,117

Selected Reserve: 30,577

Army National Guard: 10,648

Air National Guard: 6,297

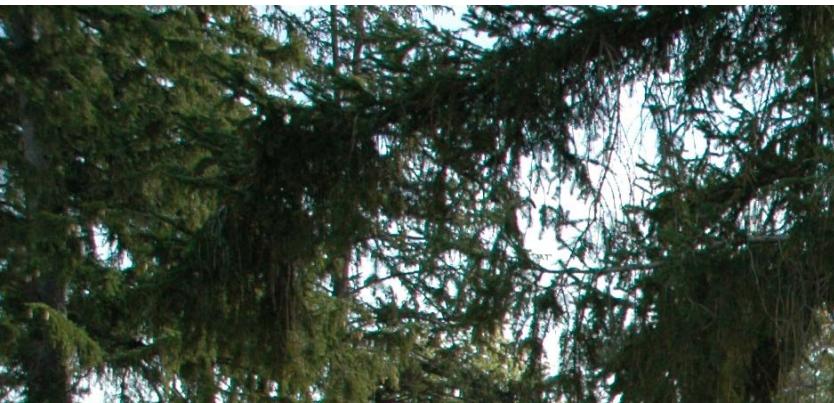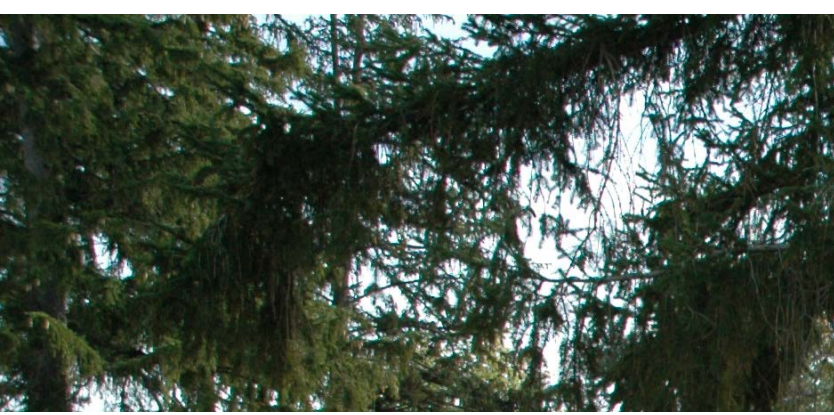Source: Map from the New York State Division of Military & Naval Affairs

Veteran Populations in NYS by County
Total Population 921,400
Est. 90% Male

Vietnam– 270,300
Korean War– 111,700
Gulf War-era I (ended 2001) 102,300
Gulf era II– 96,500
World War II- 77,200
Peacetime = 262,100

Clinton 6,970
Franklin 4,083
St. Lawrence 9,335
Essex 3,967
Jefferson 13,544
Lewis 2,300
Hamilton 645
Warren 6,500
3,308
18,729
10,279 Oswego
Oneida 18,469
Herkimer 5,674
Washington 5,903
Niagara
Orleans
45,531 Monroe
Wayne 7,457
30,616 Onondaga
5,543
4,700 Fulton
Saratoga 18,188
Genesee 4,352
Madison
Montgomery 3,929
Schenectady 11,731
Erie 64,974
Wyoming 3,421
Ontario
Livingston
5,079
8,510
Seneca 2,777 Cayuga
6,673
Otsego 4,616
Schoharie 2,780
Rensselaer 12,332
Albany 20,169
Yates 2,080
Cortland 3,717
Chenango
Columbia 5,024
Schuyler 1,709
Tompkins 5,115
4,689
Greene 4,123
Chautauqua 11,298
Cattaraugus 7,628
Allegany 4,206
Steuben 9,056
Chemung 8,317
Tioga 4,776
Broome 15,201
Delaware 3,806
Ulster 13,414
Dutchess 18,902
Sullivan 5,204
Orange 23,329
Putnam 5,022
Westchester 36,426

Rockland- 10,980
Bronx- 35,731
New York- 38,940
Kings– 53,090
Richmond- 20,899
Queens- 58,561

Rockland
Bronx
New York
Kings
Richmond
Queens
Nassau 57,909
Suffolk 79,603

© d-maps.com
60 km
40 mi

Data from 2013, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

According to SUNY, Estimated Number of Military-Affiliated SUNY Students

8,000-10,000

Military Culture

Credit: Mohawk Valley
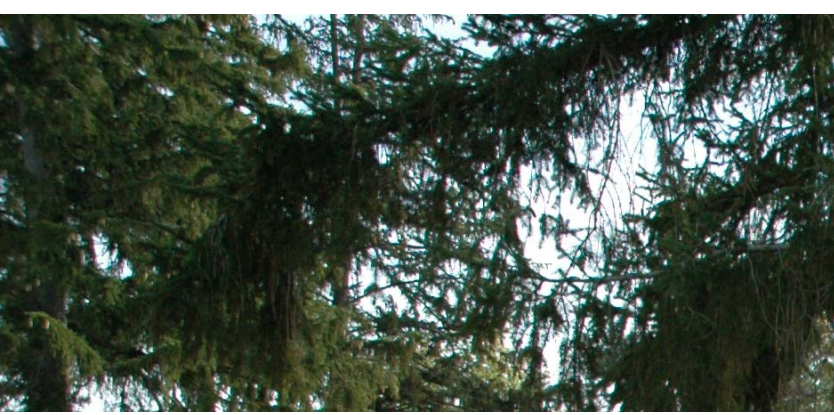
Reasons for Joining

◦ To serve your country and protect your country's liberty and freedom
◦ Travel the world
◦ Help stop terrorism
◦ College education
◦ Get a good paying job
◦ Duty and Honor for your country
◦ Family Tradition
◦ To improve yourself and learn new skills
◦ Get a career
◦ Turn your life around

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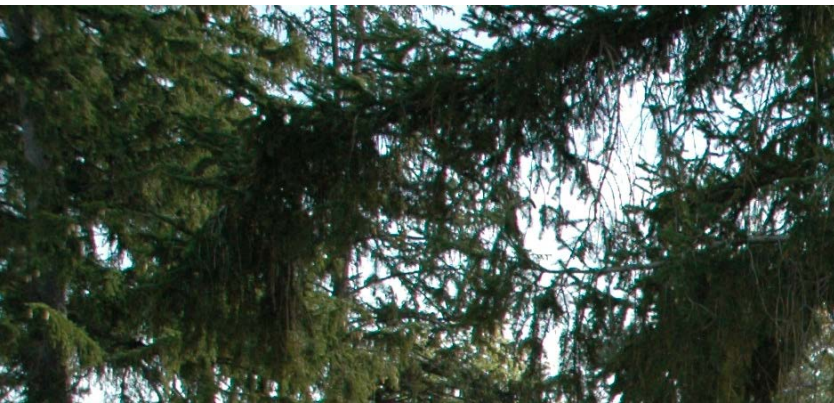
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Military as a Unique Culture

The military setting has many of the core elements characterizing distinct cultures

- Ceremonies, Rituals, Rites, and Celebrations
- Symbols, Artifacts, and Symbolic Actions
- Histories, Stories, Legends, & Myths
- Beliefs, Values, and Attitudes
- Rules, Taboos, Laws, & Ethical Codes
- Language
- Technology

Credit: Mohawk Valley

Military Culture - Values and Beliefs

Discipline

Teamwork

Loyalty

Freedom

Honor

Respect

Duty

Selfless Service

Integrity

Personal Courage

Integrity

Branches of Services

◦ United States Army
  ◦ Inception: 14 June 1775
◦ United States Navy
  ◦ Inception: 13 October 1775
◦ United States Marine Corps
  ◦ Inception: 10 November 1775
◦ United States Coast Guard
  ◦ Inception: 4 August 1790
◦ United States Air Force
  ◦ Inception: 18 September 1947

Military Components – Federal and State

| Federal		State
Active Duty	**Reserve**	**National Guard**
Army	Army	Army
Navy	Navy	Air Force
USMC	USMC	Naval Militia*
Coast Guard	Coast Guard	
Air Force	Air Force	*Not all states have this asset*

MOS- Military Occupational Specialty

- Accounting, Budget, and Finance
- Business Administration and Operations
- Construction, Building, and Extraction
- Education and Training
- Health Care Practitioners
- Intelligence
- Legal Professions and Support Services
- Naval and Maritime Operations

- Arts, Communication, Media, and Design
- Counseling, Social Work, and Human Services
- Law Enforcement, Security, and Protective Services
- Mechanic and Repair Technicians
- Aviation
- Culinary
- Combat Arms

Basic Training/Induction

Initial Entry Training/Boot Camp is an intensive residential program normally lasting several weeks

- Aims to induct newly recruited military personnel into the social norms and essential tasks of the armed forces by way of:
  - Confinement and Suppression
  - Control and Conformity
  - Stress and Punishment
  - Bonding and the Hierarchy of Esteem
 - Fieldcraft and Fitness
  - Graduation and Drop-out
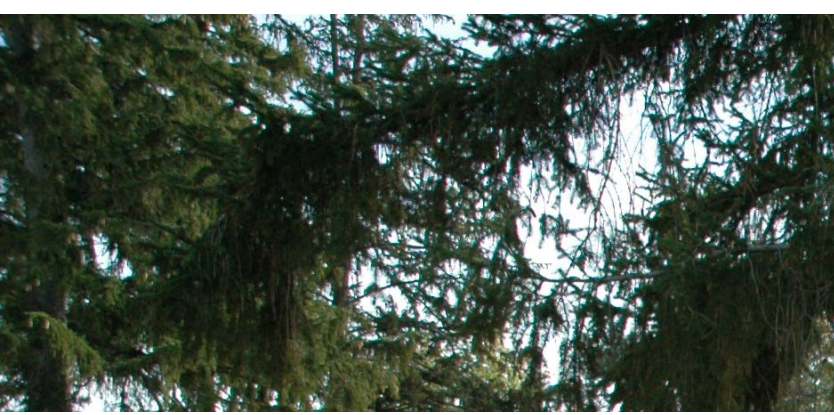
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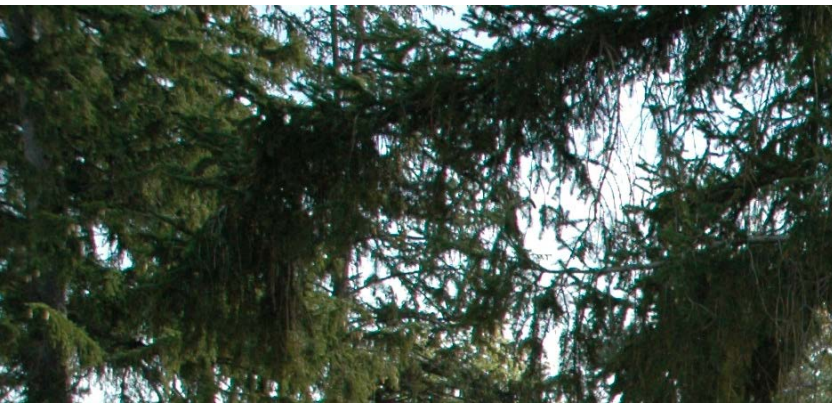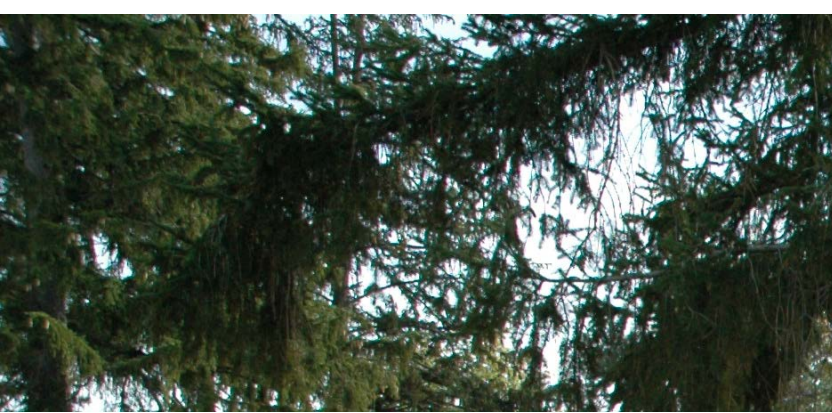
Chain of Command

Chain of Command
- ◦ Military-affiliated students are used to this model of communication
- ◦ May create challenges in communicating
- ◦ Taught to handle issues at the lowest level
- ◦ May prevent them from asking for help

Rules around Chain of Command:
- ◦ Disrespecting an Officer
- ◦ "Jumping" the Chain of Command
- ◦ Fraternization

Credit: Mohawk Valley

Ranks

Credit: Mohawk Valley
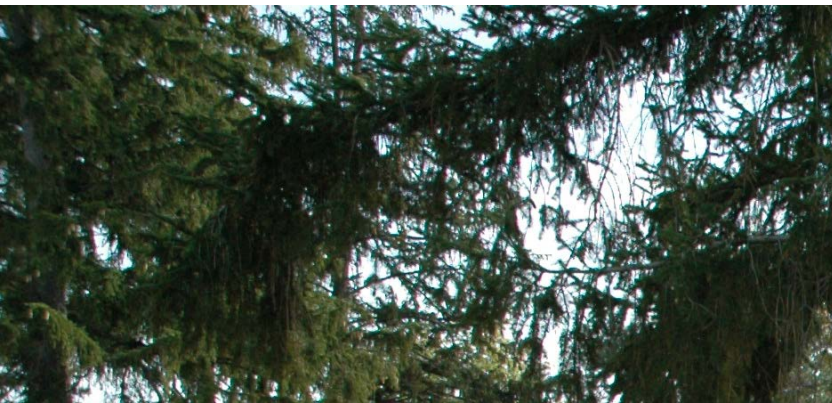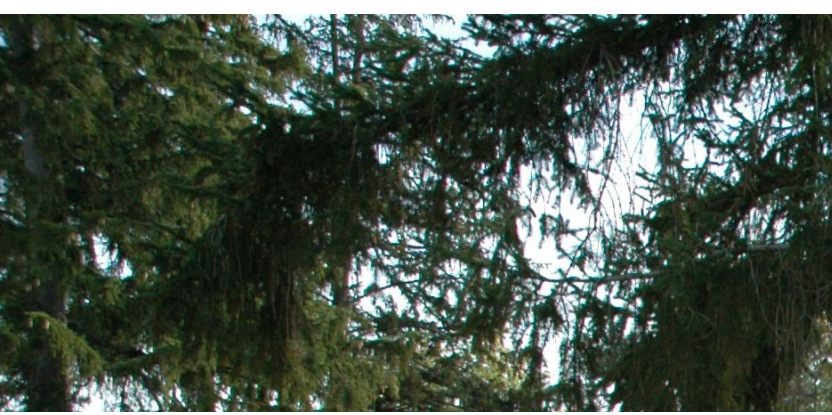
Enlisted

Enlisted are the backbone of the military. They have specific specialties within a military unit

Commissioned Officer

Officers act as managers to the enlisted. They plan missions, give orders, and assign tasks. **Enlisted execute those tasks.**

RANK INSIGNIA OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES

ENLISTED

	E-1	E-2	E-3	E-4	E-5	E-6	E-7	E-8		E-9			SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISORS

Army

| no insignia | Private E-2 (PV2) | Private First Class (PFC) | Corporal (CPL) / Specialist (SPC) | Sergeant (SGT) | Staff Sergeant (SSG) | Sergeant First Class (SFC) | Master Sergeant (MSG) / First Sergeant (1SG) | Sergeant Major (SGM) | Command Sergeant Major (CSM) | Sergeant Major of the Army (SMA) |
| Private E-1 (PV1) | | | | | | | | | | |

Marines

| no insignia | Private First (PFC) | Lance Corporal (LCpl) | Corporal (Cpl) | Sergeant (Sgt) | Staff Sergeant (SSgt) | Gunnery Sergeant (GySgt) | Master Sergeant (MSgt) / First Sergeant (1stSgt) | Master Gunnery Sergeant (MGySgt) | Sergeant Major (SgtMaj) | Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps (SgtMajMC) |
| Private (Pvt) | | | | | | | | | | |

Air Force

| no insignia | Airman (Amn) | Airman First Class (A1C) | Senior Airman (SrA) | Staff Sergeant (SSgt) | Technical Sergeant (TSgt) | Master Sergeant (MSgt) / First Sergeant (E-7) | Senior Master Sergeant (SMSgt) / First Sergeant (E-8) | Chief Master Sergeant (CMSgt) / First Sergeant (E-9) | Command Chief Master Sergeant (CCM) | Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force (CMSAF) |
| Airman Basic (AB) | | | | | | | | | | |

Navy

| no insignia | Seaman Apprentice (SA) | Seaman (SN) | Petty Officer Third Class (PO3) | Petty Officer Second Class (PO2) | Petty Officer First Class (PO1) | Chief Petty Officer (CPO) | Senior Chief Petty Officer (SCPO) | Master Chief Petty Officer (MCPO) | Force or Fleet Command Master Chief Petty Officer (FORMC) (FLTMC) | Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) |
| Seaman Recruit (SR) | | | | | | | | | | |

Coast Guard

| no insignia | Seaman Apprentice (SA) | Seaman (SN) | Petty Officer Third Class (PO3) | Petty Officer Second Class (PO2) | Petty Officer First Class (PO1) | Chief Petty Officer (CPO) | Senior Chief Petty Officer (SCPO) | Master Chief Petty Officer (MCPO) | Command Master Chief (CMC) | Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard (MCPO-CG) |
| Seaman Recruit (SR) | | | | | | | | | | |

OFFICERS

O-1	O-2	O-3	O-4	O-5	O-6	O-7	O-8	O-9	O-10	SPECIAL

Army - Air Force - Marines

| Second Lieutenant (2LT) | First Lieutenant (1LT) | Captain (CPT) | Major (MAJ) | Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) | Colonel (COL) | Brigadier General (BG) | Major General (MG) | Lieutenant General (LTG) | General (GEN) | General of the Army (GA) |

Navy - Coast Guard

| Ensign (ENS) | Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG) | Lieutenant (LT) | Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) | Commander (CDR) | Captain (CAPT) | Rear Admiral Lower Half (RADM)(L) | Rear Admiral Upper Half (RADM)(U) | Vice Admiral (VADM) | Admiral (ADM) | Fleet Admiral (FADM) |

W-1	W-2	W-3	W-4	W-5

Army

| Warrant Officer (WO1) | Chief Warrant Officer (CW2) | Chief Warrant Officer (CW3) | Chief Warrant Officer (CW4) | Chief Warrant Officer (CW5) |

Navy - Coast Guard

| Warrant Officer 1 W-1 * The grade of Warrant Officer W-1 is no longer in use. | Chief Warrant Officer (CWO2) | Chief Warrant Officer (CWO3) | Chief Warrant Officer (CWO4) | NO Chief Warrant Officer (CWO5) |

Marines

| Warrant Officer (WO) | Chief Warrant Officer (CWO2) | Chief Warrant Officer (CWO3) | Chief Warrant Officer (CWO4) | Chief Warrant Officer (CWO5) |

Air Force

| NO WARRANT | NO WARRANT | NO WARRANT | NO WARRANT | NO WARRANT |

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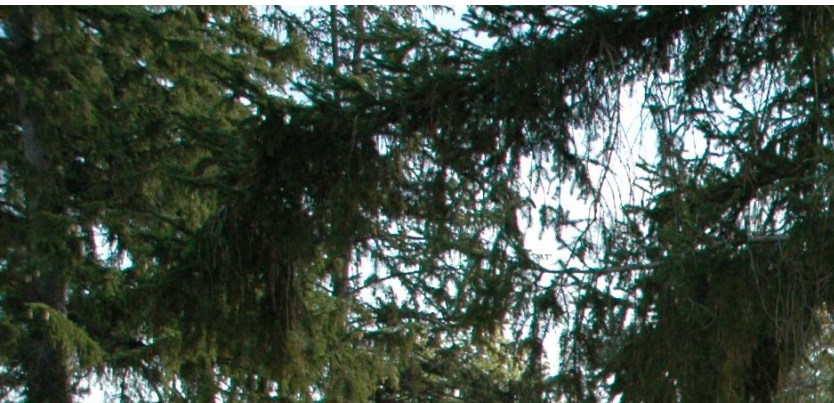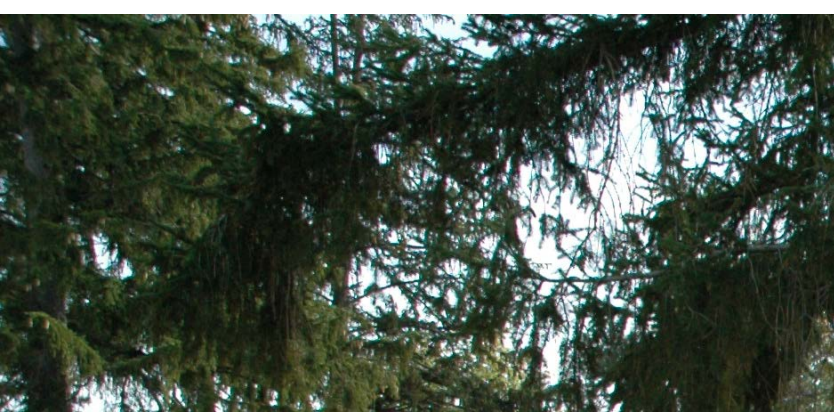SUNY — The State University of New York

Military Rules/Taboos

Uniformed Code of Military Justice (UCMJ)

- 134 Articles
- Examples:
  - Article 15: Nonjudicial punishment
  - Article 91: Insubordinate conduct toward Warrant Officer, Noncommissioned Officer, or Petty Officer
    - *(1) strikes or assaults a warrant officer, noncommissioned officer, or petty officer, while that officer is in the execution of his office;*
    - *(2) willfully disobeys the lawful order of a warrant officer, noncommissioned officer, or petty officer; or*
    - *(3) treats with contempt or is disrespectful in language or deportment toward a warrant officer, noncommissioned officer, or petty officer while that officer is in the execution of his office;*

Terminology

- DD214 - Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty
- Service Connected Disability
- Rank - A position of hierarchy in the military
- Officer vs Enlisted
- Branch of Service
- Duty Station - where one is stationed
- Deployed

- Activated
- Soldier vs Marine
- Sailor vs Airman
- Officer vs Enlisted
- Sergeant (middle management and the backbone of the military)
- Theatre - Combat area
- Sand Box - Iraq/ Afghanistan

Credit: Mohawk Valley

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Acronyms

PCS - Permanent Change of Station

Leave - Off Duty (usually vacation)

MEB - Medical Evaluation Board

AWOL - Absent without Leave

FOB - Forward Operating Base

IED - Improvised Explosive Device

OIF - Operation Iraqi Freedom

OEF - Operation Enduring Freedom

OND - Operation New Dawn

MRE - Meal Ready to Eat

Theatre - Combat area

Sand Box - Iraq/Afghanistan

UCMJ - Uniformed Code of Military Justice

AT - Annual Training

RSD - Reserve Duty

SAD - State Active Duty

TDY - Temporary Duty

UTA - Unit Training Assembly
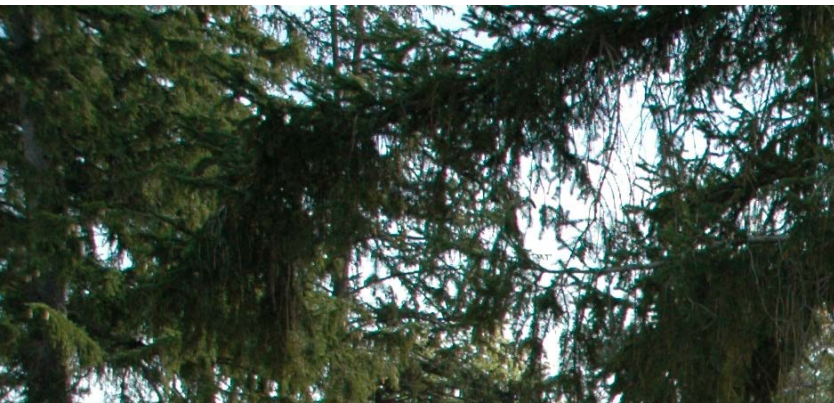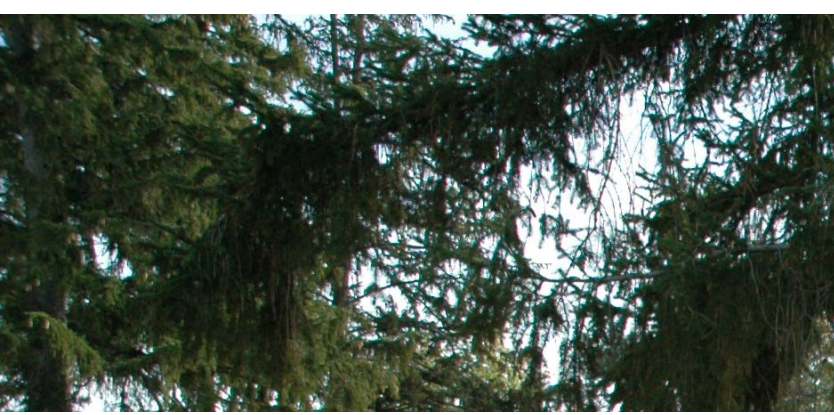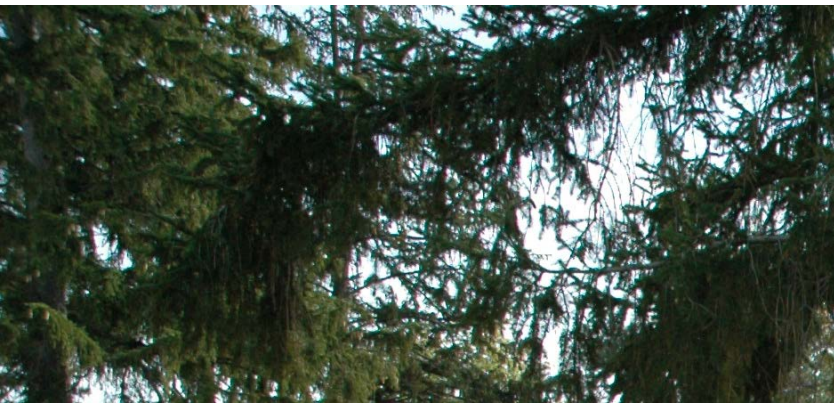
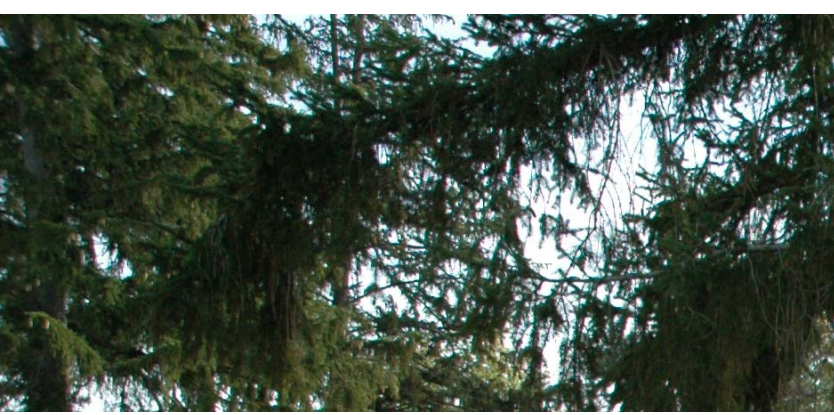VA - Veteran Affairs

DoD - Department of Defense

"Blue Falcon"

Credit: Mohawk Valley

"Embrace the suck"

Credit: Mohawk Valley

"Back on the block"

Credit: Mohawk Valley

"Rub some dirt on it"

Credit: Mohawk Valley
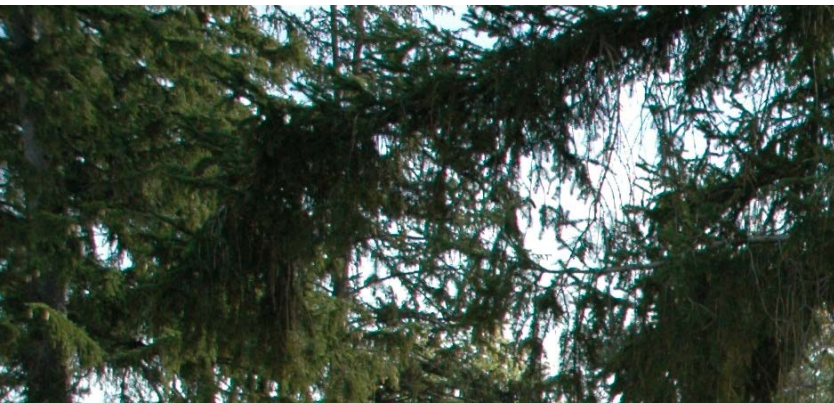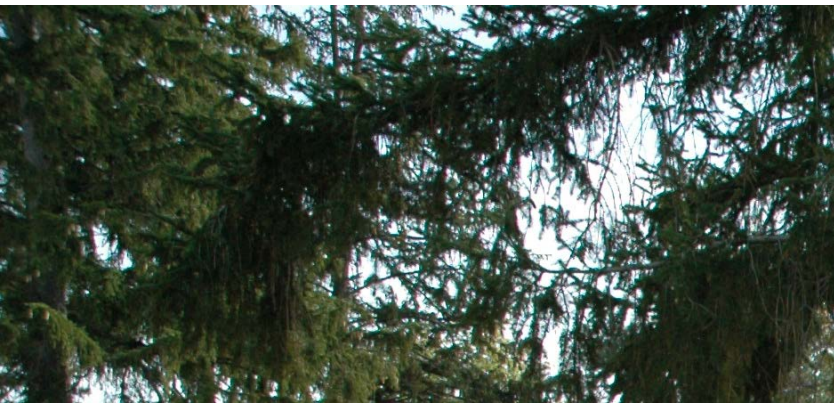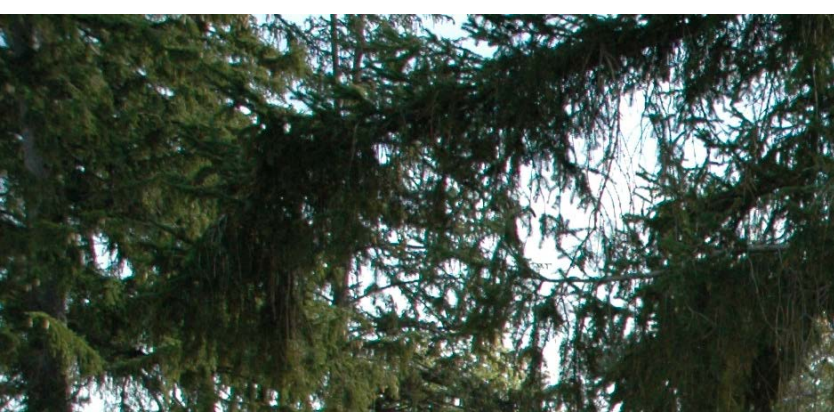
Deployment

Deployment - Characteristics

- Deployments can be during combat, humanitarian emergencies, or peacetime

- Deployment can happen anywhere in the world

- With increasing technology, combat can happen anywhere. i.e., Drones

158 Greenland

Norway 83

Poland 53
Netherlands 398
Belgium 842

212 Hungary
378 Kosovo
667 Romania

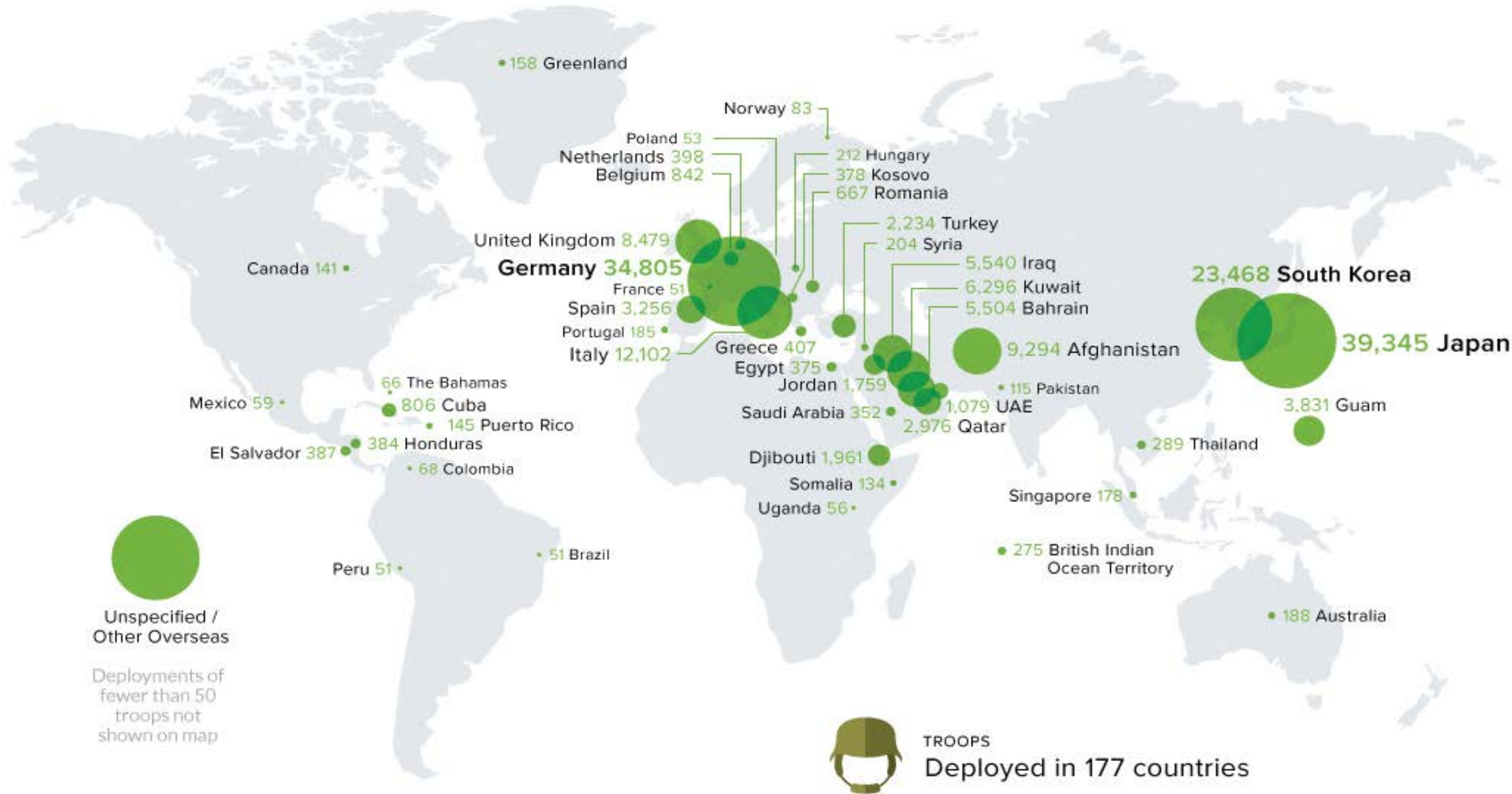2,234 Turkey
204 Syria

United Kingdom 8,479
Germany 34,805

5,540 Iraq
6,296 Kuwait
5,504 Bahrain

23,468 South Korea

Canada 141

France 51
Spain 3,256
Portugal 185
Italy 12,102

Greece 407
Egypt 375
Jordan 1,759

9,294 Afghanistan

39,345 Japan

66 The Bahamas
806 Cuba
145 Puerto Rico

Mexico 59

Saudi Arabia 352

115 Pakistan
1,079 UAE
2,976 Qatar

3,831 Guam

El Salvador 387
384 Honduras
68 Colombia

Djibouti 1,961
Somalia 134
Uganda 56

Singapore 178

289 Thailand

51 Brazil

275 British Indian
Ocean Territory

Peru 51

Unspecified /
Other Overseas

188 Australia

Deployments of
fewer than 50
troops not
shown on map

TROOPS
Deployed in 177 countries

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Deployment Cycle of a Military-Affiliated Student

Pre-Deployment

- Up to six months prior to deployment
- Major stressor
- Impacts academic success
- "Physically present, psychologically absent"

Deployment

- Major stressor
- Requires leave of absence from college
- "Psychologically present, physically absent"

Post-Deployment

- Major stressor
- Transitional challenges associated
- Reintegration challenges back into college
- "Physically present, psychologically absent"

Top 5 Military Stressors

	Active Duty Members	Military Spouses	Veterans	Veteran Spouses
Deployments	47%	53%	40%	46%
Financial Issues/Stress	38%	46%	45%	55%
Relocation Stress	44%	45%	25%	24%
Separation	39%	44%	39%	39%
Isolation from Family and Friends	31%	40%	26%	23%
Job Stress	35%	17%	22%	11%
Spouse Employment	23%	32%	13%	21%
Worries about Children (Parent Time Away and Impact of Military Life)	33%	26%	24%	23%
Lack of Childcare	16%	22%	7%	13%
Marital or Relationship Issues	20%	15%	23%	21%

Deployment-Experience

- Physical demands (intense heat, need to wear heavy body armor)

- Exhaustion

- Extreme boredom

- Home/civilian concerns

- Increased means of communication has pros and cons

- Transition to home/civilian life

Deployment- Experience

Potential repeated exposure to trauma:

- Constant sense of threat - hypervigilance as necessary state for survival

- Witnessing violence

- Experiencing violence

Military Culture

- Military culture is heterogeneous.

- Gender, gender identity, ethnic and racial background, sexual orientation, religious affiliations, etc. intersect with military identity.

- Service Member, Veteran or family member can have many different experiences depending on own subculture, branch, job, unit atmosphere.

- Military culture is voluntary. The extent that one takes on this identity is fluid.