

# Veteran Status and Public Policy

Annotated Bibliography for 2016 NEH Summer Institute on Veterans in Society

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## Who is a veteran?

United States Code, *Veteran's Benefits*, title 38 (2006) chapter 101-2.

In US Code, the term "veteran" means a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.

Code of Federal Regulations, *Department of Veterans Affairs*, title 38, sec 3.12(a).

Further clarification of the term "veteran" as it applies to benefit administration

U.S. Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. Who Is a "Veteran"?—Basic Eligibility for Veterans' Benefits, by Scott D. Szymendera. R42324. 2016.

This report examines the basic eligibility criteria for VA administered veterans' benefits, including the issue of eligibility of members of the National Guard and reserve components.

U.S. Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. *Veterans' Benefits: The Impact of Military Discharges on Basic Eligibility*, by Umar Moulta-Ali and Sidath Viranga Panangala. R43928. 2015.

This report focuses on the discharge or separation requirement for veteran status or, more specifically, how the VA determines that a former servicemember's military service can be characterized as under conditions other than dishonorable

Meloy, Guy S. "Who and What Is a Veteran?" *Army Magazine* 62, no. 11 (November 2012): 20-21.

This is a hagiographic article which has limited value in a scholarly context, but great value to understand how some veterans see themselves.

Burdett, Howard, et al. "'Are You a Veteran?' Understanding of the Term 'Veteran' among UK Ex-Service Personnel: A Research Note." *Armed Forces & Society* (0095327X) 39, no. 4 (October 2013): 751-759.

Different countries have varying definitions of the word "veteran," which in turn influence the benefits that ex-Service personnel receive. However, public opinion does not necessarily reflect official definitions. This article seeks to identify whether characteristics by which UK ex-Service personnel self-identify as veterans are aligned with official policy/public opinion, and which factors are associated with self-identification as a veteran.

Dandeker, Christopher, Simon Wessely, Amy Iversen, and John Ross. 2006. "What's in a Name? Defining and Caring for "Veterans. " *Armed Forces & Society* (0095327X) 32, no. 2: 161-177.

An important feature of civil-military relations is the way in which states recognize the sacrifices that the men and women of the armed forces give to their country and provide care and support for them and their families once they leave the military as veterans. This article provides an interesting insights into the different meaning the word veteran has in different societies and even inside those societies

## **Disability and Health Policy**

Peter Katel, "Caring for Veterans" CQ Researcher. April 23, 2010, 362-384.

A very comprehensive primer on federal veteran's health care policies and procedures.

U.S. Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. *Health Care for Veterans: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions*, by Sidath Viranga Panangala R42747. 2016.

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA), within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), operates the nation's largest integrated health care delivery system, provides care to approximately 6.7 million unique veteran patients, and employs more than 311,000 full-time equivalent employees. This report answers many questions in the areas of: eligibility and enrollment, medical benefits, and costs to veterans and insurance collections.

U.S. Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. *The Number of Veterans That Use VA Health Care Services*, by Erin Bagalman. R43579. 2014.

This report attempts to answer what seems to be a simple question—how many veterans use services at the Veterans Health Administration (VHA)? It turns out, that a pretty tough question.

U.S. Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. *Veterans Affairs - Presumptive Service Connection and Disability*, by Sidath Viranga Panangala, et al. R41405. 2014.

Where a manifestation of disability is remote from the veteran's service and any relationship between the disability and service is not readily apparent, the burden of proving service connection can be a challenge. In such circumstances, Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) have relied on presumptions. This report discusses presumptive service connection, its legislative history, and current challenges in making evidence-based determinations of presumptions. It also discusses the Agent Orange Act (P.L. 102-4) and suggests implications of the process established by the act for future presumptive service-connected determinations.

## **Trauma, PTSD and TBI:**

U.S. Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. *Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Other Mental Health Problems in the Military*, by Karen Blakely and Don Jansen. R43175. 2013.

This report is intended to provide assistance in understanding the issues associated with psychological health in the active duty forces, potential congressional responses, and what questions may remain unanswered.

U.S. Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. *Health Care for Veterans: Traumatic Brain Injury*, By Erin Bagalman, R40941. 2015.

Focusing on VA care (not DoD care), this report provides a comprehensive review procedures, processes, policies and expenses related to the growing field of Traumatic Brain Injury care.

Shay, Jonathan. 1994. *Achilles in Vietnam: combat trauma and the undoing of character*. New York: Atheneum.

----- . 2002. *Odysseus in America: combat trauma and the trials of homecoming*. New York: Scribner.

Erin P. Finley. *Fields of Combat : Understanding PTSD among Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan*. Ithaca: ILR Press, 2011

*Fields of Combat* tells the story of how American veterans and their families navigate the return home. Following a group of veterans and their personal stories of war, trauma, and recovery, Erin P. Finley illustrates the devastating impact PTSD can have on veterans and their families.

Katherine Boone. "The Paradox of PTSD." *The Wilson Quarterly* (1976-) 35 (4): 18-22, 2011.

Boone questions the usefulness of the expanding PTSD diagnoses. If stress after trauma is a normal human reaction, then those who don't experiences symptoms like the ones laid out in DSM-5 as a disorder are actually abnormal. Hence, the Paradox of PTSD.

Elsbeth Cameron Ritchie, *The Unintended Consequences of the Current PTSD Diagnosis*. Time Magazine, Nov 27, 2012.

Alan Zarembo, *As disability awards grow, so do concerns with veracity of PTSD claims*. Los Angeles Times, Aug 3, 2014.

Clever, Molly, and Segal David R. "The Demographics of Military Children and Families." *The Future of Children* 23, no. 2 (2013): 13-39.

Clever and Segal's chief finding is that military families cannot be neatly pigeonholed. Instead, they are a strikingly diverse population with diverse needs. Within the military, demographic groups differ in important ways, and the service branches differ from one another as well.