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Troops to Trojans

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"Troops to Trojans"



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USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice
Disability Services & Programs



Perfect Storm

- Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008- August 1st, 2009
- It is estimated that over **2 million veterans** from Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) will enroll in postsecondary education in the coming years (Madaus, 2009).
- **18%** Private University
- USC Veteran Enrollment:
 - 111-130 (2008 Pre Post 9/11 Bill)
 - 255 (Fall 2009)
 - 248 (spring 2010)
 - 325 (Fall 2010)
 - **400 approx. (Spring 2011)**



Outline

- **Health and Disability**
- **Lifestyle**
- **Transition**
- **What USC Veterans had to say**
- **What USC is doing well**



Health & Disability

- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) 10-30%
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) 11-20%
- Veterans with multiple deployments: risk of mental health problems increases 60% with each consecutive deployment (Coleman, 2008)
- “Returning veterans will have a wide range of medical diagnoses and related health problems that will have a **temporary or chronic impact on their living, working, learning, and relationship functions.**” (Church, 2009)



Health & Disability

- Depression
- Attempted suicide/ suicide (risk of suicide nearly twice the nonveteran population, a rate so high it has been labeled an “epidemic”)
- Learning disability
- Sensory impairments (hearing, vision, etc)
- Burns
- Physical Impairments

Suicide Among Male Veterans: A Prospective Population-Based Study. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, 2007.

Suicide Epidemic Among Veterans. Armen Keteyian, *CBS News Investigation*, 2007.



Lifestyle

- Alcohol / drug use
- Job acquisition
- Homelessness
- Family/ marriage difficulties: 90% divorce rate



Transition

- *Marine: You can't get a better high. It's like crack, you know? Once you been shot at, you really can't come down. You can't top that.*

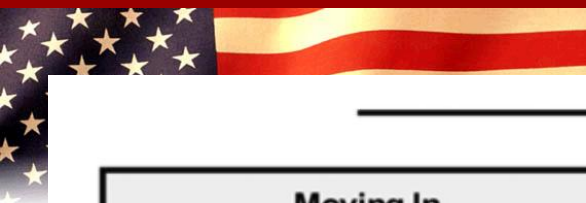
Embedded Documentarian: How you gonna go back to the civilian world, then?

Marine: I have no idea.

-Restrepo, National Geographic Films1

Grand Jury Prize for U.S. Documentary, 2010 Sundance Film Festival Nominee, Documentary (Feature), 83rd Academy Awards

- *“One day you're carrying a rifle over your shoulder, and the next day you're sipping a Slurpee.”* -Gregg Taylor, Army Reservist

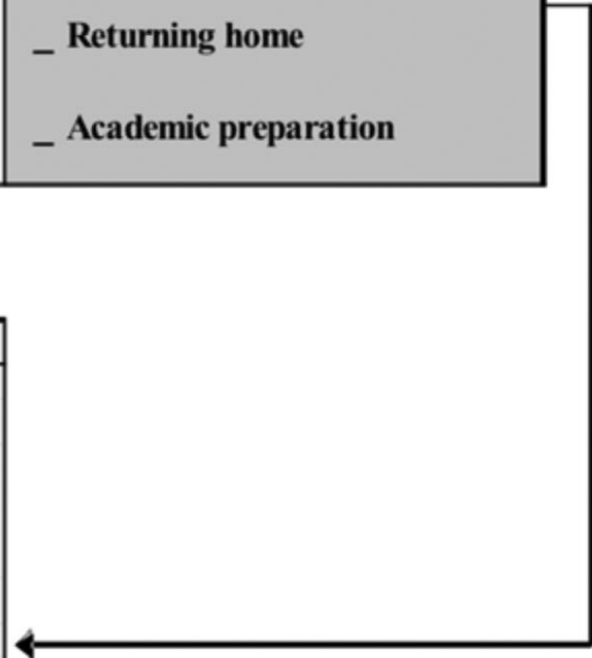


————— **Military** —————→

Moving In	Moving Through	Moving Out
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> _ Why join? _ Getting "called up" _ Serving overseas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> _ Combat duty _ Memorable experiences _ Earning credits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> _ Transition program _ Returning home _ Academic preparation

College

Moving In
_ Connecting with peers
_ Blending in
_ Faculty
_ Campus veteran's office
_ Finances
_ Students with disabilities
_ Mental health and PTSD



DiRamio, D. , Ackerman, R. , Mitchell, R. L. (2008). From Combat to Campus: Voices of Student-Veterans. NASPA Journal, 45(1), Art. 5.



Transition

- “Moving In (college)”
 - Connecting with peers
 - Blending in
 - Faculty

DiRamio, D. , Ackerman, R. , Mitchell, R. L. (2008). From Combat to CampusVoices of Student-Veterans. NASPA Journal, 45(1), Art. 5.

Survey Finds. National Survey of Student Engagement, 2010.

http://nsse.iub.edu/NSSE_2010_Results/pdf/NSSE_2010_Press_Release.pdf



USC Student Veteran Interviews -Summer 2009

- **Participant Demographics**

USC:

- 4 undergraduate transfer students
- 1 graduate student
- Marine corps
- Latin American
- Engineering, Economics (2), Public Policy & Planning, Social Work

Vets Panel:

- 6 students in city colleges (Pasadena City College, Long Beach City College, Santa Monica City College, LA City College)
- 5 Marines, 1 Airforce
- 3 Latin American, 3 Caucasian



What Student Veterans Had to Say:

- Social Support and Networking with Vets
 - Student veteran organization
 - Speakers and events targeted to student vets
 - 1st year mentor at USC





What Student Veterans Had to Say:

- Visibility of Resources
 - Improved internet resources
 - Veteran website: sait.usc.edu/ca/tvsp
 - Veteran center- central location for resources
 - Orientation session for Veterans or information packet at orientation





What Student Veterans Had to Say:

- Workshops or classes for Veterans
 - “How to translate what you have learned in the military to everyday life”
 - Transition course- similar to “Boots to books”





What Student Veterans Had to Say:

- Increased Recruitment of Veterans
 - Leadership skills
 - Experience
 - Diversity –22 %African-American, 11 % Latino, 4% Asian, 3% other (NCD, 2009)
 - Veterans had more interactions with students of different races/ethnicities than non vets and more conversations with people of different religion/political beliefs/personality than non vets

Survey Finds. *National Survey of Student Engagement, 2010.*

http://nsse.iub.edu/NSSE_2010_Results/pdf/NSSE_2010_Press_Release.pdf



What Student Veterans Had to Say:

- Increased VA benefits and work opportunities
 - More information on scholarships
 - Yellow Ribbon Program-
 - Participants: Occupational Therapy, Rossier, School of Social Work, Marshall
 - The VA will match the amount given
 - Work study positions for veteran students



What Student Veterans Had to Say:

- Mental Health Services
 - Resources identified at Orientation
 - Veteran counselor at Counseling Services
 - PTSD specialty/ experience with veteran needs



What Student Veterans Had to Say:

- Faculty Education & Support
 - Disability related issues
 - Hypervigilance (PTSD)
 - War topics may trigger PTSD / anger
 - Distraction free environment for learning
 - Support of Faculty Veterans- symbol to identify as veteran



What Student Veterans Had to Say:

- Lifestyle Needs
 - Exercise and Physical Fitness
 - Physical training class geared for veterans
 - Substance Use
 - Marriage/ family counseling
 - Job Skills



What Student Veterans Had to Say:

- **Lifestyle Needs**
 - Time Management
 - Money Management
 - Techniques to handle stress
 - Cooking
 - Reestablishing identity: hobbies, goals



What USC is doing well!

- Veteran Appreciation Day Nov 11! 4th Annual
- Remembrance Day Roll Call
- USC Student Veterans Committee
- Veteran Affairs Office- financial assistance
- USC Veterans Association (student club)
- Yellow Ribbon Program
- Transfer and Veteran Student Programs
- Orientation participation
- Lifestyle Redesign[®] for Veterans: OT





Upcoming Events

- **VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION 11.11.11**
***Remembrance Day Roll Call* :: 9am-4pm :: 11am National Moment of Silence :: (Hahn Plaza (across from Tommy Trojan))**
- ***Discussion with author Thomas Steinbeck & Book Signing* :: 12:30pm-2pm : Doheny Memorial Library 240**
Join us hear from noted author and Vietnam Veteran Thomas Steinbeck on his new book, *The Silver Lotus* & his experience as a veteran.
- ***Veterans Day Reception* :: 5pm-7pm :: Radisson Midtown Hotel at USC**
- **Veteran Student Symposium: A panel discussion with student Veterans**
Tuesday, November 15, 2011 :: 4pm-6pm :: Doheny Memorial Library 240
- **Troops to Trojans: Veteran Resume Workshop & Discussion**
Thursday, November 17, 2011 :: 4pm to 6pm :: Tutor Campus Center



Areas of Growth

- Transition programs and workshops
- Female Veteran programs
- Veteran specific counseling
- Yellow Ribbon
- Priority Registration
- Faculty Education
- Mentor program
- Other?



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THANK YOU!

Questions? Comments? Ideas?



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