2014 IAVA MEMBER SURVEY

Perceptions and views from Iraq and Afghanistan combat veterans on the challenges and successes of the new greatest generation of veterans
THE STORY OF A GENERATION...

Almost ten years ago, IAVA was founded to give voice to the concerns of veterans returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan. Today this mission remains more important than ever. As the country threatens to turn its attention away from new veterans, our nation must understand this new greatest generation and share in both their struggles and their successes.

Our staff hears regularly from our members as we travel across the country. They come to our events and share their stories about what programs and services are working for them. Yet, it is our annual Member Survey that best details the real experiences of new veterans.

This survey is the largest non-governmental survey of confirmed Iraq and Afghanistan combat veterans. It asks our members about their experiences with reintegration, health and mental health, employment, education and asks how the government is doing to support them and their fellow vets.

The survey is our best intel, and it often identifies problems long before they reach public prominence. It has called IAVA to action on late GI Bill checks and on the disability claims backlog. Today the stories confided through this survey have motivated our urgent call for a nationwide effort to combat suicide. Forty percent of our members have known at least one Iraq or Afghanistan veteran who has died by suicide, and 31 percent have thought about taking their own life since joining the military. Encouragingly, three out of four members who identified that they have a mental health injury are seeking help, and they’ve told us how important loved ones are in helping them to seek help.

These data show a generation of veterans who are still facing significant challenges, but are rising to meet them. It shows the need for the nation to step up and support this generation of veterans. That starts with understanding their stories, their hopes, their triumphs, and their challenges.

This year, our members tell us that while they support the end of the war in Afghanistan, they are worried that their legacy will be forgotten. Most report that they are using the GI bill, but still are at times frustrated by late payments. They’re telling us so much, and it’s time for the nation to listen.

The data of this survey drives IAVA’s agenda, and it should drive the country’s too. This is the new greatest generation of veterans and our future leaders. For over a decade they’ve had our backs; it’s time for the nation to have theirs.

Paul Rieckhoff
Founder & CEO IAVA
Iraq Veteran
### KEY FINDINGS

Respondents ranked the top issues facing Iraq and Afghanistan veterans as:

1. **Suicide/Mental Health**
   - 31% of respondents have thought about taking their own life since joining the military.
   - 40% of respondents know at least one Iraq or Afghanistan veteran that has died by suicide.
   - 47% of respondents know at least one Iraq or Afghanistan veteran that has attempted suicide.

2. **Employment/Jobs**
   - 10% of respondents are currently unemployed.
   - 53% of respondents are currently employed.
   - 61% of employed respondents are satisfied with their job.

3. **VA Disability Backlog**
   - 70% of respondents who filed a disability compensation claim waited over 120 days for the VA to notify them of a decision on their claim.
   - 65% of respondents reported a financial impact while they waited on their claim.
   - 40% of respondents have a service-connected injury for which they have not filed a claim.

### Suicide/Mental Health

- **53%** of respondents have a mental health injury:
  - 18% diagnosed with TBI
  - 44% diagnosed with PTSD
- **73%** of respondents who have a mental health injury are getting care.
- **77%** of respondents who had a loved one suggest they seek mental health care sought help as a result.

### Employment/Jobs

- **10%** of respondents are currently unemployed.
- **53%** of respondents are currently employed.
- **61%** of employed respondents are satisfied with their job.

### VA Disability Backlog

- **70%** of respondents who filed a disability compensation claim waited over 120 days for the VA to notify them of a decision on their claim.
- **65%** of respondents reported a financial impact while they waited on their claim.
- **40%** of respondents have a service-connected injury for which they have not filed a claim.

### VA MENTAL HEALTH CARE UTILIZATION

Regardless of VA or non-VA mental health care, respondents are overwhelmingly satisfied with the care they receive:

- **72%** satisfied with their VA provider.
- **91%** satisfied with their non-VA provider.
- **68%** of respondents using a VA mental health provider report problems scheduling an appointment.
- **31%** seeing a non-VA provider report scheduling challenges.

### POST 9/11 GI BILL:

- **62%** of respondents have used the Post 9/11 GI Bill.
- **78%** of respondents who have used the Post 9/11 GI Bill rate it as GOOD or EXCELLENT.
- **36%** report late payments as a major challenge using these benefits.
DEMOGRAPHICS

AGE

- 18-25: 3%
- 26-30: 18%
- 31-35: 24%
- 36-40: 13%
- 41-45: 15%
- 46-50: 13%
- 50+: 14%

GENDER

- Female: 10%
- Male: 90%

MARITAL STATUS

- Married: 65%
- Single: 12%
- Divorced: 10%
- Committed relationship, not married: 8%
- Separated: 3%
- Other: 1%
- Widowed: 1%

INCOME

- <$20K: 11%
- $20K-$34,999: 15%
- $35K-$49,999: 16%
- $50K-$74,999: 21%
- $75K-$99,999: 15%
- $100K-$149,999: 15%
- $150K-$200K: 5%
- $200K+: 2%

RACE

- White: 74%
- Hispanic or Latino: 10%
- Black or African American: 4%
- Asian: 2%
- Other: 10%

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

- Full Time: 45%
- Students: 17%
- Disabled/Retired: 10%
- Unemployed: 10%
- Active Duty: 10%
- Part Time: 8%

SERVICE DEMOGRAPHICS

Branch of Service

- Army: 63%
- Marine Corps: 15%
- Air Force: 12%
- Navy: 10%

Officer or Enlisted

- Officer: 23%
- Enlisted: 77%

Did you serve in Iraq, Afghanistan or both?

- Iraq: 59%
- Afghanistan: 17%
- Both: 24%

Did you serve in Iraq, Afghanistan or both?

Number of Deployments | OND* | OIF** | OEF***
--- | --- | --- | ---
1 | 95% | 66% | 72%
2 | 4% | 26% | 20%
3+ | 1% | 8% | 8%

* Operation New Dawn ** Operation Iraqi Freedom *** Operation Enduring Freedom

How long ago did you separate from the military?

- 5+ years: 25%
- 2–5 years: 30%
- 1–2 years: 12%
- < 1 year: 9%
- Not separated: 24%
The IAVA member survey was launched for three weeks during the first half of CY 2014. The IAVA survey link was sent out via email to IAVA members who were confirmed combat veterans, having served in Iraq and/or Afghanistan, confirmed with a DD-214 or similar paperwork. IAVA surveyed 2,089* IAVA members about issues including employment, education and the GI Bill, health and mental health, VA utilization and benefits, reintegration and more.

The survey was composed of approximately 200 questions, with respondents answering only questions relevant to their experiences. The survey was created using SurveyMonkey and available on-line. Members were sent individualized access codes, and the survey was promoted via social media throughout the month of February. SPSS statistical analysis software was used to analyze survey data, including response frequencies and percentages, standard deviation and standard error for each question (where appropriate).

*Note that 2,828 IAVA members began the survey and 2,089 completed the survey, resulting in a 74 percent survey completion rate.
PERCEPTIONS

“America tends to forget wars quickly, especially since such a small percentage of the population served.”

—IAVA Member

MILITARY SERVICE

74% Of respondents would recommend military service to a family member or close friend.

TROOP WITHDRAWAL

88% Of respondents are concerned that the end of the war in Afghanistan will affect public attention to issues concerning Iraq & Afghanistan veterans.

POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

Top 5: Top five issues when considering a candidate that you will vote for:

1. Veterans’ Issues
2. The Economy
3. Military/Defense Issues
4. Employment/Job Creation
5. Foreign Policy

94% of respondents are currently registered to vote

93% of respondents are planning to vote in the 2014 mid-term elections

“...even though I support the troop withdrawal, I think with it will also go the public awareness of the lasting effects of OIF and OEF.”

—IAVA Member
The majority of respondents felt that Secretary Shinseki cared about veterans, but was not doing enough to help veterans.

Only 51% of respondents were able to correctly name General Eric Shinseki as Secretary of the VA.

The majority of respondents think the President and Congress are doing a poor job improving the lives of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

Respondents were more split in rating the VA and DoD.

61% Of respondents feel the American public supports Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

52% Of respondents feel corporate America supports Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

70% Of respondents don’t think that the American public understands the sacrifice made by Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and their families.

“

They can all do more, less political infighting, more action.

–IAVA Member

The survey was deployed during the first half of CY 2014, prior to the events surrounding the Phoenix VA medical center and the resignation of Secretary Shinseki.
SUICIDE

“When asked about themselves…

31% Of respondents indicated that they have thought about taking their own life since joining the military.

6% Of respondents thought about taking their own life prior to joining the military.

When asked about their friends…

40% Of respondents know at least one Iraq or Afghanistan veteran that has died by suicide.

47% Of respondents know at least one Iraq or Afghanistan veteran that has attempted suicide.

When asked to rate the efforts of the DoD and VA to address suicide…

Respondents rated the DoD as reactive and the VA as slightly more proactive than the DoD in addressing military and veteran suicide. Over half think Congress and the President are not playing a role.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Extremely Proactive</th>
<th>Somewhat Proactive</th>
<th>Reactive</th>
<th>Not Playing a Role</th>
<th>I Don’t Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department of Defense (DoD)</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Veteran Affairs (VA)</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The President</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congress</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“We, as a nation, with DoD in the lead, need to do a better job.”
– IAVA Member
MENTAL HEALTH

“...My wife told me she knew there was something wrong and that I needed it (help)... She was right and I’m glad I did (get help).”

– IAVA Member

WHEN ASKED ABOUT THEMSELVES...

53% of respondents indicated they have a mental health injury.

Where are you seeking mental health care?

- Not seeking care (27%)
- VA provider (56%)
- Non-VA provider (11%)
- Military Treatment Facility (6%)

For the 27% who have a mental health injury but are not seeking care, the top 5 reasons include:

1. Don’t want to be perceived differently by friends, family or peers (46%)
2. Concern that it might affect their career (33%)
3. Difficulty getting time off work (23%)
4. Never returned after an initial visit (22%)
5. Prefer talking to friends/family (20%)

73% of those with a mental health injury are seeking care.

WHEN ASKED ABOUT SUPPORT FROM LOVED ONES...

77% of those who had a loved one suggest they seek care for a mental health injury sought help as a result.

WHEN ASKED ABOUT SUPPORT FROM FRIENDS...

33% of respondents know an Iraq or Afghanistan veteran who needs care for a mental health injury and is not receiving care.

Of those who knew a veteran who needed help, 70% recommended that their friend(s) seek care.
MENTAL HEALTH

WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE DOD AND VA...

When asked why not, the top three reasons selected were:
1. The stigma of seeking help is too great (72%)
2. They have access to care but are not seeking it (53%)
3. They have access to care but not high quality care (50%)

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

When asked what resources they would recommend to veterans seeking mental health care, respondents answered...

1. Mental Health Professional 68%
2. Vet Center Counselor 55%
3. Veteran Crisis Line 51%
4. Peer Support Group 43%
5. VA Staff Member 38%
6. Another VSO 36%
7. Religious/Spiritual Leader 36%
8. IAVA’s Community of Veterans 34%
9. Civilian Counselor 29%
10. Military Onesource 27%
11. IAVA RRRP Veteran Transition Manager 23%
12. Counselor Through a Non-Profit 19%
13. Give-An-Hour 10%
14. Uniformed DoD Counselor 9%
15. Civilian DoD Counselor 8%
16. Other 7%
VA MENTAL HEALTH UTILIZATION

“Care, when I can get it, is great. However, they (the VA) have an immense workload. Too many patients and not enough doctors.” —IAVA Member

Of VA mental health users indicated challenges scheduling appointments. 68%

Of non-VA mental health users indicated challenges scheduling appointments. 31%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>VA Provider</th>
<th>Non-VA Provider</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I have never had a problem scheduling an appointment with my mental health provider</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There have been some challenges scheduling an appointment with my mental health provider</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I regularly have challenges scheduling an appointment with my mental health provider</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am continually frustrated trying to schedule an appointment with my mental health provider</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RESPONDENTS ARE OVERWHELMINGLY SATISFIED WITH THEIR MENTAL HEALTH CARE**

Using VA Provider*
- Satisfied 72%
- Neutral 8%
- Not satisfied 20%

Using Non-VA Provider**
- Satisfied 91%
- Neutral 7%
- Not satisfied 2%

* Number of respondents using a VA Provider = 599  **Number of respondents Using a non-VA provider = 128

**TOP 3 Reasons respondents using a VA mental health provider chose a VA provider:**
1. VA care is free (60%)
2. VA is my only source of healthcare (43%)
3. VA providers understand my service and service-connected injuries (35%)

**TOP 3 Reasons respondents using a non-VA mental health provider chose a non-VA provider:**
1. Non-VA provider offers a higher quality of care (44%)
2. More comfortable with a non-VA provider (39%)
3. Tried a VA provider and was not satisfied with the care (37%); More convenient (37%)
GENERAL HEALTH

SERVICE CONNECTED INJURIES

60% of respondents indicated that they were wounded in service, including Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Physically Wounded</th>
<th>Diagnosed TBI</th>
<th>Diagnosed PTSD</th>
<th>Chronic Pain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer Not to Answer</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

Of the 51% of respondents not diagnosed with PTSD:

19% feel they have PTSD but have not sought care from a clinician.

12% feel that they have PTSD and have sought care from a clinician.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG USE

Respondents were asked if they have been prescribed and are currently taking anti-depressants, anti-anxiety or opioid-based pain medication for a service-related injury:

35% of respondents said yes for anti-depressants.

32% of respondents said yes for anti-anxiety medication.

18% of respondents said yes for opioid-based medications.

BURN PIT EXPOSURE

76% Of respondents were exposed to burn pits while deployed.

54% Of those exposed feel they have symptoms associated with that exposure.
When asked to rate VA benefits and online services, the majority of respondents who have used them rated them positively, however, many indicated they have not used them at all.

### VA BENEFITS AND ONLINE SERVICES

#### VA Benefits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VA Benefits</th>
<th>Disability Benefits</th>
<th>Health Care</th>
<th>Housing Benefits</th>
<th>Vocational Rehab</th>
<th>Education Benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither Good nor Bad</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have Not Used</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Online Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Online Services</th>
<th>eBenefits</th>
<th>Compensation &amp; Pension Applications</th>
<th>MyHealth eVet</th>
<th>Education Benefit Application</th>
<th>Health Benefit Application</th>
<th>Career Search</th>
<th>GI Bill</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Helpful</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Helpful</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have Not Used</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VA BENEFITS

What VA claims have you filed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disability</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Loan</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION CLAIMS

When asked if respondents have a service-connected injury and have not yet filed a claim, 40% said yes.

Of the respondents who have not yet filed a claim but plan to (71%), the top reasons for the delay were:

1. Collecting the paperwork (35%)
2. Not sure where to start (29%)
3. Too busy right now (26%)

For the 29% either not planning to or uncertain about filing a claim, the top reasons were:

1. Don’t want to deal with the VA (54%)
2. Discouraged by the number of claims backlogged/long wait times (41%)
3. Don’t think the VA will process the claim accurately (35%)
4. Don’t want to deal with the paperwork (35%)

Are you planning to file a disability compensation claim?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t know</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION CLAIMS—APPEALS

For those respondents who have filed a disability compensation claim, 32% have also appealed a decision.

Of those respondents who have appealed a decision, 24% waited over a year to receive a final decision, and 38% are still waiting.

46% of respondents who have received a decision on an appeal were satisfied with the outcome.
VA BENEFITS

VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION CLAIMS

The Top Five Identified Sources for a VA Rating Were:

1. Musculoskeletal injuries
2. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
3. Hearing Loss
4. Mental Health Injuries
5. Traumatic Brain Injury

Of respondents waited over 120 days for the VA to notify them of a decision on their disability compensation claim.

29% waited over a year.

59% of respondents used outside assistance to file their claim.

The Top Three Resources Indicated were:

1. Disabled American Veterans (34%)
2. Veterans of Foreign Wars (17%)
3. County/State Service Officer (14%)

85% of respondents had access to healthcare while waiting for a decision on their claim.

65% of respondents reported they were financially impacted while waiting on their disability claim.

My vehicle was repossessed and foreclosure proceedings were started twice. The final [claims] decision saved me from foreclosure.

—IAVA Member
EDUCATION

FOR THOSE CURRENTLY ENROLLED...

42% Of respondents indicated that they are currently enrolled in a degree or certification/training program.

The Top Three Reasons for Pursuing a Degree:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Associates and Bachelors:</th>
<th>Masters, Advanced &amp; Professional Degrees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I need this degree to pursue my career goals (58%)</td>
<td>Personal fulfillment/ intellectual curiosity (53%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal fulfillment/ intellectual curiosity (53%)</td>
<td>I need this degree to pursue my career goals (50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I want to increase my earning potential (50%)</td>
<td>I want to increase my earning potential (47%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOP FIVE DEGREE FIELDS:

1. Business, Management, Marketing & Related Services
2. Computer and Information Sciences
3. Health Professions and Related Clinical Science
4. Social Sciences
5. Engineering

ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL

Type of School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of School</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State school</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not for profit private school</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For profit private school</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community college</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t know</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Veteran-Friendly Schools

Vet Friendly Program:

83% Yes 6% No 11% Neutral

Top 3 Reasons Schools are Seen as Vet-Friendly:

1. Administrative support (71%)
2. Online Course Options (53%)
3. Specific veteran support programs (48%)
Of respondents have used the Post 9/11 GI Bill (either personally or their dependents have used it).

78% of respondents who have used the Post 9/11 GI Bill rate the experience as GOOD or EXCELLENT.

**CHALLENGES USING POST 9/11 GI BILL**

- Late payments: 36%
- No challenges: 31%
- Needed grants/scholarships: 24%
- Needed additional loans: 20%
- Other: 19%
- Needed a job to cover costs: 18%
- Received bad information from VA: 14%
- Problems due to delays: 12%
- Had to borrow from family/friends: 10%
- No support from the school: 4%

For those respondents reporting late payments, about 50% experienced 3+ late payments.

For those respondents reporting late payments, nearly half reported the VA as being helpful in addressing those late payments.

Respondents who had not used the Post 9/11 GI Bill cited the following reasons:

- Plan to use it in the future: 37%
- Saving it for my dependent: 26%
- Already have a degree: 18%
- Do not have time for school right now: 18%
- Using another education benefit: 16%
- Focused on my current job: 14%
- Plan to use it for a graduate degree: 13%
- Cannot afford school right now: 10%
- Unclear about eligibility: 5%
- Cannot because of health: 4%
- Ineligible for the benefit: 4%
- Didn’t know about it: 1%
EMPLOYMENT

53% Of respondents are employed:
   • Full time (45%)
   • Part-time (8%)

10% Of respondents are currently unemployed.

Top 5 Industries of Employment:
1. Government
2. Protective/Law Enforcement
3. Health Professions and Related Clinical Science
4. Telecommunications, Technology, Internet & Electronics
5. Manufacturing

VETERAN FRIENDLY
81% of employed respondents describe their workplace as veteran friendly.
69% of respondents sought out employers openly recruiting veterans.
10% of respondents encountered employers not open to hiring veterans.

EMPLOYMENT SATISFACTION
67% of employed respondents report their current position is an appropriate professional fit.
61% of employed respondents are satisfied with their job, 28% are dissatisfied.

62% of unemployed respondents have been unemployed for 27 weeks or more

77% Of respondents have experienced a period of unemployment since leaving the military.

27% of those experienced a period of unemployment for over a year.

Top 3 The Top Three Challenges of Finding a Job:
1. Can’t find a job that matches skill level (21%)
2. Can’t find jobs in my field (19%)
3. Lack of certification (10%)

Top five tools unemployed respondents identified to help them find a job:
1. Knowing what companies have veteran preferences programs (51%)
2. Veteran specific job fairs/networking (43%)
3. Access to job placement resources (38%)
4. Professional Certifications (35%)
5. Resume/Interview Training (28%)
**WOMEN IN COMBAT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Of female respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>43%</td>
<td>would apply for a combat MOS.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70%</td>
<td>support the opening of all MOS to women.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37%</td>
<td>of males support the opening of all MOS to women.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*MOS means Military Occupational Specialty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Of female respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41% Would Not</td>
<td>16% Don’t Know</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|        | Of female respondents and 43% of males think women’s advancement in the military has been limited by restrictions on women in combat. |

**Do you feel women’s advancement in the military has been limited by restrictions on women in combat?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Female (%)</th>
<th>Male (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Definitely</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slightly</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not At All</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Opinion</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Answers to these questions have been presented by gender. The male population totaled 1,933 while the female population totaled 224.**
REINTEGRATION CHALLENGES

The top three challenges in transitioning out of the military were:

1. Employment (28%)
2. Loss of Identity (19%)
3. Mental Health Concerns (17%)

FAMILY

Those respondents who were married during a deployment identified the top three deployment impacts on the relationship as:

1. Difficulty with readjustment (66%)
2. Communication challenges (63%)
3. Caused major strains on the relationship (56%)

Those respondents who indicated they had children during a deployment identified the top three deployment impacts on children as:

1. Difficulty with readjustment (59%)
2. Child is concerned I will leave again (42%)
3. My anger issues affected our relationship (34%)

FINANCES

64% of respondents indicated some level of difficulty each month paying all of their bills.

65% of respondents indicated that the Department of Defense did not provide an informative financial education to prepare for their transition.

HOUSING

When asked if they’ve ever had a period of time after separating from the military during which they did not own or rent their home and…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Not Applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stayed with Friends</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stayed with Family</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lived in a Shelter</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lived in your Car</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When asked about their current living situation, nearly 90% of respondents indicated that they own or rent.
MILITARY SEXUAL ASSAULT**

**Answers to these questions have been presented by gender. The male population totaled 1,933 while the female population totaled 224.

**FEMALE RESPONDENTS**
- **68%** Think DoD is doing a **BAD JOB** decreasing the occurrence of military sexual assault.
- **30%** Indicated they are survivors of military sexual assault.
- **35%** Of female survivors reported the crime.

**MALE RESPONDENTS**
- **48%** Think DoD is doing a **BAD JOB** decreasing the occurrence of military sexual assault.
- **1%** Indicated they are survivors of military sexual assault.
- **36%** Of male survivors reported the crime.

If a trained military prosecutor made the decision to move forward with their case, **52% of females** and **36% of males** indicated that they would have been more likely to report.

- **75% of females** and **65% of males** said removing the power to send someone to court martial would have “No Impact” on their view of their commander.

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The Top Three Reasons Survivors Did Not Report The Crime:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Males</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I didn’t think anything would be done once it was reported (59%)</td>
<td>I was worried that my peers would treat me differently (69%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was worried that my peers would treat me differently (57%)</td>
<td>I was worried that people would think I was weak (57%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was worried about impact on my career (57%)</td>
<td>I was worried about impact on my career (57%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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The male population totaled 1,933 while the female population totaled 224.
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (www.IAVA.org) is the nation’s first and largest nonpartisan, nonprofit organization representing veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan and has more than 270,000 Member Veterans and civilian supporters nationwide. Celebrating its 10th year anniversary, IAVA consistently receives the highest rating – four-stars – from Charity Navigator, America’s largest charity evaluator.