Boots to Heels: Women Veterans
Facts about Military Women
Who is A Woman Veteran?

According to the Department of VA, a woman is a Veteran if she served in the active military, naval or air service and separated under any conditions other than dishonorable.

There are more than 2 million Women Veterans living in the US. Today.

Women are the fastest growing group in the Veteran population.
Women Veterans

According to the Department of VA, in 2000, Women were only 4% of the Veteran population.

By 2040 the Department of VA expects Women will be 18% of the Veteran population.

Women Veterans are some of the best-educated and most diverse population of individuals with a military background.
Total U.S. Veterans
2,051,484 Female
22,000,000 Male

Median Age
Female - 49.2 years old
Male - 64.2 years old

Age Range of Women
996,734 - 20-49 year old
1,130,257 - 50-85 years old
Women Veterans and the VA Healthcare System

The VA health system offers Women Veterans access to 144 hospitals, 1,221 outpatient clinics, and over 300 Vet Centers across the US.

There are numerous services available to Women Veterans from the VA Healthcare system. However, more services are needed to better meet the needs of Women Veterans. Some areas of the country offer medical care beyond primary care, which include:

- Mammography
- Gynecology
- Military sexual trauma-related care
- Counseling
- Military and environmental exposure
Major Barriers for Women Veterans

Historically, Women have not been afforded the same status as men in the military. This cultural barrier follows them after service.

Women Veterans have unique barriers when adjusting from military to civilian life.

According to the Disabled American Veterans, Women Veterans feel less socially supported when they return home. In addition, many Women Veterans deal with others' inabilities to even see them as Veterans, as such, they lack access to resources normally given
Women Veterans are World Changers

Women Veterans have achieved amazing successes in the military.

They’ve become four star generals (Example, Amy Dunwoody, Army) commanded ships (Example: Admiral Michelle Howard, Navy) earned medals of honor (Mary Edwards-Walker) and piloted space shuttles (Eileen Marie Collins).
Education Benefits

In 2015, 149,375 women Veterans used education benefits. This represented about 7.4 percent of the total population of women Veterans. Roughly, 61.2 percent of women Veterans who used education benefits did so from age 25 to 34 years old.
Women Veterans are Educated & Employed

• According to the Department of VA, 67.1% of Women Veterans verses 54.6% of non-Women Veterans have enrolled in higher education.

• According to the Department of VA, 49.5% of Women Veterans work in professional / management positions.
Roughly 21% of Veterans participating in the VR&E program in 2015 were women (27,083 out of 131,607).

Participants are defined as Veterans in any of the following stages of the vocational rehabilitation process: extended evaluation, independent living, job-ready status, and rehabilitation-to-employment.
Work Category of Employed Women by Veteran Status: 2015

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2015
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics
Occupation of Women by Veteran Status: 2015

- Management and Professional: 48.8% Veteran, 41.4% Non-Veteran
- Sales and Office: 28.6% Veteran, 30.4% Non-Veteran
- Service: 15.3% Veteran, 21.5% Non-Veteran
- Production and Transportation: 5.3% Veteran, 5.8% Non-Veteran
- All Other: 2.0% Veteran, 0.9% Non-Veteran

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2015
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics
Median Household Income of Women, by Age and Veteran Status: 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Veteran</th>
<th>Non-Veteran</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17-24 years</td>
<td>$24,983</td>
<td>$34,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34 years</td>
<td>$49,925</td>
<td>$47,915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44 years</td>
<td>$67,905</td>
<td>$59,992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54 years</td>
<td>$69,974</td>
<td>$64,381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64 years</td>
<td>$56,231</td>
<td>$53,998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74 years</td>
<td>$44,241</td>
<td>$38,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-84 years</td>
<td>$32,444</td>
<td>$26,697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85+ years</td>
<td>$33,415</td>
<td>$22,896</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2015
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics
Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs

Did you know that 75.6% of Women Veterans hired by the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs work in the Executive Branches?
Sales Pitch Techniques Women Veterans use:

• They sell being a Veteran but not a Troop
• They sell their military skills, strengths and qualifications in ways that others can both appreciate & understand
• Women easily convert their military language into common, simple civilian terms
• Promote their military education in a positive manner
Call to Action!

As community programs and resources that impact veterans, you can lead the change in helping these Veterans in all aspects of life. Some suggestions are:

- Develop programs in your area specifically to help, honor and promote Women Veterans
- Create “swag” specifically for Women Veterans
- Hold conversations with other Veterans about the value of Women in Service
- Don’t always assume that she is the spouse of a Veteran, instead ask first
Conclusion

In conclusion, Women Veterans will continue to evolve and help our great nation move forward. Women Veterans are shaping the future.

Make sure you thank a Women Veteran for her service, because she served too!
Questions?
State of Michigan
Veterans’ Employment Services

Rebecca Flemming
517-599-4560
flemmingr@michigan.gov