

Military Ministry Workshop 1

Handout 1: Who Serves Now?

From “[2011 Demographics: Profile of the Military Community](http://www.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/2011_Demographics_Report.pdf)” (Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Military Community and Family Policy) under contract with ICF International; updated November 2012).

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Race/Ethnicity

Less than one-third (30.2% or 426,916 of Active Duty members identity themselves as a minority (i.e., Black or African American, Asian, American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, multi-racial, or other/unknown). The percentage of Active Duty members who identify themselves as a minority is greater in 2011 than it was in 1995 (from 10.5% of officers and 28.2% of enlisted members in 1995, to 23.0% of officers and 31.7% of enlisted members in 2011). The overall ratio of minority officers (54,753) to minority enlisted personnel (372,163) is one minority officer for every 6.8 minority enlisted personnel. To conform to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) directives, Hispanic is not considered a minority race designation and is analyzed separately as an ethnicity. Overall, 11.2 percent of the DoD Active Duty force is of Hispanic ethnicity.

Geographic Location

While the Active Duty population is located throughout the world, the three primary areas in which Active Duty members are assigned are the United States and its territories (86.5%), East Asia (7.1%), and Europe (5.8%). The ten states with the highest Active Duty military populations are California (161,864), Texas (131,121), Virginia (125,418), North Carolina (106,689), Georgia (74,468), Washington (65,453), Florida (58,974), Hawaii (48,682), Kentucky (44,421), and Colorado (39,004). These ten states comprise 70.5 percent of the personnel stationed in the United States.

Education Level

The majority (82.5%) of officers have a Bachelor's or higher degree. Few (5.3%) enlisted members have a Bachelor's or higher degree, while most (93.4%) have a high school diploma and/or some college experience. In the past 16 years, the percentage of Active Duty members who have a Bachelor's and/or an advanced degree has decreased for officers (from 89.6% in 1995, to 82.5% in 2011) but has increased for enlisted personnel (from 3.4% in 1995 to 5.3% in 2011).

Age

About one-quarter (25.1%) of Active Duty officers are 41 years of age or older, with the next largest age group being 26 to 30 year-olds (22.5%), followed by 31 to 35 year-olds

(20.1%), 36 to 40 year-olds (19.0%), and those 25 years old or younger (13.3%). Nearly one-half (49.3%) of Active Duty enlisted personnel are 25 years old or younger, with the next largest age group being 26 to 30 year-olds (22.8%), followed by 31 to 35 year-olds

(13.1%), 36 to 40 year-olds (9.2%) and those 41 years old or older (5.5%). Overall, the average age of the Active Duty force is 28.6. The average age for Active Duty officers is 34.7, and the average age for Active Duty enlisted personnel is 27.4.