

# VETERANS FOR COMMON SENSE

## Iraq and Afghanistan Impact Report

January 2012

For this quarterly report Veterans for Common Sense (VCS) combines several government documents about U.S. military service members and veterans who deployed to the Iraq - Afghanistan war zone since September 11, 2011. VCS uses only primary source documents from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Defense (DoD) obtained by VCS under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) on a consistent basis since 2006.

### Military Deployments to War Zone <sup>1</sup>

- **2,333,972**      **Total Service Members Deployed**
  - **1,002,106**      **Number Deployed Twice or More to War Zone (43%)**

### Military Casualties in War Zone <sup>2</sup>

- **112,019**      **Total War Zone Casualties**
  - **6,324**      **Deaths (5%), Includes 309 War Zone Suicides**
  - **47,409**      **Non-Fatal Wounded in Action (42%)**
  - **58,286**      **Non-Fatal Medical Evacuations Due to Injury or Disease (52%)**

### Veteran Post-Deployment Healthcare Use <sup>3 4</sup>

- **1,526,746**      **Veterans Eligible for VA Healthcare**
  - **741,954**      **Veteran Patients Treated (49% of Veterans Eligible)**
  - **385,711**      **Veterans with Mental Health Condition (52% of Patients)**
  - **223,609**      **Veterans with Potential PTSD (30% of Patients)**
  - **~ 9,700**      **Average New Veteran Patients Each Month**

### Veteran Post-Deployment Disability Claim Activity <sup>5</sup>

- **1,526,746**      **Veterans Eligible for VA Disability Benefits**
  - **676,774**      **Veterans Filed Disability Claims (44% of Veterans Eligible)**
  - **158,238**      **Veterans Awaiting VA Decision (23% of Claims)**
  - **119,446**      **Veterans with Approved PTSD Claim (53% of PTSD Patients)**
  - **~ 9,500**      **Average New Claims Filed by Veterans Each Month**

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## Estimated Long-Term Impact on VA

- ~ 1,032,000 Total New Veteran Patients, Dec. 31, 2013 <sup>6</sup>
- ~ 938,000 Total New Veteran Claims, Dec. 31, 2013 <sup>7</sup>
- up to \$900 Billion VA Healthcare and Benefit Spending Over 40 Years <sup>8</sup>

## Service Member and Veteran Suicide

- 541,360 Total Calls to VA's Veterans Crisis Line <sup>9</sup>
  - 314,059 Calls from Veterans from Any Period of Service
  - 7,152 Calls from Active Duty Service Members
  - 220,149 Calls from Others / Family
- 19,823 "Rescues" of Suicidal Veterans and Service Members
- 2,293 Active Duty Suicides Since January 2011 <sup>10</sup>
  - 298 Suicides While Deployed in War Zone
  - 1,995 Suicides After Deploying to War Zone
- Unknown Suicides Among Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans

## Veterans' Claims Pending at VA for All Periods of Service <sup>11</sup>

- 1,131,556 Dec. 2011, Pending Veterans' Claims and Appeals
- 568,711 Mar. 2003, Pending Veterans' Claims and Appeals
- 562,785 Pending Claim Increase, Mar. 2003 to Dec. 2011

<sup>1</sup> DoD, "Contingency Tracking System," Number of Deployments for Those Ever Deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, as of Jul. 31, 2011.

<sup>2</sup> DoD, "Global War on Terrorism - Operation Enduring Freedom, By Casualty Within Service, Oct. 7, 2001, Through Jan. 3, 2012" (Afghanistan War), DoD, "Global War on Terrorism - Operation Iraqi Freedom, By Casualty Category Within Service, Mar. 19, 2003, Through Jan. 3, 2012" (Iraq War, Mar. 2003 through Aug. 2010), DoD, "Global War on Terrorism - Operation New Dawn, By Casualty Within Service, Sep. 1, 2010 Through Jan. 5, 2012" (Continuation of Iraq War since Sep. 2010).

<sup>3</sup> VA, "VA Facility Specific Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), and, Operation New Dawn (OND) Veterans Coded with Potential PTSD Through 4th Qtr FY 2011," Nov. 2011.

<sup>4</sup> VA, "Analysis of VA Health Care Utilization Among Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), and, Operation New Dawn (OND) Veterans," 4th Qtr, Fiscal Year 2011," Nov. 2011.

<sup>5</sup> VA, "VA Benefits Activity: Veterans Deployed to the Global War on Terror," Through Oct 2011, Oct. 2011.

<sup>6</sup> VCS estimate based on current rate of 9,700 new patients per month.

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<sup>7</sup> VCS estimate based on current rate of 9,500 new claimants per month.

<sup>8</sup> Joseph Stiglitz and Linda Bilmes, House Veterans' Affairs Committee, "True Cost of War" Sep. 20, 2010.

<sup>9</sup> VA "VA National Suicide Prevention Hotline Call Report 2011, Totals YTD" Jan. 2012.

<sup>10</sup> Defense Manpower Data Center, "U.S. Active Duty Military Deaths" July 29, 2011.

<sup>11</sup> VA "Monday Morning Workload Reports," Mar. 22, 2004 and Dec. 12, 2011.

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