

Pro Bono Opportunities and Working with the Veteran Community



McLean County Bar Association
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by Trevor J. Orsinger

About



Military as a Separate Society

- 1.35 million active duty service members
- Guard and Reserves about 727,000
- TOTAL is just over 2 million service members (smaller than Chicago, bigger than Philadelphia)



Military as Separate Society

- “[T]he military is, by necessity, a specialized society separate from civilian society.” *Parker v. Levy*, 417 U.S. 733 (1974).
- “differences between the military and civilian communities result from the fact that ‘it is the primary business of armies and navies to fight or be ready to fight wars should the occasion arise.’” *Id.*
- Good Order and Discipline



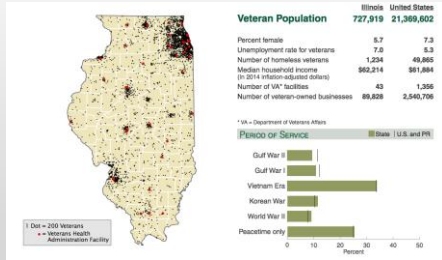
United States Military

- Active Duty and Reserves
- Officer and Enlisted



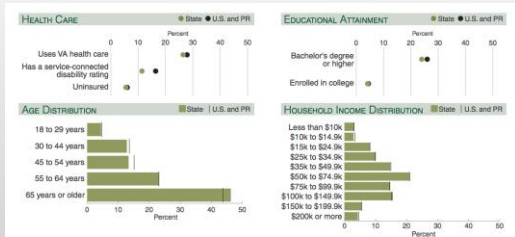
INSIGNIA OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES										
Officers										
O-1	O-2	O-3	O-4	O-5	O-6	O-7	O-8	O-9	O-10	SPECIAL
Navy										
Marines										
Army										
Air Force										
Warrant										
Navy		Marines		Army		Coast Guard				
<p>Special Insignia: The United States Armed Forces have a variety of special insignia, including the Presidential Seal, the United States Seal, and the United States Coast Guard Seal. These insignia are used to denote the rank and service of the individual.</p>										
Enlisted										
ARMY										
MARINES										
NAVY										
COAST GUARD										

Veteran Population in Illinois



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey and 2012 Survey of Business Owners; Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2016 Current Population Survey; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2014 Annual Income Assessment Report to Congress; and Department of Veterans Affairs, www.census.gov/hrt/hrgsp/hc/veteran-statistics.html

Veteran Population Illinois



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Service-Disabled Veteran Benefits

- Disability Benefits are often dependent on a Servicemember making a claim with the United States Government through the Department of Veterans Affairs
- Per DVA, disability must be the result of an injury or disease that was incurred or aggravated while on active duty or active duty for training; or from injury, heart attack, or stroke that occurred during inactive duty training. A disability can apply to physical conditions, such as Lou Gehrig's Disease, as well as mental health conditions, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
- Judged based on percentage after exam and analysis.
- Appeal Process
- Monthly tax-free stipend based
- Access to Other Benefits

Service-Based Organizations

- American Legion
- AMVETS
- Disabled American Veterans
- Iraq Afghanistan Veterans of America
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Vietnam Veterans of America

