



## Veterans for Common Sense

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Updated: March 10, 2008

# VA Fact Sheet: VA Already Treated 300,000 Injured and Ill Veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan Wars

- **Department of Defense Deployments, as of Oct. 31, 2007:**
  - Cumulative U.S. service members deployed: **1,641,894**
    - Still serving in the military: **842,103** (51%)
    - Veterans eligible for VA healthcare and benefits: **799,791** (49%)
- **Veterans Health Administration (VHA), updated Jan. 18, 2008:**
  - Patients treated: **299,585** (37% of veterans)
  - Diagnosed with a mental health condition: **120,049** (40% of patients)
  - Diagnosed with PTSD: **67,717** (23% of patients)
  - Counseled at Vet Centers: **242,000** (81% of patients)
- **Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), as of Nov. 14, 2007:**
  - Filed a disability claim: **245,034** (31% of veterans)
  - Still waiting for an answer: **38,693** (16% of claims filed)
  - Approved for a PTSD claim: **34,138** (50% of VHA patients)
  - Average wait time for VBA to process a claim: **More than 6 months**
- **Comparison of Active Duty with National Guard and Reserve:**
  - Veterans who served on Active Duty: **384,107** (49%)
  - Veterans activated from Guard/Reserve: **403,089** (51%)
  - Active Duty veterans with claims filed: **157,785** (41%)
  - Guard/Reserve veterans with claims filed: **87,213** (22%)
  - Active Duty veterans with claims rejected by VBA: **7,493** (5%)
  - Guard/Reserve veterans with claims rejected by VBA: **10,110** (14%)
- **40 Year Estimate of War Costs by Harvard University, Jan. 2007:**
  - New veteran patients: **700,000**
  - New veteran claims: **700,000**
  - Financial cost to U.S. taxpayers: **\$350 billion to \$700 billion**