

A Guide for College Bound Servicemembers and Veterans

# THE TRANSITION

## Joining the Student Body



**WAYPOINT**  
COLLEGE CONSULTING LLC

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# What We Will Learn Today

## A NEW MINDSET & RESOURCES

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Civilian - Military Divide  
Environment for Student Veterans  
College Culture  
3 P's Framework  
Tools & Resources for College





***"TOGETHER, WE NEED TO DISCUSS WHO WE ARE  
AND WHAT OUR WARS MEAN TO US."***

***"THOSE OF US IN UNIFORM HAVE A  
RESPONSIBILITY TO LISTEN TO OUR FELLOW  
CITIZENS WHO MAY HAVE DIFFERENT  
PERSPECTIVES THAT WE NEED TO HEAR."***

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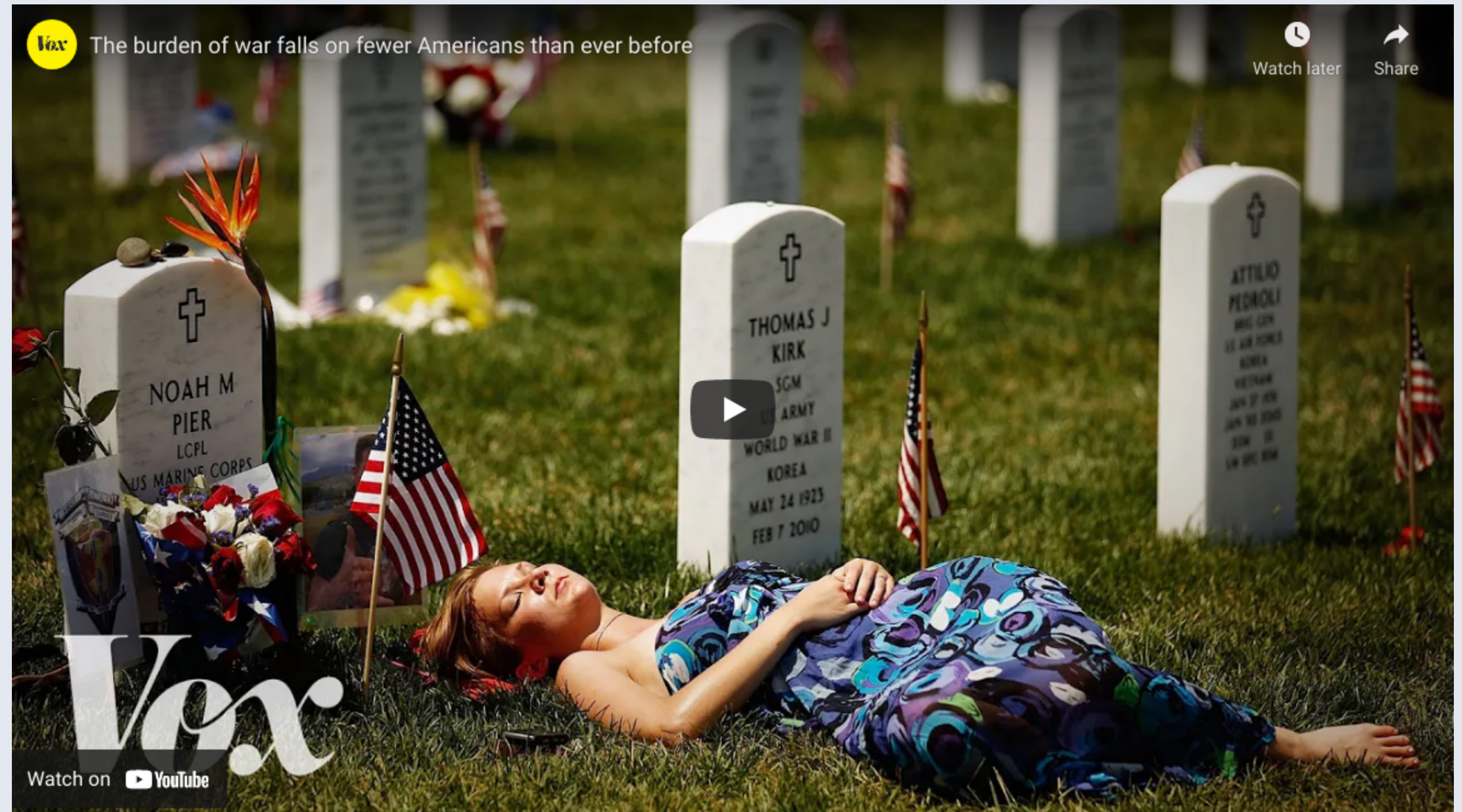
GEN. MARTIN DEMPSEY, US ARMY  
FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF



# Civilian Military Divide

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[Click Here to Watch Video](#)





# VETERAN ENROLLMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION

**4.5%**

**OF ALL UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ARE VETERANS**

**5.1%**

**OF ALL GRADUATE STUDENTS ARE VETERANS**



# Potential College Student Perspectives

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## MISCONCEPTION

You may face many students (and professors) that cannot relate or lack the understanding of your military experience

## LABELS

Some students may label veterans as what they see from Hollywood - "Rambos" or the "broken-veteran"

## APPRECIATION

Many students will appreciate your service, while not really understanding what you did exactly.

## OPENNESS

The majority of colleges are diverse and open to different viewpoints, and will be open to learning from your experiences.



# College Environment

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## TRADITIONAL STUDENTS

- Straight out of high school
- 18-22 years old
- Developing life skills and individual experiences for the first time away from home
- Some are developing the balance of work ethic and socializing on their own for the first time.

## COLLEGE LIFE

- Classes are not scheduled the same way as high school. You may have one class on one day and several on another.
- Professors normally have "office hours" that allow you to meet with them to discuss lectures and assignments.
- Extra-curricular activities are diverse and offer a multitude of different experiences





# Academic Performance

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## THIS IS NOT THE MILITARY

Military courses are very practical and duty-specific, but college classes can be more abstract and comprehensive.

## ACADEMIC READINESS

According to research conducted by Student Veterans of America, on average, student veterans have higher GPAs than traditional students. The same report suggests that Student Veterans spend more time preparing for classes and talking to instructors than civilians do.

## CLASSROOM DISCUSSION IS DIVERSE

Be open-minded, listen to different perspectives, and humbly share your experiences





# Social Relationships

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## CHALLENGES WITH YOUNGER PEERS

You may find it difficult to find like-minded peers in your class because of an age and experience gap, as well as the difference in maturity in coping with the stress of college life.

## POTENTIAL BIAS AGAINST THE MILITARY

Some professors and students may have negative opinions about the military and voice them in class. You may see activism and protests against military conflicts on campus.

## COMPETING DEMANDS

College is mainly tailored toward the traditional student and there may be occasions when you must find time to deal with "nontraditional" issues, like caring for dependents and working.



# Administration of Veterans Benefits

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## EDUCATION BENEFITS

The majority of veterans will qualify for the Post 9-11 GI bill and Yellow Ribbon Program

## OTHER VETERANS BENEFITS


Regardless of there not being a VA Hospital close to your college of choice, you can still access healthcare if you qualify for veterans health benefits

## CONNECT WITH VA ADMINISTRATOR

Before enrolling in college, talk to a VA representative to go over your education benefits, claims, and healthcare. You have served in our military and the VA is there to serve you as a veteran.





A person is seen from behind, climbing a steep, rocky mountain slope. The sun is setting or rising in the distance, creating a bright glow and long shadows. The sky is a mix of blue and orange. The person is wearing a dark jacket and a backpack.

You are a veteran of our military and have faced challenges in the past. You may face new challenges in academics and social interactions in college, but you are resilient and tough. Learn to find your place in college and make the most of it.



# THE 3-P'S FRAMEWORK FOR TRANSITION

Source: Harlan Cohen - Best First Year

## PEOPLE

Find 5 people on campus that are living the lives that you want to live.

## PLACES

Where are there 3 places where you can find connection and community on campus, including the veterans community?

## PATIENCE

How long is it going to take you to achieve this discovery and sense of belonging?



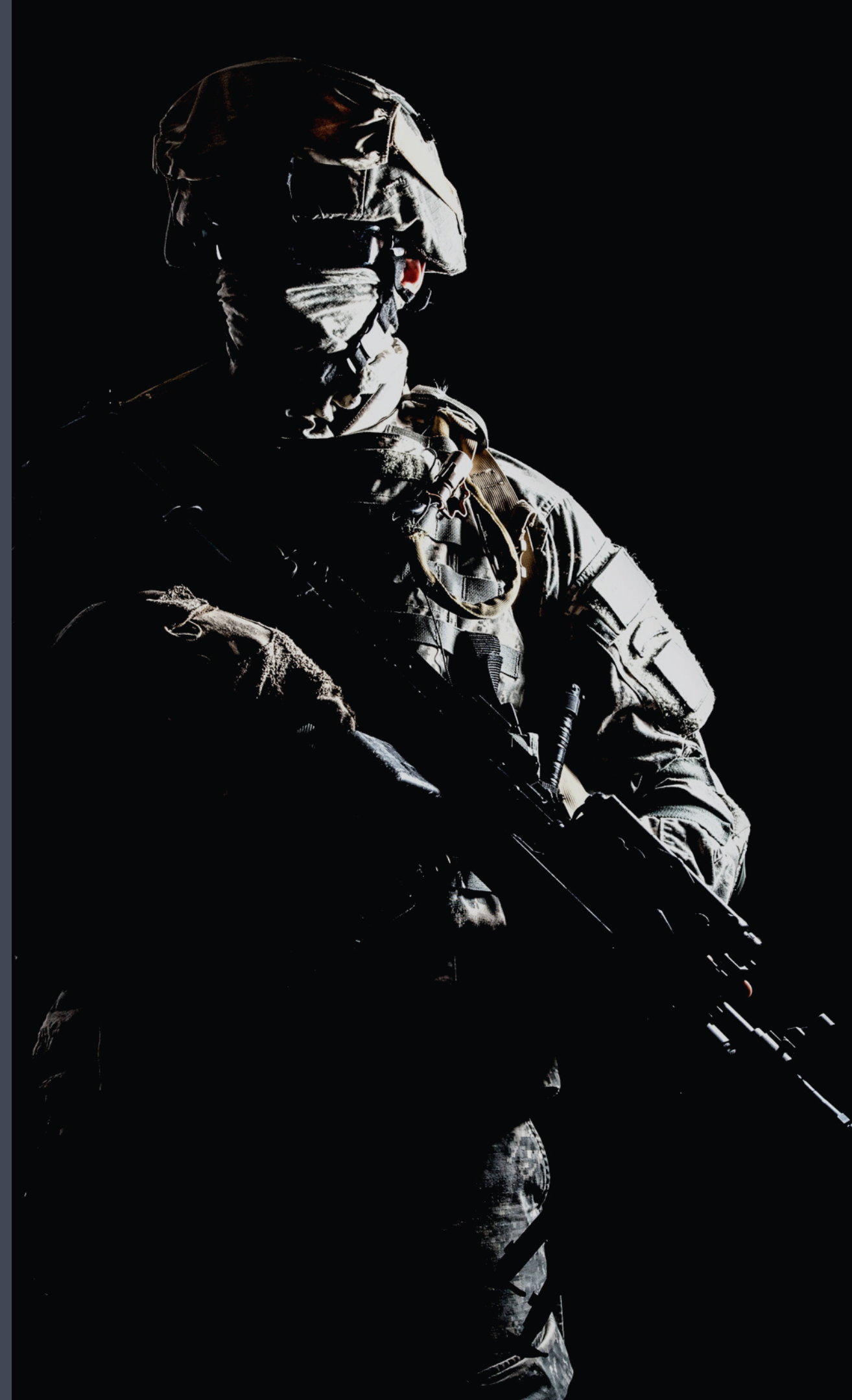
# Resources

## STUDENT VETERANS

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- [State Veteran Education Benefits](#)
- [Service to School](#)
- [Disabled American Veterans](#)
- [Iraq & Afgan Vets of America](#)
- [VA Benefits](#)
- [College Board](#)







# WAYPOINT

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We also serve veterans, active duty servicemembers, and their families