

## **Veterans Data Following the Korean War**

Life is becoming tough down here in Arizona, all the snow birds are arriving from up north. Last month, Sweetie and I were able to go to the American Legion burger night, place our order, get a beer and find a table with no problem. Now we have to stand in line for everything. I hope you are all feeling sorry for us.

This is a continuation of last week's column, looking at the minority demographics of our service members during the Vietnam War and beyond. In a 2012 report from the US Census Bureau and from a 2014 report from the Department of Veterans Affairs, I found data showing our living Veterans reflect our total population by racial and ethnic diversity in most age groups. For the Vietnam Era only (Aug 1964 to April 1975), 82.7 percent were White, 9.2 percent Black, 8.7 percent Hispanic and 1.2 percent Asian. However, when we look at the Post 9/11 (Sept 2001 to present) group of Veterans, we have 65.5 percent White, 15.4 percent Black, 12.4 Hispanic and 3.0 percent Asian. This compares with the total US population of 76.9 percent White, 13.3 percent Black, 17.8 percent Hispanic and 5.7 percent Asian. As most of you know, the Hispanic population of the US is the most rapidly increasing group. The reason, as the Minnesota State Demographer said 'they have more babies.' Arizona has a significant number of Hispanic, about 41 percent and 55 percent white. We see this every day.

In general Veterans are significantly older than non-Veterans. The median age for Veterans is 63 compared with 44 for non-Veterans. Veterans are predominantly male, about 92 percent where over half of our non-Veteran population is female, although the number of female Veterans is increasing quickly. In all groups, Veterans are much less likely to live in poverty than non-Veterans. Veterans are likely to have a higher income than non-Veterans and have a lower unemployment rate.

My Master's thesis did a comparison on the college performance between Veterans and non-Veterans at MSUM. My findings showed lower high school rank and college test scores (ACT) for Veterans compared to non-Veterans. However, my research showed no significant difference between Veterans and non-Veterans in their college performance based on GPA. All Veterans from this study were either drafted or enlisted. It would be an interesting study to do a similar comparison of Veterans and non-Veterans in the All-Volunteer Force.

The 2012 Census report shows the states with the largest percent of Veterans were New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Texas and California. Although the number of Foreign-born Veterans is small, here are the country of birth of those Veterans with the largest being Mexico, followed by the Philippines, Germany, Canada, Italy Jamaica, Korea, England, China, Vietnam and Cuba. Apparently not all people coming from Mexico are rapists and murders!