Today’s military students

- Nation at war since 9/11/2001
- Largest number of war-time veterans since WWII
- Iowa National Guard participating in the largest deployment since WWII
- Service characterized by unprecedented multiple deployments
- Visible and invisible wounds of war
University of Iowa Veteran Enrollment

- U of I enrolled 564 vets this fall, 700 by fall 2013
- 101 were women (8 who received purple hearts)
- 40% are disabled from service
- 85 students deployed in August 2009 and 2010
- 139 additional vets not receiving benefits
Student life issues

- Older than the general population
- Accustomed to a structured environment
- Disassociated from established relationships and teammates
- Different world experiences than 18-19 year-olds who have not been out of the state
- May have dependents—must balance responsibilities
- May find themselves with insufficient funds
- May have emotional as well as physical scars
Academic issues

Strengths:
- Motivated, committed students
- Add to campus diversity with interesting background, life-experiences

Challenges:
- Students may feel distracted in class
- Faculty, staff and other students unaware of unique needs
- Isolation—feeling a lack of community
- Admission Issues still denied access
  - All 3 campuses follow ACE guidelines for accepting transfer credits
- Propensity to “stop out”
  - Deployment, personal reasons, financial reasons, or work-related reasons
Veteran Services

- Dedicated veterans advisor
- Returning adult student forgiveness policy-Restart
- Improved transfer of military credit
- New course called “Life After War: Post-Deployment Issues”
- Disabled Veteran Services
- Yellow Ribbon Participant
U of I has become one of the top veteran friendly campus

- University climate has focused on student success
- Resident tuition for any veteran undergrad
- No admission fee, no reentry fee
- Offer military credit
- Women Veterans group and Women’s Counselor
- Academic forgiveness, Restart Program for undergrads
Mae's
2013 Top Military-Friendly Colleges & Universities
Life After War: Post-deployment Issues
Goals of the course

1. Address the biological underpinnings of common post-deployment issues.
2. Decrease stigma of post-deployment issues
3. Increase Academic self-efficacy
4. Increase retention and academic success
5. Increase a sense of camaraderie among student veterans
University of Iowa Veterans
Who we are:

- Student veterans and current servicemembers from various backgrounds
- Family members and community supporters
- Charter member of Student Veterans of America
What we do:

- Help veterans and servicemembers at the University adjust to and integrate into campus life
- Act as advocates for servicemembers and veterans
- Support those still serving and their families
- Provide information about veterans benefits
- Serve as liaison with University and community programs
- Propose and lobby for Veteran-friendly legislation
- Raise awareness among fellow students and the community

Veterans Day On the Hill
Iowa State House Jan 2009
Other things we do

- Volunteering
- Social activities
- Iowa Troop Pantry
- G.I.V.E. Foundation
- Care packages/letter writing
- Wounded Warrior Project

Hawkeye Football!
Veterans Center

- 111 Communications Center
- Location for veterans to study and relax
- Sofas, networked computers, TV, refrigerator/freezer, microwave, coffee, soda, and snacks
- CAC card reader
Annual activities

- Welcome Back grill-out
- Fall/Spring bar crawls
- Veterans Day program, reception, and banquet
- Wreaths Across America
- Statewide Veterans Education Symposium

Veterans Day Banquet 2009