Life in the Military

**Dangerous Trends**

29% of active duty troops, veterans, and their families believe the Bush administration is doing a good job handling their needs.

–Bloomberg News, 12/08/07

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**FAMILY LIFE**

- Divorce rates in the military nearly doubled between 2001 and 2004 and rose steadily afterward.
- 42% of service members said they felt like “a guest in their own home.”
- Army surveys find that family problems and PTSD reinforce each other.

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**MEDICAL CARE**

- 30% of Iraq troops battle with depression, anxiety, or PTSD; soldiers with repeated deployments are 50% more likely to suffer from PTSD.
- 2006 marked the highest suicide rate in the Army in 26 years; since 2001, the Army’s suicide rate has nearly doubled.
- Until recently, primary care managers have out-numbered patients 1200 to 1 in some major facilities. Current ratio near 200:1.

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**DEPLOYMENTS since 2001**

- 15 month tours in Iraq and Afghanistan longest combat tours for the Army since WWII.
- 13 of the Army’s 43 brigades serving third tour in either Iraq or Afghanistan, and 5 brigades serving fourth tour in either theater since 2001.

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**FINANCES**

- President rejected proposal to increase military pay by 3.5% and blocked effort to increase combat and family separation pay.
- 1,300 battle-wounded or deceased soldiers required to repay service bonuses.
- VA has located 1,500+ homeless Iraq, Afghanistan veterans; 1 in 4 homeless persons are veterans.

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For source information, please visit http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2007/12/military_life.html