



Military 101 for ACP Mentors

*The U.S. Military has its own unique language, culture, and customs. It can understandably be intimidating or confusing for someone with no personal military experience to enter a mentoring relationship with **a service member** who has spent the past several years within that community. Below is some information that may give you a better understanding of your Protégés experience in the Military.*

Military Rankings: Enlisted vs. Officer

Your veteran Protégé will be titled as either an Enlisted or Officer service member.

- **Enlisted:** An enlisted service member, whose rank is prefaced with "E-," is someone who volunteered for military service on a term of contract to a branch of their choosing. The term is typically a minimum of two years with a set termination date. High-ranking enlisted service members have experience both working with and managing lower ranking service members and leading day-to-day operations.
- **Officer:** An officer, whose rank is prefaced with "O-," is a military leader who has gone through the process of receiving a military commission. There are four paths to becoming an officer: Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), Direct Commission, Officer Candidate School (OCS), or a Military Academy (i.e. West Point, Annapolis, etc.). Commissioned officers have extensive experience in leadership and logistics, as they oversee the movement and welfare of entire units, as well as large amounts of expensive equipment.

Click [here](#) for a comprehensive list of Officer ranks in all five branches of the U.S. military.

Click [here](#) for a comprehensive list of Enlisted ranks in all five branches of the U.S. military.

Common Military Acronyms

ACP Protégés, having served in the military for several years, are familiar with a "language" of military jargon and acronyms. These acronyms serve an important purpose within the armed forces but can be confusing to those not familiar with military culture and custom. To search for an acronym, **please visit the Department of Defense Dictionary of Military Terms website, [here](#).**

Common Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) and Veterans' Programs

Many ACP Protégés are also active in a number of other veterans programs and organizations. Below is a short list of some common veterans programs and organizations.

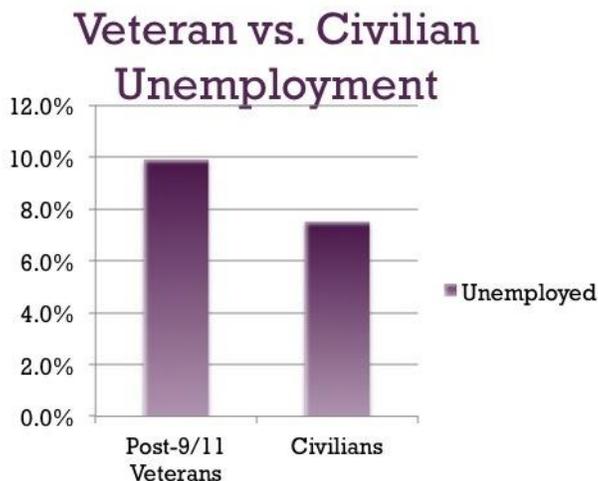
- **Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP):** A program that provides U.S. Army soldiers and their family members transition and job assistance services; includes pre-separation counseling and employment assistance.
- **DOD Skillbridge:** A program that provides an opportunity for active-duty Service Members to gain valuable civilian work experience with DOI during their last 180 days of service.
- **Entrepreneurship Boot Camp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV):** A program created by Syracuse University's Whitman School of Management, EBV provides entrepreneurship and small business management training to post-9/11 veterans with service-related disabilities.
- **The Mission Continues:** A nonprofit organization dedicated to recognizing our nation's wounded warriors for all they have to offer and uniting veterans with fellow citizens in shared service to our nation.

- **Military Officers Association of America (MOAA):** A nonprofit association of more than 350,000 military officers, active duty and retired, the MOAA focuses on military personnel matters and legislation.
- **Student Veterans of America (SVA):** A coalition of student veteran organizations on more than 300 college campuses nationwide dedicated to helping "Yesterday's Warriors become Today's Scholars and Tomorrow's Leaders."
- **Wounded Warrior Project (WWP):** A nonprofit organization whose mission is to "honor and empower wounded warriors" of the U.S. Armed Forces, WWP works to raise awareness and enlist public aid for the needs of our nation's wounded warriors and otherwise support and assist wounded warriors.
- **USO:** A nonprofit organization that provides programs, services and live entertainment to U.S. troops and their families.
- **United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA):** A government-run veteran benefit system, the VA is responsible for administering programs designed to assist veterans, their families.
- **V-WISE:** A program created by Syracuse University's Whitman School of Management, V-WISE is committed to women Veterans by providing them the tools to become successful entrepreneurs.

Recommendations for Further Reading

To learn more about U.S. military culture and the transition from military to civilian life, please consider the following books:

- [A Civilian's Guide to the U.S. Military](#) by Barbara Schading and Richard Schading
- [The Soldier's Guide: The Complete Guide to U.S. Army Traditions, Training, Duties, and Responsibilities](#) by the Department of the Army
- [Army Dictionary and Desk Reference](#) by Maj. Tim Zurick USAR (Ret.)
- [The Military to Civilian Transition Guide - From Army Green to Corporate Gray, From Navy Blue to Corporate Gray, From Air Force Blue to Corporate Gray](#) by Carl S. Savino and Ronald L. Krannich
- [PCS To Corporate America](#) by Roger Cameron



*Bureau of Labor Statistics, April 2013.