

Only \$99 Professionals,
\$50 Students/Postdocs

Give a Gift, Get a Gift

Give the smart gift today!



Science



Magazine

News

Signaling

Careers

Multimedia

Collections

Science Careers From the journal Science

Jobs

Funding

Meetings and Events

Career Development

For Advertisers

About Science Careers

[Science Home](#) > [Science Careers](#) > [Career Development](#) > [Previous Issues](#) > [2008](#) > [2008-06-06](#) > [Staff](#)

CAREER DEVELOPMENT : ARTICLES

 [E-Mail This Article](#)  [Print This Article](#)  [Share This](#)



Special: Student-Veterans Come Marching Home

Science Careers Staff
United States
6 June 2008

Since 11 September 2001, Americans in uniform have been engaged in two wars--in Iraq and Afghanistan--both of which are likely to continue for at least several more years. Veterans of these conflicts have been coming back to American universities in substantial numbers, many as students in science and engineering departments.

Since 9/11, some 1.65 million members of the armed forces have returned to civilian life. According to a [Department of Veterans Affairs report](#), as of February 2007, about 275,000 of these veterans have used GI education benefits in degree programs, including 13,000 in graduate school. If the new GI Bill, with its more generous benefits, becomes law, these numbers are likely to increase.

Although there are no definite numbers yet, the [National Science Foundation reports](#) that in 2004, about one-third (32%) of American bachelor's degrees awarded were in science or engineering programs. Given that the armed services put a high value on technical skills in recruiting and training, the proportion of science and engineering student-veterans is likely to be even higher. So at least 100,000 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are probably already studying--or have studied--science and other technical fields, several thousand at the graduate level. Interviews with administrators confirm that veterans are an increasing presence in university science departments across America.

This week, *Science Careers* takes its first look at a sampling of this group of students. In "[Student-Veterans Come Marching Home: Their Return to Studies.](#)" *Science Careers* talks to eight science and engineering students to learn how their transitions to civilian and academic life are going. We learn that these student-veterans face some obstacles, but they also bring some qualities that are likely to benefit their science and engineering careers and future employers--and perhaps their campuses as well. A [companion podcast](#) lets you hear about some of these veterans'

BUSINESS OFFICE FEATURES

[Packaging Yourself for Product Companies](#)
23 May 2008

[Affinity Groups for Diversity](#)
9 May 2008

[Not-So-Lost in Translation](#)
17 April 2008

[More](#)

CAREER TOOLS AND RESOURCES

Current Employers

[Learn more about the employers advertising positions on our site.](#)

Science Careers Forum

[Post a question, get an answer on our online community](#)

Graduate Programs

[Browse our database of program profiles](#)

How-To Guides

[Writing a resume/CV](#)

[Beating the interview](#)

[Getting funding](#)

[Managing a lab and staff](#)

[Building your network](#)

experiences in their own words.

"Student-Veterans Come Marching Home: A New GI Bill for Scientists" describes a new bill, passed by both houses of Congress and awaiting the president's signature, that promises to increase educational opportunities for returning veterans well beyond what their current benefits provide. Representative Harry Mitchell (D–AZ), the sponsor of the bill in the House of Representatives, and Ben Latigo, dean of the engineering school at the University of the District of Columbia, spoke to us about the bill and its implications for veterans and the country as a whole.

In **"Taken for Granted: Over Here,"** Beryl Benderly describes the career and training landscape for returning veterans in science and technical fields. Some of the opportunities described do not require advanced degrees and in many cases take advantage of veterans' military experience.



Jessica Kilgore plans to combine her civil engineering degree with experience as an Army medic in Iraq, in a career in public health.

Salary Tools

Find out how much you're worth with our salary calculator

[To Advertise](#) [Find Products](#)

Because this is a new topic for *Science Careers*, we enlisted the help of several experts and organizations, each of which deserves recognition and our sincere thanks:

- [Sally Koblinsky](#), University of Maryland, College Park, professor and chair of the university's Family Science Department, is conducting research on veterans returning to university campuses. Koblinsky's research looks into key issues surrounding the adjustment of veterans to university life, including their education, health, and family relationships.
- [Steven Danish](#), Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, professor of psychology, preventive medicine, and community health, is conducting research on returning veterans and also serves as director of the university's Life Skills Center.
- Thomas A. Lenox, senior managing director, [American Society of Civil Engineers](#), former professor of engineering at the U.S. Military Academy.
- [John D. Mikelson](#), veterans adviser, University of Iowa in Iowa City, and a founder of [Student Veterans of America](#).

Comments, suggestions? Please send your feedback [to our editor](#).

Photos. Top: courtesy, Cody Waters.
Middle: courtesy, Jessica Kilgore.

DOI:
10.1126/science.caredit.a0800081

[E-Mail This Article](#) [Print This Article](#) [Share This](#)

[Magazine](#) | [News](#) | [Signaling](#) | [Careers](#) | [Multimedia](#) | [Collections](#) | [Help](#) | [Site Map](#) | [RSS](#)
[Subscribe](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Privacy / Legal](#) | [About Us](#) | [Advertise With Us](#) | [Contact Us](#)

© 2008 American Association for the Advancement of Science. All Rights Reserved.
AAAS is a partner of HINARI, AGORA, PatientInform, CrossRef, and COUNTER.