

Population Representation in the Military Services Fiscal Year 2008 Report

Summary

Introduction

This is the 35th annual Department of Defense (DOD) report on social representation in the U.S. military services and the Coast Guard. The fiscal year (FY) 2008 technical appendices (appendices A–E) provide current data on the demographic, educational, and aptitude characteristics of applicants, new recruits, enlisted personnel, and officers of the active and reserve components, as well as time-series information on selected variables. Except where otherwise noted, data are provided by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC). Due to slight differences in definitions among the services, data provided may not match statistics reported by the Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, other DOD agencies, or the individual military services.

This summary provides the reader with highlights from the roughly 150 tables that can be found in the technical appendices. We focus on the following areas:

- Endstrength, accessions, and continuation rates
- Quality of enlisted accessions
- Representation of women in the U.S. military
- Representation of various racial and ethnic groups in the U.S. military
- Home communities of active component enlisted accessions

Wherever possible, we provide historical perspective by looking at how the current numbers compare with those from previous years.