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### Support for Our Protectors

As military, we are trained to fight and defend. We are known as protectors of freedom, but at the end of the day who protects the protectors? As the war goes on a steady decline, our great nation doesn't need as many troops as it once did. Idle time is on its way, what do we do? College—we have trained our bodies and our minds to defend our nation; it is now time to further develop our minds with an education outside the military.

Many military students have the issue of not knowing where to begin or what degree to pursue. The military offers its troops many different resources to pursue their educational goals. Colleges also have many different resources also to ensure students (military or non-military) success.

UTEP's Military Student Success Center (MSSC) is a great place to start once admitted. The MSSC has a great staff who have served and will sit down and help students apply for their educational benefits. The MSSC is also a good source for information pertaining to what to do around campus. The MSSC is a great place to be around fellow veterans while still being actively engaged with the full campus experience. UTEP's Military Student Success Center is the place to get all your questions answered, and if they do not have the answer, their staff can surely direct you to the correct place.

The military is physically and mentally demanding, and those who have served usually do not come out unscathed. If you think that might be an obstacle stopping you from pursuing your education that is the wrong answer. The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) helps any student that might have a disability hindering them from his or her educational goals. CASS offers note takers, a quiet place to take exams, as well as visual and audio equipment for textbooks.

Academic Institutions for Military Students (AIMS) Network is another great resource for military students. To deal with all the hardships that military students might endure when it comes to transferring colleges, getting credits accepted, and tuition fees AIMS is the military-affiliated students' soldiers. AIMS does battle for us--soldiers (former and current). AIMS achieves its mission "by encouraging partnership among public colleges and universities . . . [easing] of transfer among participating academic institutions to increase degree completion . . . sharing of successful policies, programs, and procedures." AIMS is very open-minded and the staff enjoy talking with military students discussing any issues that may arise. That means a lot to know military-affiliated students have someone fighting for our rights to make sure we get the same educational right as the rest of the nation.

We all have to start somewhere to obtain what we desire. Knowing about different resources to help achieve our desires is what might set us apart, but being a part of this great nation we must do all that we can to help our fellow neighbors to better themselves in order to challenge us to better ourselves. So please let's encourage service members, active and former, to share their knowledge with others so they can take advantage of the vital resources that will only help ensure success.