



Veterans at the Middlebury Institute: A World of Opportunity

The campus community at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey includes students from all over the world, future translators and interpreters, diplomats, business people, and nonprofit leaders, as well as past and future Peace Corps volunteers. What many don't realize is that this diverse campus community also includes a large contingent of military veterans—in fall 2014 more than 49 veterans of the U.S. armed forces and their dependents were enrolled at the Institute, making up more than five percent of the student body. Veterans are enrolled in almost every degree program at the Institute.

The substantial population of veterans

at the Institute reflects the school's strong partnership with the federal Yellow Ribbon program. The school adds institutional dollars to Yellow Ribbon funding to cover 100 percent of tuition costs for qualifying veterans and their spouses or dependents. The Institute has participated in the Yellow Ribbon program—part of the Ch. 33 Post-9/11 benefit—since 2009. To date, the Institute has provided more than \$1.2 million in tuition discounts to 118 veterans as part of its participation in the Yellow Ribbon program.

The Institute's consistent support for veterans has resulted in it being named a Military Friendly School® by G.I. Jobs for five consecutive years, signifying that it ranks in the top 15 percent of colleges, universities, and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America's military service members, veterans, and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus. The Institute also focuses on veterans' transitions from military to civilian life, especially in preparing for a civilian career. In the past four years, MIIS has twice hosted Project Hire's Wounded Warrior Workforce Conference and Career Fair.

Veterans and their families are a vital part of the fabric of the Middlebury Institute campus community, and benefit from a variety of resources and services designed to help them be successful at the Institute.



Tom Gray
U.S. Navy Veteran

- Served six years in the Navy as a submarine officer, after enrolling in ROTC while earning his bachelor's degree at Rice University. Posted to the USS *Alabama* nuclear submarine after undergoing nuclear training; later conducted the same nuclear training for new officers.
- Considered going into management or working at a nuclear reactor, but wanted to have an impact on policy. Came across MIIS while researching nonproliferation-related degrees and liked that it was oriented to teaching real-world skills that would help him move directly into the profession he wanted to explore.
- Received his MA in nonproliferation and terrorism studies in May 2015.
- Cites the nonproliferation treaty negotiation simulation class as something "I would not have been able to experience anywhere but MIIS... It was the most challenging course I took and the most rewarding. I was able to participate in the NPT Review Conference at the UN in New York as part of the Chilean delegation, which was amazing."
- Emphasizes the efforts MIIS makes to make veterans feel welcome, including special events hosted by the president and Student Services. "Because MIIS focuses on real-world experiences and skills, it's a good fit for most veterans. MIIS also works hard to get people to take advantage of the Yellow Ribbon benefits."



Professor Ed Laurance, Congressman Sam Farr, and Student Veterans Organization cofounder Marcos Medina MANPTS '12 at MIIS Veterans Day reception, 2011.



Student veterans Eric Young (U.S. Marine Corps), Manuel Gonzalez Lopez (U.S. Army), Carmen Lilia Ibarra (U.S. Air Force), and Dave Uyehara Perryman (U.S. Army) studied international policy, nonproliferation and terrorism studies, and translation and localization management at the Middlebury Institute.

Financial Aid for Veterans

Student veterans at the Middlebury Institute may qualify for other forms of financial aid to supplement their VA benefits. Details on both programs are available online at go.miis.edu/veterans.

The Middlebury Institute has agreed to provide contributions to eligible individuals who apply for the Yellow Ribbon program on a first-come, first-served basis, regardless of the rate at which the individual is pursuing training in any given academic year. Funding is guaranteed for up to 75 veterans for the 2015–16 academic year.

Veterans Scholarship Fund

In recognition of the reality that benefits such as the Yellow Ribbon program are subject to future cuts or phaseouts, the Middlebury Institute of International Studies recently launched the Veterans Scholarship Fund. This dedicated fund is designed to be used to provide partial tuition support to veterans and their dependents in the event of any future cuts to the Yellow Ribbon program.

For additional information about financial aid for veterans, visit go.miis.edu/veterans.

Office of Student Services, Student Veterans Organization & Other Services

The Middlebury Institute’s Office of Student Services (including its Veterans Services Graduate Assistant) and the student Veterans Organization work together to provide support and resources, as well as hosting activities for the veteran student community. For example, in recent years the Veterans Organization has hosted a Veterans Day panel discussing issues surrounding the transition to civilian life.

In addition, the Institute’s website offers a variety of online resources for veterans (see go.miis.edu/veteransresources).

“I was a soldier in Afghanistan and now I have classmates from Afghanistan. I really can’t think of any other school in the world where I could have gone to be part of such an international community.”

—Ross Belliveau, U.S. Army veteran and International Policy Studies student

go.miis.edu/miisveterans



Angel Quintanilla
U.S. Army Veteran

- Enlisted in the Army in late 2000, on active duty much of the next 14 years. Deployments to Iraq in 2004, where he served in Mosul, and to Afghanistan in 2008 and 2012, where he served as part of a Provincial Reconstruction Team working in Ghazni province and in Kandahar province where he participated in Village Stability Operations.
- Combined community college units with credits based on experience for 70 undergraduate credits when accepted. Finished his BA in international studies at MIIS in May 2014 and received his MA in nonproliferation and terrorism studies in May 2015.
- Wants to become a diplomat and raves about the unique opportunity he had while attending MIIS to meet Ambassador Alfredo Alejandro Labbé of Chile. “My classmate and I asked him if we could speak with him outside of class, and he spent two hours talking with us afterwards!”
- Says the financial aid staff at MIIS “really know their stuff and know how to help veterans tap into our benefits. A lot of veterans don’t pursue a graduate degree because they don’t know how to navigate the process; MIIS makes it easy.” Appreciates the events MIIS hosts for veterans, saying, “It’s nice to have that solidarity with people who have had the same kinds of experiences.”