



# Veterans' Card Holders

## Fact Sheet

### **The Veterans' Card**

The Dutch government recognises the special achievements of its veterans by, among other things, granting them a veterans' card. The former *Stichting Dienstverlening Veteranen* [Veterans' Services Foundation], one of the forerunners of the Veterans' Institute, issued the first veterans' cards in August 1993. Veterans can apply for the pass themselves. The automatic issuing of the veterans' card to service personnel with deployment experience who have left the service began in 2006.

More than 66,000 Dutch veterans have a veterans' card. The pass comes with a number of material benefits. For example, veterans' card holders receive the veterans' magazine *Checkpoint* ten times a year. The free travel passes issued for travel to veterans' events, such as reunions, remembrance ceremonies or veterans' days, are another benefit. Veterans also receive the *Handboek Veteraan* [Veterans' Handbook] alongside the pass and - since 2003 - the Veterans' Commemorative Badge. Finally, an increasing number of discount schemes are being linked to the veterans' card.

Since the publication of the Veterans' Act in 2012, the Ministry of Defence has also granted veteran status to about 30,000 service personnel in active service (including reservists) with deployment experience. They are now also being issued automatically with the veterans' card with comparable benefits, the *Handboek Veteraan* and the Veterans' Commemorative Badge. This new category of veterans (in active service) is not taken into account in the rest of this fact sheet. The figures in the fact sheet relate to the present group of veterans' card holders who have already left the armed forces, i.e. to those known as retired veterans.

### **Older generation and younger generation of veterans**

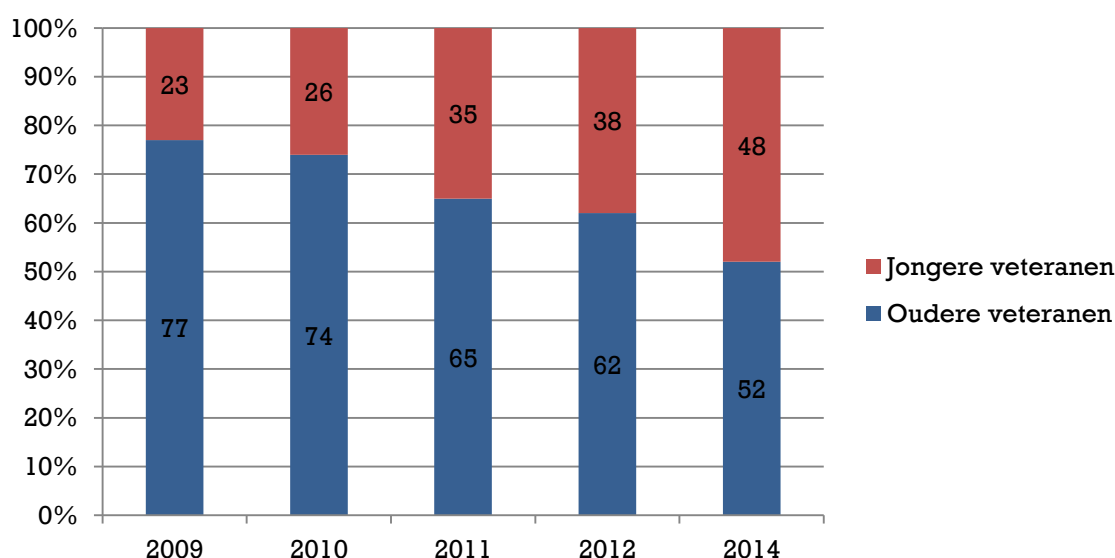
Figure 1 shows the ratio between the older and younger generation of veterans with a veterans' card in the period between 2009 and 2014 inclusive. The older generation of veterans was deployed during the Second World War, the decolonisation war in the Dutch East Indies, the Korean War and/or the

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New Guinea conflict. They might also have been deployed in peacekeeping operations before 1979. The younger generation of veterans has been deployed during peacekeeping operations since 1979.

The share of younger-generation veterans in the veterans' card file increased substantially between 2009 and 2014, from 23% to 48%. This is the result both of the rise (from 17,441 to 31,824) in the number of veterans of peacekeeping missions holding a veterans' card and of the fall (from 58,109 to 34,442) in the number of older veterans holding a veterans' card (mainly caused by deaths). There is also a shift as regards the actual age of veterans' card holders. For instance, in recent years, the number of veterans' card holders in the 20-40 years age category has risen by 12% from 9,126 (January 2011) to 10,235 (October 2014).

**Figure 1: Ratio of older-generation and younger-generation veterans' card holders in the period between 2009 and 2014**



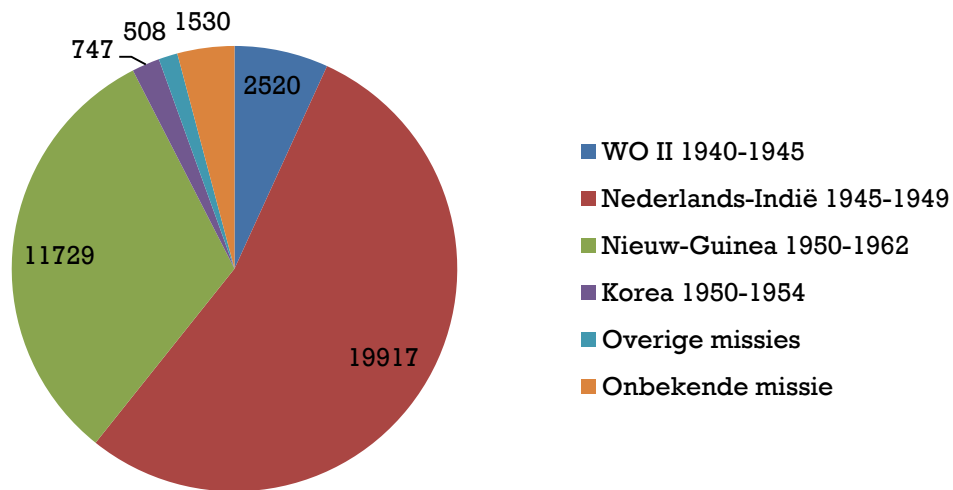
## Female veterans

An increasing number of servicewomen are being deployed, including in combat units. A total of 1,940 female veterans have a veterans' card. This is 3% of the total number of 66,266 veterans' card holders (October 2014). Two female veterans' card holders are 100 years old and the youngest are 22 years old.

## Older-generation veterans' card holders

Figure 2 shows the number of participations in missions by the older generation of veterans' card holders in the 1940-1979 deployment period. Taken together, the 34,442 veterans' card holders took part in 36,951 missions. The largest group of older-generation veterans' card holders was deployed in the Dutch East Indies, followed by deployment in New Guinea and during the Second World War.

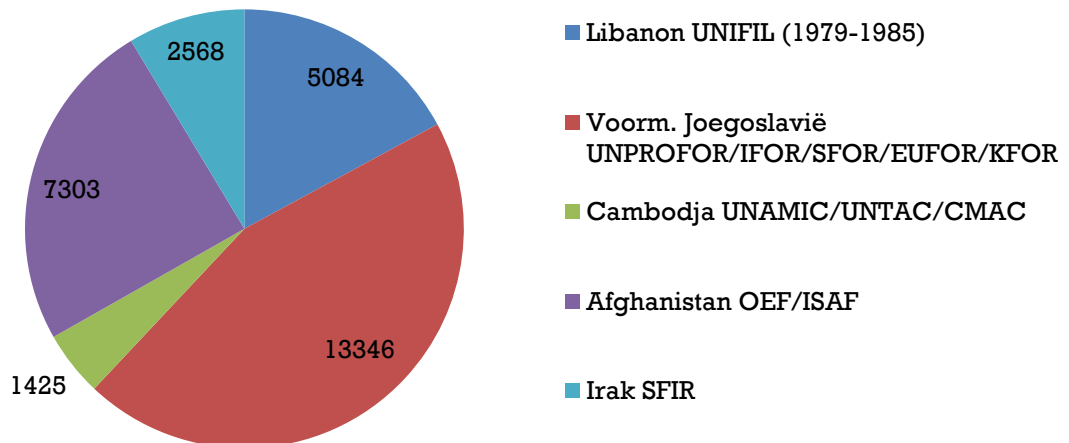
**Figure 2: Participations in missions by older-generation veterans' card holders**



### Younger-generation veterans' card holders

Figure 3 shows the number of participations in missions by the younger generation of veterans' card holders in the deployment period beginning in 1979. The figure is limited to the five areas with the greatest deployment. Taken together, the 25,512 veterans' card holders deployed in one or more of these areas took part in 29,726 missions. The largest group of younger-generation veterans' card holders was deployed in the former Yugoslavia, followed, respectively, by Afghanistan, Lebanon and Iraq.

**Figure 3: Participations in missions by the younger generation of veterans' card holders (largest groups)**



Of the more than 30,000 younger-generation veterans' card holders, 66% served with the Royal Netherlands Army, 19% with the Royal Netherlands Navy, 11% with the Royal Netherlands Air Force and 3% with the Royal Netherlands Military Constabulary.

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### **Further information**

This fact sheet provides general information. You will find more detailed information about the activities of the Veterans' Institute in the area of recognition, care and research at [www.veteraneninstituut.nl](http://www.veteraneninstituut.nl). You may also contact us by telephone (088-334 00 50) or by email ([info@veteraneninstituut.nl](mailto:info@veteraneninstituut.nl)).

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