There are currently more than 2.2 million women veterans in the United States. Many women veterans experience various challenges throughout their military career. This journey map details those factors and their prevalence.

**Challenges:**
- New Self Identity
- Appearance Standards
- Pre-Military Experiences
- Coping with stress

**FACT:** 22% of women in the U.S. Army stated they used alcohol to cope with the stress of being in the military.

**FACT:** Enlisted female troops ages 17-24 were at the highest risk of being assaulted.

**FACT:** 23% of Female Veterans are divorced compared to 12% of non-veteran women.

**FACT:** Of 3 current and former service women, experience problems with infertility.

**FACT:** 20% of female Veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan experience PTSD and the number is rising.

**FACT:** Female Veterans are twice as likely to be homeless as non-Veteran women.

**Women join in tough economic times**

% of inductees saying they joined the military because jobs were hard to find...

- Women: 42%
- Men: 25%

Source: Women in the U.S. Military: Growing Share, Distinctive Profile


**Top 5 factors leading to sustained hardship within the Women Veteran experience:**
- Childhood adversity
- Trauma
- Substance abuse
- Gender-specific abuse
- Unemployment

**Reasons they joined**

% of women who say they joined to...

- Serve country: 83%
- Because education benefits: 82%
- To see more of the world: 70%
- To learn skills for civilian jobs: 67%
- Because jobs were hard to find: 42%