



MILITARY RESOURCE CENTER

GREEN ZONE TRAINING

Becoming a Bulldog Veterans Services Advocate
Module 1



“

“I didn’t feel like I belonged until someone understood my background.”

~ BSU Student Veteran

Green Zone Training

What We'll Cover

1. Why Green Zone Training
2. Who are our Student Veterans
3. Understanding the Military & the Transition
4. Supporting & Communicating with Veterans
5. Building a Veteran-Inclusive Campus
6. Next Steps: Becoming a Green Zone Ally

A young woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a black t-shirt with a yellow graphic that says "I CHOSE Bowie State University" and has floral tattoos on her arms. She is standing in front of a building with a sign that partially reads "CENT GEN" and "UDEN".

Empowering faculty & staff to support student Veterans

WHY GREEN ZONE TRAINING?

- It's a **professional development** initiative that builds awareness around the unique challenges faced by military-connected students adjusting to post-military life, navigating VA benefit systems, dealing with deployments, and transitioning into civilian academic settings. Student veterans are members of our community, and we want to ensure that they feel comfortable and welcome here at Bowie State University.

WHY GREEN ZONE TRAINING?

- Green Zone training supports campus diversity, equity, and inclusion goals by formally preparing staff and faculty to:
- Recognize and understand the military student experience.
- Offer compassionate, informed support.
- Be a visible, qualified point of contact for military-connected students.



Empowering faculty & staff to support student Veterans

MEET YOUR VETERAN STUDENTS

01

- Average age between 25-34.
- At Bowie state university we have veterans anywhere from 23 to late 60s perusing degrees.

02

- May have families, jobs, or disabilities.
- Highly motivated and goal-driven.
- Often first-generation college students.

VETERAN & MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT PROFILE

- **Enrollment Numbers:** Bowie State University serves over **300 military-connected students (5%)**, including veterans, active-duty service members, and military families .
- **Ethnicity:** A diverse student body with significant representation from Black/African-American students (83.6%).



**Typically,
older**

**Gender:
60.5%
female/39.5%
male**



UNDERSTANDING THE MILITARY

01 6 BRANCHES:

Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Space Force.



02 Rank structures:

Junior enlisted: core workforce, learning the ropes, executing tasks, and beginning leadership.

Senior Enlisted: Seasoned leaders and advisers, shaping training, policy execution, and serving as crucial liaison between enlisted ranks and commissioned officers.



UNDERSTANDING THE MILITARY

03 Rank structures and terminology:

Officer: Provide leadership, strategy, and command the enlisted force.

Enlisted: Forms the military's foundation, conducting technical tasks and leading on the ground.

05 Bowie State has a Military Science Department, the AROTC falls under the department.

04 The system ensures experienced soldiers (NCOs) guide operations day-to-day, while educated leaders (officers) chart direction and policy.



UNDERSTANDING THE MILITARY

- 200,000 service members transition out of the military each year.
- 1 in 10 college students is a veteran or military-affiliated.
- Veterans bring leadership, discipline, and real-world experience to the classroom.



THE TRANSITION JOURNEY

- Loss of structure and identity
- Adjusting to campus culture
- Navigating VA and GI Bill benefits
- Adjusting to classroom environment
- Family responsibilities
- Financial challenges



CHALLENGES VETERAN STUDENTS FACE.

- PTSD, anxiety, or invisible injuries
- Feeling isolated or misunderstood
- Navigating red tape (benefits, housing, enrollment)
- Academic preparedness
- Social isolation



Empowering faculty & staff to support student Veterans

SUPPORTING & COMMUNICATING WITH VETERANS

Veteran Students Matter-Be a Green Zone Ally!

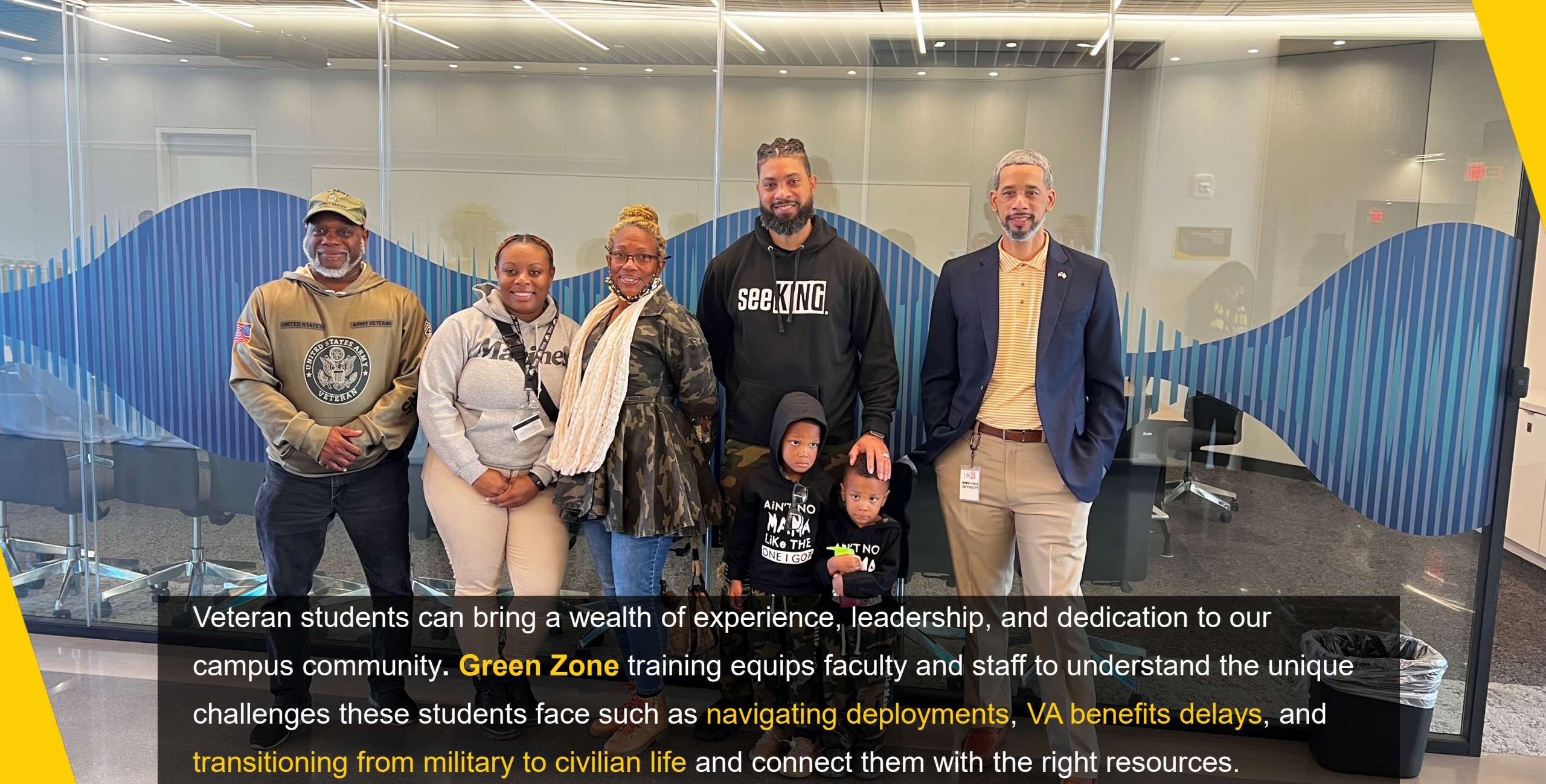
TALKING WITH VETERAN STUDENTS

- Respect life experiences
- Use inclusive language
- Don't ask 'Did you kill anyone?'
- Don't assume trauma or instability



PREFERRED TERMS

Avoid	Use Instead
“the veterans”	“Veterans” or Veteran students
“veterans and active service members (exclusive wording)”	“Veterans and service members”-clearer and more inclusive
“his or her benefits”	“their benefits”-use singular they/their
“military family”	“military-connected family”-respects diverse family types
“combat disabled Veteran”	“Veteran with a service-connected disability”-person-first



Veteran students can bring a wealth of experience, leadership, and dedication to our campus community. **Green Zone** training equips faculty and staff to understand the unique challenges these students face such as **navigating deployments**, **VA benefits delays**, and **transitioning from military to civilian life** and connect them with the right resources.

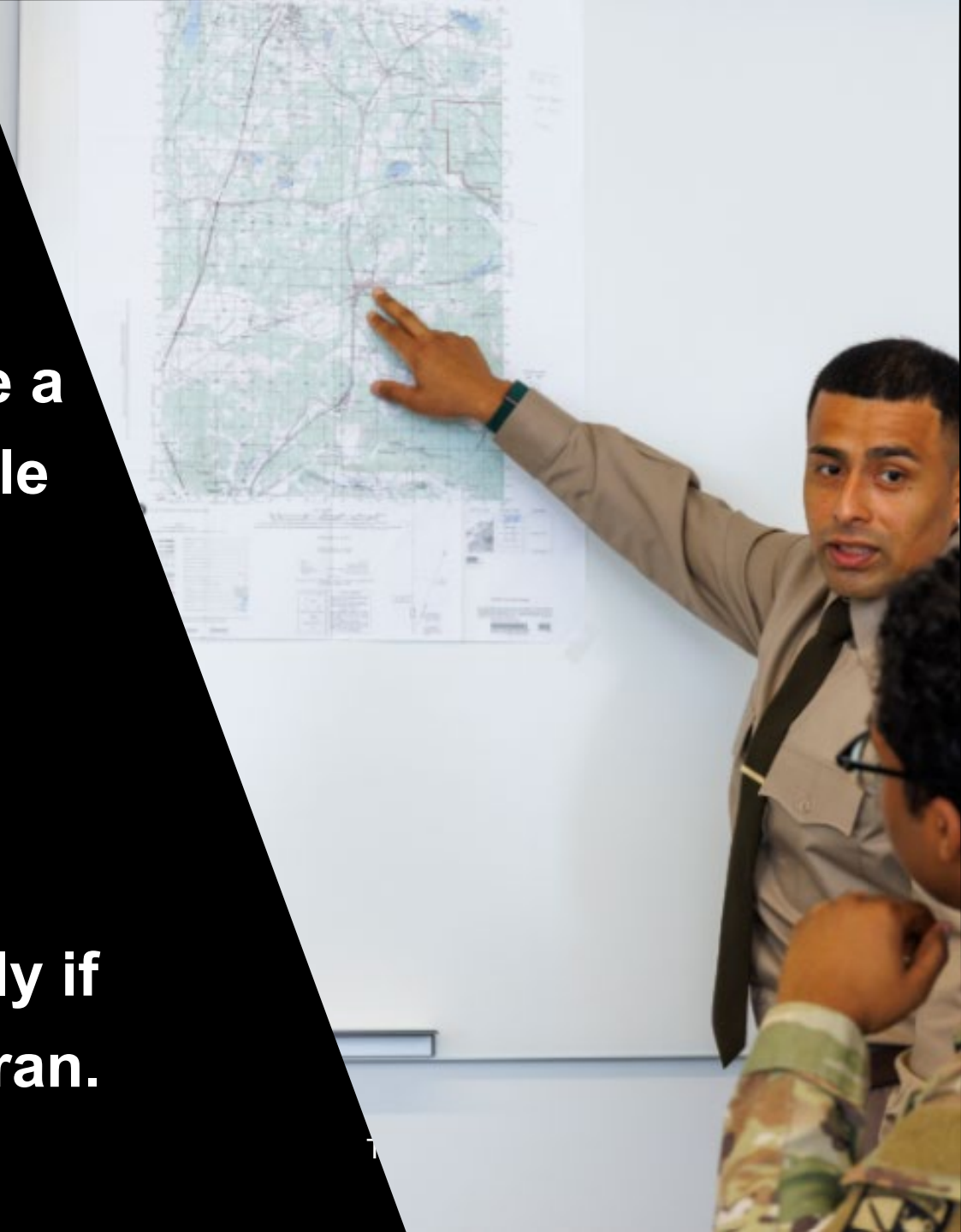


Respect boundaries, don't pressure veterans to share experiences

BUILDING A VETERAN- INCLUSIVE CAMPUS

As a Staff/Faculty Remember

- Recognize that a Veteran may be a nontraditional student with multiple roles.
- Many Veterans leave higher education because they grow frustrated with the process.
- Acknowledge service respectfully if a student discloses they're a veteran.





As a Staff/Faculty Remember

- **Be flexible and understanding.**
- **Understand that VA appointments, drill weekends, or family responsibilities may influence scheduling.**
- **Recognize that some students may have invisible disabilities (e.g., PTSD, TBI) and may need accommodations.**
- **Be Trauma-Informed: Avoid unexpected loud noises or sudden classroom simulations that might be triggering.**
- **Understand that some veterans may prefer to sit near exits or avoid group work at first.**



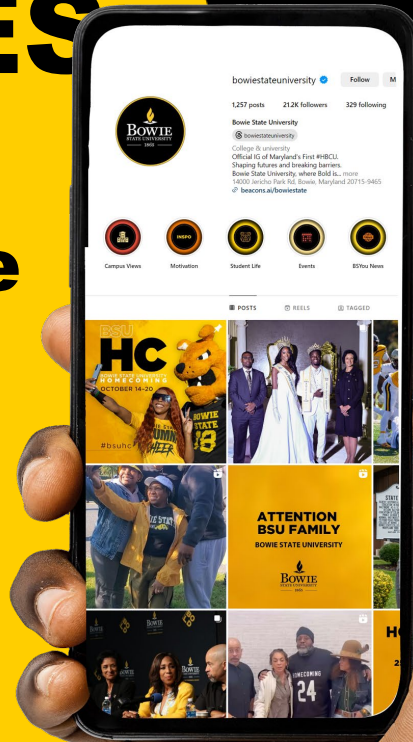
Why Green Zone Training?

BECOMING A GREEN ZONE ALLY

KNOW THE RESOURCES

**Military Resource
Center**

**Counseling or Mental
Health Centers**



Disability Support Services

Academic advising and tutoring

Familiarize yourself with VA
benefits, even at a basic level (like
who certifies enrollments),



“WALK IN THEIR BOOTS”

- What would you say to a veteran who asks for deadline flexibility due to a VA appointment?
- Acknowledge and Empathize
- Offer Practical Flexibility
- Clarify Expectations
- Collaborate on a Plan
- Encourage Awareness of Support Services



Building a Veteran-Inclusive Campus



QUESTIONS

Military Resource Center & Veteran Services POC

Mr. Andre Clayton: Director, Military Resource Center (MRC)

Mr. Jardea Jenkins: Veteran Benefits Administrator

Mrs. Tiara Usog: Administrative Assistant

Contact Email: militarybenefits@bowiestate.edu

Phone: 301-860-5109



A photograph of a university campus during autumn. In the foreground, a paved walkway curves through a green lawn. Several students are walking along the path; one student in a yellow jacket and red hoodie is looking at a phone, while others are walking in various directions. To the left, a student is sitting on a bench, working on a laptop. The background is filled with trees whose leaves are turning bright yellow and orange. Black lampposts are spaced along the path. A large, bold, yellow 'THANK YOU' text is centered over the middle of the image.

THANK YOU