

Military

Writing Final Report

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Table of Contents

I. Introduction

- A. The reasons why I decided to research this topic
- B. The reasons why I am interested in the military
- C. Population of the military

II. Thoughts of the US and Japan

- A. The US patriotism
- B. The Japanese thoughts about PKO(Peace Keeping Organizations)
- C. The difficulty of PKO

III. Interview

IV. Conclusion

- A. Things which made me surprised
- B. What I learned from this
- C. What my questions are

V. References

I. Introduction

The military is an organization which for serving its country. The US Military is comprised of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard. Norfolk's military base is the biggest in the world, and many military people are here.

The reasons why I am interested in the military is that in the US, the government gives much support to the military. On the other hand, Japan does not have a military. So I wanted to know the feelings of people in the US military.

The statistics of military population of 2000 show that there are 482,170 people in the Army, 355,654 in Air Force, 373,193 in Navy, and 173,321 in Marine Corps. So there are in total 1,384,338 people in the military of the US. It is a very large population. The military spends about 328.7 billion in 2002, according to source.

II. Thoughts of the US and Japan about the military

One can see a lot of US flags here. It is one symbol of patriotism. In Japan, some people raise Japanese flags on national holidays. However there are a lot of people to do that like American people. America has sought for freedom and human rights since it began as a nation. The US is democracy, which allows citizens vote and let them everything which face its nation. That means the nation protects its citizens' liberties. Many US citizens support their government, and they have plenty of confidence that America is one of the strongest countries in this world, due in part that the US has the military to protect citizens from attacks of enemies. On the other

hands, Japanese people do not support their government, because they do not believe it is a good government. They do not think the government would make a better government, and they often cause riots. An addition, Japan does not have a real military. Japan has the Self-Defense Forces “Jiei-Tai”. In other words, it is PKO (Peace Keeping Operations). Japan has been proved by the ninth article of the Japanese constitution the states that Japanese seek international peace, so they abandon war and threats or taking military forever. To accomplish the preceding clause, Japan does not have military power. So there is no end to the controversy over whether or not to send the Defense Forces overseas is a breach of the Constitution or not. Many people are opposed to it. However Japan has the US-Japan Security Treaty, which means Japan and the US have to support each other. So there are some American military bases in Japan, and Japan has sent Self Defense Forces to Afghanistan to help America. It is difficult to manage both the ninth article of the constitution and the US-Japan Security Treaty. So these days, some have suggested changing the constitution to deal with emergency defense legislation.

III. Interview

I asked four people six questions. Three of them were in the military before, and one is a lieutenant currently. The following questions are what I asked them.

1. Why did you decide to join the military?
2. What are the benefits of joining the military for you?
3. How much does America spend on the military?
4. What does the military do?

5. What kind of training does the military do?

6. Do you think you are patriotic? What do you do to be patriotic?

In the responses to the first question, two people answered that they joined the military to serve their country. One person wanted to have a well-paying job as soon as he graduated. Another person who was in the Navy, he answered that his main reason to join the military was that he wanted to learn about computers and electronics. He did not want to go to college take other classes in addition to electronic classes. So he decided to go to the technical school of the military, which is the place to be able to learn only what he wanted. Also he wanted to see different parts of the world when he grew up. According to The New York Times 2002, many applicants join the military because they want to go to college. And also many people think that the military is the best way to make a living. So these people joined the military of their own accord. On the other hand, one person was conscripted in 1968. It was the time of Vietnam War. So he had to enter the military.

In the responses to the second question, most of them answered that they could develop themselves internally, learn to be more mature, responsible, and humble. And they could have pride by serving their country. One person said that he met a lot of people who have served their countries in the military, and shared common experiences with each other. There is also a lot of material benefits. One person's the most important benefit is that he could go to technical training for 2 years and then could have experience working on computers and electronics aboard a ship for 4 years. So those experiences helped him get a good job. Military people have

free medical benefits. In addition they have a lot of responsibility to do things which normal citizens cannot do.

In the responses to the third question, the military spends a huge amount of money for whatever the president and Congress orders them to do. Each year the president of the United States proposes a budget to Congress and then they decided how much money is used by the military. The military spends money to build air craft, ships, maintain bases, buildings, runways, to fund research, and development, to pay salaries of the every person in the military and the civilians who work on the military bases, medical benefits and so on. The military spends a lot of money.

In the response to the fourth question, the military does a lot of things to protect the US, US interests, its citizens abroad and defend the constitution of the US. It also helps freedom of other countries. Each branch of the military has a special mission to defend its country. The Army works to conduct standard war fighting on the land. The Navy works to defend its country from the sea and bring war to enemies, which are accessible from the sea. The Air Force works to defend of its country from air or space and to attack enemies from the air. The Coast Guard works for keeping interior waterways safe and navigable and keeping an eye on the coast of country out to about 12 miles. However each of them has specific duties, and there are places to work together. The reason why is that sometimes they have to accomplish the mission. For example, The Air Force and Marines use aircrafts, but they use it for different purposes, so they have to know how and where they operate aircrafts. If they did not know each others operations, it would cause accidents. So the Admirals and Generals gather and arrange plans to be able to defeat enemies well.

In the responses for the fifth question, they answered that there were many types of training from fighting to computers. Most of them are preparations to protect the country from enemies. There is a proverb in the military, "Train like you fight". That means they train in their jobs as if they were in real war. And then they could get used to being in that kind of situation, so they would fight as they had practiced. It is the best way to fight in the war well.

In the responses for the sixth question, one said he was not a 'Flag Waver'. However he has deep love for the US. Four people answered that they were patriotic. The reasons why are they love their country and they support their government. One person said that he wanted to keep the country's freedom. One person answered that he knew that America has the best system of the government which humans have ever created. And it is one reason for joining the military.

IV. Conclusion

I did not know about the US military at all although I had interests in it. So I was surprised about many things. The best thing is the benefit of the military. I could understand people who join the military because of the salary, free medical and more benefits. The second thing which surprised me is that American people are very patriotic. I knew that they were. However I did not know how they became very patriotic. They would like to do a lot of things for their country. It is a very wonderful thing. So I learned that I feel that American thoughts are well-organized. If I were a person who had to join the military, I would not want to join the military for some reasons. I know that almost all people do not like war. Neither do I. I often think

about why humans fight and I always arrive at same answer. It is that people try to insist on our own thoughts too much, and sometimes we forget to respect other people's thoughts and we have a lack of compassion. It may be very difficult to do that, however it is the best way to get along well, I think. So it may also difficult to lose the military system in the present world. However, I hope the world will never have war and conflicts and will not need military power. It is my entire wish.

5. References

Interviewed John Teevan, via internet

Interviewed Susan Boland, Bill Thompson through writing

Personally interviewed Vincent Tatum

New York Times (<http://www.nytimes.com/>)

Japanese's Contributions of International Peace (<http://www.pko.go.jp/>)