

# WHAT DOES SMOKING COST OUR MILITARY?

**\$1.6 BILLION**  
SPENT ON TOBACCO  
RELATED MEDICAL CARE

DoD spends over \$1.6 billion a year of taxpayer money on tobacco related expenses (tobacco related medical care, increased hospitalization, and lost days of work)\*

**\$5 BILLION**  
SPENT AT VA ON COPD

In 2008, VA spent over \$5 billion to treat Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). More than 80% of COPD is attributed to smoking.\*

**\$345 MILLION**  
SPENT ON SMOKE BREAKS

The cost of lost productivity from smoke breaks alone (30min/day for 220 workdays/year) was over \$345 million in 1995 dollars\*

**\$54 MILLION**  
SPENT ON TOBACCO  
USERS MISSING WORK

Moderate to heavy smoking was associated with greater absenteeism that amounted to \$54 million in 2007 dollars\*

**\$130 MILLION**  
IN EXCESS TRAINING COSTS

Smoking is the best predictor of early discharge from the military and results in over \$130 million in excess training costs per year.\*\*\*

**14.8%**  
OF SALARY SPENT

Tobacco use can cost as much as 14.8 percent of a junior enlisted member's salary.\*\*\*

**ONLY 4.9%**  
EXCHANGES IN COMPLIANCE  
WITH DoD LAW

DoD instructs the cost of cigarettes on military installations is supposed to be within 5% of local prices, but only 4.9% of military exchanges in 2013 were in compliance.\*\*

**73% CHEAPER**  
ON BASE THAN STORES

Cigarettes sold on some military installations are 73% below prices on comparable brands at the nearest Walmart.\*\*\*

**36-40%**  
START TOBACCO AFTER  
JOINING

Of the current military service members who smoke, 36-40% started smoking after joining the military\*

\* Institute of Medicine, Combating Tobacco in Military and Veteran Populations, 2009

\*\* <http://www.stripes.com/news/us/narrowed-smoker-discounts-still-seen-as-unhealthy-1.276066>

\*\*\* Haddock CK, Jahnke SA, Poston WSC, Williams LN. Cigarette Prices in Military Retail: A Review and Proposal for Advancing Military Health Policy. Mil Med. 2013 May; 178(5): 563-569.