

## **Abstract**

American social policy, which has been under the influence of neoliberal paternalism, has become highly selective and inefficient. That needs to be changed. A model solution has been found right in the United States, in one of its federal institutions: the U.S. Military. In the past several decades, it has developed from a simple tool of defense into a complex institution, where an almost perfect social system exists, which could serve as an example for the national system. The military social system wasn't established purely on altruism, but rather based on a strategic decision to build and sustain the most stable and efficient fighting force. As a consequence, universal health-care emerged, as well as free access to higher education, social-welfare programs for veterans etc. Thus, people within the military community tend to have higher educational attainment, employment rates and quality of family life than the general population in the US. As a result, the military has been increasingly used as a social program. Even though the military service is often thought to be reserved for lower socio-economic classes, American middle class has increasingly sought it out as well. Given the structural problems not only in the national social system, it has been looking for alternative ways to improve, or at least hold on to, its socio-economic status.