



Volume 12

Fall 2013

SERV Study Newsletter

Survey of Experiences of Returning Veterans



Department of Veterans Affairs



SERV Study progress

Thanks to all Veterans who have participated in the study so far— your input is extremely helpful to us. We have spoken to male and female Veterans of all ages and from all branches of military service. We now have 334 male and 130 female Veterans enrolled from 49 states. **We still need Veterans from Delaware— please tell your Veteran friends! We also need more female Veterans.** 24month follow up surveys have begun and are going very well.

We are at 39% of our goal of 1200 Veterans.

We have a raffle winner!

Congratulations to Erich from Maryland! His name was chosen from a random drawing on September 4th. He won a \$100 Visa gift card to spend as he chooses. Our next drawing will take place on Monday December 2nd. Good luck to all our Veteran participants! The winner will be notified by email and phone.



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Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM):

Many Veterans are using non-traditional types of medicine, such as acupuncture, meditation, herbal remedies, hypnosis, homeopathy and spiritual healing.

Dr. Hoff is looking into funding for a new project to address the many questions surrounding the use and effectiveness of these alternative medical therapies. If approved, this project would run concurrently with the SERV Study for all SERV participants who may be interested in participation.

However, the funding is not definite, and we are still in the early planning stages. We will be sure to keep you updated on this exciting new area of research.

SERV Documentary >>>>

SERV is pleased to announce our association with RGP (ReelGood Pictures) in Cambridge, Mass. Bonnie DeRosa, Executive Producer, has worked with us on the YouTube video clips to advertise the study. This company has a special focus on mental health issues, especially for Veterans. Ms DeRosa has produced numerous training films and documentaries for the VA.

If you are at all interested in appearing in the SERV documentary, please contact Bonnie directly at reelgood@comcast.net.

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Survey of Experiences of Returning Veterans

Social media presence!

Please visit our Facebook page Gender in the Military. Our Twitter account is /GenderMilitary. Both of these are managed by Reelgood Productions due to privacy/confidentiality concerns. SERV Study can also be found on Linked In —See *miscellaneous section below*.

Miscellaneous

Linked In– Please don't feel pressured to "connect to" or "endorse" the SERV Study if you feel uncomfortable. Linked In is similar to Facebook, but more geared toward working professionals looking to make connections. Our only reason for joining Linked In is just to get our name out there in cyberspace.

Response booklets– please have your booklet handy at the time of the interview. We know that our survey is a long one, and the booklet allows you to finish your telephone call more quickly and get on with your day.

BLUE Booklets: Baseline (first) interview only

YELLOW Booklets: 3-, 6-, 9-, and 12-month follow ups only

PINK Booklets: 18-, 24-, 30-, 36-month follow ups only

Useful links:

National PTSD website:

<http://www.ptsd.va.gov/>

PTSD Program Locator:

http://vaww1.va.gov/directory/guide/PTSD_flash.asp?isFlash=1

[Ptdshelp.net](http://ptsdhelp.net)

IAVA (Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America)

<http://iava.org>

For a VA facility near you:

<http://vaww1.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp?isFlash=1>

We're on the web!

<http://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn1/serv/>