



Supporting Information: Face of the New Veteran

Operation Enduring Freedom/ Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF)

Department of Veterans Affairs

<http://www.va.gov>

The VA website is packed with important information and valuable links and is a great resource for VA staff, veterans, and their families alike.

Readjustment Counseling Service (Vet Centers)

www.vetcenter.va.gov

Vet Centers provide readjustment counseling and outreach services to all veterans who served in any combat zone. Services are also available for their family members for military related issues. Veterans have earned these benefits through their service and all are provided at no cost to the veteran or family. The Department of Veterans Affairs Vet Center program operates a system of 209 community based Vet Centers. Vet Centers can be found in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. Vet Centers are staffed by small multi-disciplinary teams of dedicated providers, many of whom are combat veterans themselves. Vet Center staff are available to serve veterans any time during normal business hours, and upon request, will provide services after normal hours and/or on weekends, to better serve veterans and their families. The Vet Center maintains a record system separate from VA medical centers, which appeals to OEF/OIF veterans concerned about the confidentiality of their records.





They also offer bereavement counseling to surviving family members of service members killed while serving on active duty. Vet Centers are generally located in storefront locations for easy accessibility. The cadre of 100 Global War on Terrorism (or GWOT) Outreach Workers based at the Vet Centers are themselves OEF/OIF veterans who focus on outreach work with other OEF/OIF veterans and their families. Much of this is done at demobilization briefings and Post Deployment Health Reassessment (or PDHRA) events. The Vet Center website includes a Vet Center finder that makes it easy to locate the most convenient Vet Center for each veteran.

The Veterans Benefits Administration (or VBA)

www.vba.va.gov/

The Veterans Benefits Administration (or VBA) staff assures that our new veterans receive appropriate compensation and benefits, if eligible. VBA counselors begin their work at Military Treatment facilities (or MTFs), and may assist our new veterans in filing claims and gathering documentation. Injured service members are informed of all potential VA benefits, such as compensation, Vocational Rehabilitation and employment, Education, Loan Guaranty and Insurance, and other benefits from other sources. More details are available at their website as is a VBA Facility Finder, which will direct you to your nearest VBA Regional Office. Additionally, each VA Regional Office has an OEF/OIF Coordinator and OEF/OIF Manager to make sure these claims receive **priority** treatment. Service members and veterans may file a claim for benefits via the Internet through The Veterans On Line Applications website: www.vonapp.va.gov . There's a link to VA Form 10-10EZ, Application for Health Benefits, as well.





Suicide Prevention Hotline

1-800-273 TALK (8255)

Another vital resource— VA's new Suicide Prevention Hotline— can be reached by dialing 1-800 273-TALK (or 1-800 273 8255). Suicide has been a major concern with regard to OEF/OIF veterans and may be a danger even when the veteran does not meet criteria for any mental health diagnosis. Severe personal, family, job or financial stress coupled with increased risk for substance abuse are among the factors that may increase the risk of suicide among new combat veterans. Since this hotline went live in 2007, it has already been credited with saving veterans' lives and connecting many more to needed services.

The National Center for PTSD

www.ncptsd.va.gov

Veteran, Family, and Clinician Fact Sheets, Videos and Guides:

The National Center for PTSD website includes valuable information about coping with trauma and what to expect during readjustment. This is presented in different formats appropriate for veteran, family, and clinician users.

24-hour Post-deployment Support:

www.militaryonesource.com

Military Onesource is a contract service of the Department of Defense which offers handouts, DVDs, free counseling, and referrals for local care to new veterans and their families and is great source of information across a broad range of concerns.





Latest Post-Deployment Health Information

www.pdhealth.mil

The Deployment Health Clinical Center website summarizes the latest post deployment health information and offers a daily newsletter.

VA Forms

www.va.gov/vaforms

Most of the forms veterans need to enroll for VA services can be downloaded directly from VA at the VA forms website.

National Guard Transition Assistance Advisors

www.taapmo.com/TAAprogram.htm

Transition Assistance Advisors (TAA) have been hired by the National Guard and trained by VA staff to coordinate VA services and benefits and make appropriate referrals for VA care. The 57 TAA's are stationed at National Guard State Headquarters in every state and US territory. Contact information for the TAA's can be found on this website.

