Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton, Retired
Veterans in the Courts Initiative

Evelyn Lundberg Stratton retired from the Ohio Supreme Court at the end of 2012 so as to pursue more fully criminal justice reforms with a particular emphasis on veterans who become involved with the justice system. She established the Veterans in the Courts Initiative in 2009. Video [http://bit.ly/1gICXZ0](http://bit.ly/1gICXZ0)

Week Ending November 16, 2014
Total Number of Direct Professional Readers: 1,528

FEATURED STORIES


VA officials will add a new customer service branch and a national network of veteran advisory councils in what is being touted as the largest restructuring of the department in its history.

- VA chief announces restructuring, firings (CNN) [http://cnn.it/1xJ7RBe](http://cnn.it/1xJ7RBe)
- V.A. Creates Plans to Consolidate Services (NYT) [http://nyti.ms/1sV2ueT](http://nyti.ms/1sV2ueT)

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced plans Monday for a new customer service bureau to help train employees to focus on customer satisfaction and make the department more accountable to the millions of veterans it serves. The plans also include a structural overhaul that over time could lead to consolidating a wide range of functions under a handful of regional offices.

TBI Reauthorization Act Passes in House with Bi-partisan Support [http://bit.ly/1EFu9X0](http://bit.ly/1EFu9X0)

The Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) is pleased to announce that the House of Representatives passed the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Reauthorization Act of 2014 and the bill is on its way to President Obama for his signature.

The TBI Act reauthorizes existing TBI programs within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and provides appropriations for those programs through FY2019. The legislation also provides new authority for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to review brain injury management in children, identify ongoing and potential opportunities for research, and instructs the CDC to report back to Congress on their findings.

How cops can help military veterans with PTSD and TBI (policeone.com) [http://bit.ly/1xCLhv7](http://bit.ly/1xCLhv7)

Please remember when dealing with despondent veterans that these war fighters are sick and need treatment — we owe them much more than we can give so at least provide them that courtesy.
These symptoms can lead a veteran to suicidal thoughts which some act upon. You may come in contact with a veteran responding to a 911 call or during a contact on the streets. Recognizing these signs may help you determine the best course of action in helping him. If you come in contact with a veteran during a service call the key to success is to establish trust and a bond with the veteran by getting him talking. Stopsoldiersuicide.org offers a simple guideline when dealing with despondent veterans. They suggest using the acronym ACE — ask, care, and escort.

Nationally Known ’TBI Vision System Dysfunction DOD VA Advocate’ Joins Stratton Newsletter Contributors

Justice Stratton, I am glad to be included in the list (to receive your newsletter) and found the stories to be very useful for someone who spent nine years inside Washington DC as director of government relations for Blinded Veterans Association and someone very engaged in disability issues. I have been very engaged in the area of both penetrating eye injuries and TBI vision system dysfunction with senior defense officials, VHA, and with congress going back to 2005.

As VSO advocate I did have unique background as having had 24 years of working as clinical surgery physician assistant and for 14 of those as army aeromedical physician assistant – flight surgeon retiring at rank of Major. Because of this I was appointed on the DOD Peer Review Defense Vision Trauma Research Program (VTRP) funded through Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program CDMRP in the annual defense appropriations at TATRC.

The FY13 awards for the peer reviewed vision research program are now posted on the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) website.

Also I work very closely with National Alliance Eye Vision Research (NAEVR) and below is Press Release from NAEVR that lists the researchers:

FY2013 Vision Trauma Research Program Abstracts
The FY2013 Vision Trauma Research Program had two funding mechanisms, the Translational Research Award (up to $1 M per grant) and the Hypothesis Development Award (up to $250K per grant). We are expecting the release of the FY2014 awards shortly.

Translational Research Award
Dr. James Akula, Visual and Retinal Correlates of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI): Biology and Behavior
Dr. Lu Chen, Novel Strategy to Combat Corneal Injury at Early and Late Stages and to Promote Transplant Survival
Dr. Douglas Dean, Vision Restoration with Granulocyte Colony-Stimulating Factor Following Traumatic Injury
Dr. Ali Djalilian, Clinical Translation of Mesenchymal Stem Cell Therapy for Corneal and Ocular Surface Injuries
Dr. Jon Froehlich, HandSight: Supporting Everyday Activities through Touch-Vision
Dr. Samuel Fulcher, Inflammation Modulatory Protein TSG-6 for Chemical Injuries to the Cornea
Dr. James Funderburgh, Early Intervention Stem Cell-Based Therapy (EISCBT) for Corneal Burns and Trauma
Dr. Vijay Gorantla, Novel Strategies for Optic Neuroregeneration and Retinal Projection Reintegration After Ocular Trauma

Dr. Katherine Hajjar, Annexin A2 in Proliferative Vitreoretinopathy

Dr. Jeffrey Mumm, Discovery of FDA-Approved Drugs that Promote Retinal Cell Survival or Regeneration

Dr. Andrew Pieper, Prevention and Treatment of TBI-Mediated Visual and Brain Damage Using a Novel Protective Compound

Dr. Morgana Trexler, EMERGE: Engineered Materials that Create Environments for Regeneration via Electric Field

Dr. Derek Welsbie, Targeting Dual Leucine Zipper Kinase as a Therapeutic Strategy for Traumatic Optic Neuropathy and Brain Injury

Hypothesis Development Award

Dr. Joseph Brzezinski, Programming Retinal Stem Cells into Cone Photoreceptors

Dr. Shaochen Chen, Layer-by-Layer Bioprinting of Stem Cells for Retinal Tissue Regeneration

Dr. James Demar, Elucidation of Inflammation Processes Exacerbating Neuronal Cell Damage to the Retina and Brain Visual Centers as Quest for Therapeutic Drug Targets in Rat Model of Blast Overpressure Wave Exposure

Dr. William Jia, Smart, Injury-Triggered Therapy for Ocular Trauma

Dr. Lor Likova, Mechanisms of Photophobia in Mild Traumatic Brain Injury in Human Subjects: Therapeutic Implications

Dr. Alfredo Martinez, Hypothermia in the Treatment of Retinal Injury

Dr. Cheryl Olman, Frontoparietal Priority Maps as Biomarkers for mTBI

Dr. Kia Washington, Improving Viability and Functional Outcome After Whole Eye Transplantation

Dr. Stephen Wong, Mobile, Multimodal, Label-Free Imaging Probe Analysis of Choroidal Oximetry and Retinal Hypoxia

So, I again would like to receive the newsletter and will also provide published reports on TBI and vision trauma issues both within VA, DOD, and efforts of advocacy organizations in regards to these issues.

Best,

Tom Zampieri

BVA Board of Directors

BVA Government Relations Committee

USICD Board Member

VA/DOD

**DATA**: VA making progress **in access, accountability, other areas**

http://1.usa.gov/1EOnAmJ

VA released five new fact sheets today updating progress in the key areas of access to care and benefits, accountability, implementation of the Choice Act and hospital quality care measures. The fact sheets are titled:

- **VA Accelerating Access to Care Fact Sheet**;
- **VA Accountability Fact Sheet**;
- **Veterans Day VACAA Progress Fact Sheet**;
- **Improving Access to Benefits Fact Sheet**; and
The article includes a summary of some key findings in these fact sheets

**VA Secretary: ‘We’ve got to design this organization so it doesn’t depend on my cellphone’** [http://wapo.st/1q3rcyo](http://wapo.st/1q3rcyo)

We at the Washington Post Federal Eye asked for his personal cellphone number, and he gave it out. In front of a roomful of reporters. On live television. And we published it. Since then, he has received about 900 phone calls or text messages, and “we probably have solved about 25 to 30 percent of the issues,” he said. Some had trouble with their benefits, others with wait times.

“The responses I get from the veterans, where we’ve solved their issue, are quite fulfilling,” he said at a 90-minute meeting last week to a dozen Veterans Service Organizations. “But the point is, we’ve got to design this organization so it doesn’t depend on my cellphone.” When dialed, his cellphone is often busy. But he does still often answer his phone.

**In message to employees, Sec. McDonald outlines the way ahead to improve VA** [http://1.usa.gov/1ufFYBM](http://1.usa.gov/1ufFYBM)

In the last few months as your Secretary, I have met and heard from Veterans and family members about how we can better serve Veterans. I’ve also traveled to VA facilities across the country and have had the extraordinary opportunity to meet with you, the men and women who work on the front lines and behind the scenes to care for and serve Veterans every day. These opportunities have informed my thinking as we work to plan for the future of the Department.

Already, more than 2,000 VA employees at 20 facilities serving 1.4 million Veterans have shared their perspectives on how we can improve this Department, and have provided insightful and thoughtful feedback about how VA should be organized to better serve Veterans. It is clear that our shared mission is important to you and your colleagues. It’s also clear that you share my goal of making VA easier to navigate for Veterans. I am grateful for your contributions, and your support in this endeavor.

**Veterans Choice Program** [http://1.usa.gov/1122ulP](http://1.usa.gov/1122ulP)

On August 7, 2014, President Obama signed into law the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146) (“Choice Act”). Technical revisions to the Choice Act were made on September 26, 2014, when the President signed into law the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-175).

- **Download the full text of the law**
- **Download a summary of the law**

**Robert McDonald: Cleaning up the VA (Video and transcript)** [http://cbsn.ws/1zVQstn](http://cbsn.ws/1zVQstn)

CBS News, 9 November 2014 “The following is a script of ‘Cleaning up the VA’ which aired on Nov. 9, 2014. Scott Pelley is the correspondent. Guy Campanile, producer. Tomorrow, the day before Veterans Day, the new head of Veterans Affairs will announce the biggest reorganization in the history of the VA, which comes after the agency’s biggest fiasco. It was last spring that we learned that tens of thousands of vets were waiting months for medical care while managers cooked the books to hide the delays. The former secretary was forced out. Tonight we have the first interview with the new man in charge. Sixty-one-year-old Robert McDonald has no government or medical experience but he does know management. He was chief executive officer of Procter & Gamble, the largest consumer products company in the world. And we wanted to know how a soap salesman will go about cleaning up the
VA Secretary: ‘I want the criticism from whistleblowers’ (MSNBC) [http://on.msnbc.com/1xCPKOk]

VA Secretary Robert McDonald joins Andrea Mitchell to discuss the changes within the Department of Veterans Affairs to address the problems veterans face when returning from war. IAVA founder Paul Rieckhoff also joins.

Post-9/11 Veterans React to VA's Reorganization Plan (IAVA) [http://bit.ly/1q3Kjbz]

"IAVA applauds Secretary McDonald and the VA for being aggressive in presenting a plan to reorganize the entire department," said IAVA CEO and Founder Paul Rieckhoff. "Major, transformative change that delivers for veterans is long overdue. IAVA members have appreciated frequent opportunities to meet with Secretary McDonald to add our perspective at meetings in Washington, Atlanta and Palo Alto. As the second largest bureaucracy in the federal government and after a summer of scandal, the VA has a mammoth challenge ahead of itself and Secretary McDonald has the toughest job in Washington. He inherited an organization with a badly damaged reputation that only positive results can repair. And he will need tremendous support from Congress, the President, the public, and the veteran community to achieve those results.

Letter: Veterans Affairs is doing a lot of things right [http://trib.in/1xCPj6O]

Joe got his motorized wheelchair through one of the many programs offered at Edward Hines Veterans Affairs Hospital near Maywood. He has been an outpatient at Hines since 1948 and has only the best things to say about this very fine institution. If some veterans feel they have been neglected, this is a sad situation that should be rectified immediately. But the United States Department of Veterans Affairs is doing a lot of things right. — Kathleen Melia, Niles

November is National Family Caregivers Month [http://1.usa.gov/1zVNHbC]

VA thanks, celebrates, and honors each and every family Caregiver of a Veteran! One way VA celebrates family Caregivers of Veterans is by providing a website, dedicated to family Caregivers. The web site has tips and tools for family Caregivers, stories and videos of family Caregivers of Veterans, and a zip code look-up feature to find the closest Caregiver Support Coordinator. If you haven't visited recently, please check out

OPINION - Helping a reform-minded secretary fix the VA [http://1.usa.gov/1zVQEZJ]

But while he and his new team have visited more than 40 VA sites, McDonald still may not grasp the full malevolent extent to which cultural VA mindset has fostered what veterans feel is a VA policy of delay and deny toward claims filed by veterans (or, VA “customers,” as the ex-P&G head now wants his department to call veterans.)

VA fires director of Pittsburgh hospital network [http://wapo.st/1q3tTjq]

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced Thursday that it fired the head of the agency’s Pittsburgh health-care system after officials determined that she was involved in unspecified “conduct unbecoming a senior executive” and wasteful spending.

The VA had previously placed Terry Gerigk Wolf on paid leave in June, after an inspector general’s review found inadequate protections in place before a Legionnaire’s disease outbreak in 2011 and 2012 at the hospital network she ran. At least six Pittsburgh patients with the illness died, and 16 more were infected with the bacteria that causes the sickness.
Detroit VA Staff Volunteer in 2014 Stand Down http://1.usa.gov/11og9Vo
It was another incredible effort, as more than 150 Detroit VA Healthcare System staff volunteered their time for the 2014 Southeast Michigan Veterans Stand Down, held on October 8th and 9th, 2014. The annual event is designed to give “A ‘hand up’ not a ‘hand out’” to the area’s homeless and in-need Veterans. The event was held at the Detroit Rescue Mission. Veterans were given a meal, personal care products, health care screenings by VA staff, eye and dental care, general benefits information, along with employment information and legal services. Clothing and other items were also distributed to Vets.

Charlotte VA healthcare center offers vets more options http://bit.ly/1q3tsW9
CHARLOTTE, N.C. -- Thursday was a big day celebrating the new VA healthcare center in Charlotte. They held the “topping off” ceremony, placing the final beam for the new facility. VA officials say this new center will save veterans from traveling to Salisbury for service.

Washington, DC VA Medical Center Opens New Inpatient Wing http://1.usa.gov/1sV32S7
The wing, 4C, which once housed administrative offices, has been transformed into 29 new state-of-the-art private rooms with desk space, Wi-Fi, the Get Well Network and convertible chair beds so family members can take a more active role in the recuperation process. The first Veterans were admitted to the new wing on Veterans Day.

VA Town Hall Meetings:
- **Truman VA**, 5:30pm, **Nov. 18th**, Columbia, MO http://1.usa.gov/1tOh7Dw
- **Dakotas VA Regional Office and Fargo VA Health Care System**, 5 p.m., on **November 20, 2014**, Bismarck, ND
- **Asheville VA Medical Center**, 5 p.m., **Dec. 10**, at the Charles George VA Medical Center, 1100 Tunnel Rd., Asheville, NC
- **Erie VMAC**, Erie, PA  http://1.usa.gov/1EOlP9k
  - o Tuesday, **November 18**, 5:30pm-6:30pm
  - o Wednesday, **November 19**, 1pm-2pm
  - o Thursday, **December 4**, 5:30pm-7pm
- **Carl Vinson VA Medical Center** Dublin, Georgia, **December 19** from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. http://1.usa.gov/1EOmHuB
- **Louisville VA Medical Center**, Thursday, **December 11, 2014**, Louisville, KY 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

VA OIG Reports:
- Community Based Outpatient Clinic and Primary Care Clinic Reviews at Miami VA Healthcare System, Miami, Florida http://1.usa.gov/1yqB9op
- Combined Assessment Program Review of the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center, Wichita, Kansas http://1.usa.gov/1q3JkIg
- Inspection of VA Regional Office Providence, Rhode Island http://1.usa.gov/1q3JkIg
- Inspection of VA Regional Office Buffalo, New York http://1.usa.gov/1q3JkIg
- Community Based Outpatient Clinic and Primary Care Clinic Reviews at VA Northern California Health Care System, Mather, California http://1.usa.gov/1sV49RU
- Combined Assessment Program Review of the Miami VA Healthcare System, Miami, Florida http://1.usa.gov/1sV6iwV

During the week that the nation paused to honor its military veterans, Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas judges voted to create a Veterans Court.

The Veterans Court will begin hearing cases in January of 2015 with the mission to successfully rehabilitate veterans by diverting them from the traditional criminal justice system and providing them with the tools they need to lead a productive, law-abiding lifestyle.

Cuyahoga County has the largest veteran population in the state with 9.7 percent. Veterans often are confronted with serious readjustment issues when they return home. The most serious of those issues include unemployment, post-traumatic stress syndrome, traumatic brain injuries, homelessness, drugs, and crime.

New Cuyahoga County court will serve veterans charged with crimes - Plain Dealer

Cleveland VA: We offer Primary & Mental Health services within 30 mins or 30 miles of all Veterans in Northeast Ohio! [http://t.co/tYg00orN1w](http://t.co/tYg00orN1w)

**OHIO EXPANDS SERVICES FOR UNEMPLOYED VETERANS** [http://bit.ly/1sIOUve](http://bit.ly/1sIOUve)

Ohio Gov. John R. Kasich and Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor have proclaimed November "Hire a Veteran Month," and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services encourages employers to consider the skills and abilities of military veterans when seeking new employees.

"According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there are approximately 35,000 unemployed veterans in Ohio," said ODJFS Director Cynthia C. Dungey. "ODJFS is committed to matching unemployed veterans with employers looking to hire. Last year, nearly 80 percent of veterans who received intensive employment services from ODJFS found work."

Together with the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation and the Ohio Department of Veterans Services, ODJFS recently launched the Veterans Business Support Center, which offers employers online, over-the-phone or face-to-face help finding skilled veteran candidates for jobs. Staffed by veterans, the center can help employers post openings, screen resumes and research the demographics of veterans in their area. Since launching in July, the Veterans Business Support Center has assisted 1,086 employers and placed 58 veterans into jobs.

**ODJFS also can help employers submit applications for a Work Opportunity Tax Credit, a federal tax credit of $2,400 to $9,600 for each eligible veteran hired.**

Ohio as a Leader for Veterans’ Services by Army NG Special Ops Veteran/State Senator Frank LaRose [http://bit.ly/1zVLHzX](http://bit.ly/1zVLHzX)

Earlier this summer, the Ohio General Assembly passed House Bill 488, which I co-sponsored. To ensure that veterans reach their career goals, House Bill 488 improves educational opportunities and streamlines licensure procedures. By December 31, 2014, the Ohio Board of Regents, which oversees higher education for the state, must develop a list of standards and procedures for awarding college credit to veterans with relevant experience. A new website will centralize this information so that a statewide database is available for all veterans and service members.
Additionally, this bill enhances the criminal penalties for felons who commit identity fraud against active duty service members and their spouses. Identity fraud is a growing problem and shows no sign of slowing down. In Ohio, military identity fraud complaints jumped by almost 20 percent from 2012 to 2013. During periods of deployment, service members may not be aware that their personal information has been compromised. This provision allows Ohio to have one of the strongest laws in the country for punishing those who commit fraud against our military and confirms that Ohio will not tolerate the exploitation of our brave men and women.


American patriots have put on the uniform of this country and placed themselves in harm’s way on behalf of all of us. Yet sometimes, upon return to civilian life, or even before, they find themselves entangled with our civil system of justice and insufficient income to hire an attorney.

Operation Legal Help Ohio seeks to connect these low-income military personnel and veterans to volunteer lawyers - at no cost - as a way of saying “Thank you, job well done.”

OLHO serves all qualifying Ohio servicemembers, veterans and immediate family. However, such service relies on volunteer lawyers and is contingent upon their availability. There may not be an available volunteer lawyer in all areas of the State of Ohio at all times.


CINCINNATI —Hamilton County veterans who found themselves on the other side of the law have graduated from a new program meant to get them back on their feet. About a dozen veterans graduated Thursday at the Hamilton County Courthouse.

There is also a new dedicated pod at the Hamilton County Jail only for veterans. “It allows us to target programming. It allows us to target certain details that allow those vets to work inside the jail to feel worthy and to get some worth out of their incarceration,” Maj. Charmaine McGuffey said. The program has been so successful this year that more veterans are joining the veterans-only pods at the jail. Sheriff Jim Neal said 5 to 10 percent of his inmates are veterans.


COLUMBUS – Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director Tim Gorrell appointed Michael R. “Mick” Oppy of Chillicothe as the new Superintendent of the Ohio Veterans Homes. Mr. Oppy will assume his duties on Nov. 17. “I’m extremely happy to be named the Superintendent, and I’m anxious to get started,” Mr. Oppy said. “The Ohio Veterans Homes and our dedicated employees have long served the veterans of our state with the highest quality of care in an environment where our veterans feel valued, and I look forward to continuing that tradition.”

Directly Gorrell also praised Mr. Stratmann for his role at the Ohio Veterans Homes. “I also want to say a huge thank you to Fred Stratmann for his work as Interim Superintendent,” Director Gorrell continued. “He did a fantastic job, and we greatly appreciate his service.”

Ohio Military Sacrifice License Plates (HB 25 Amended)

House Bill 45 Amended [Military Sacrifice license plates] is scheduled for Committee vote November 25, 2014.
If you support this bill, you need to let Senate President Keith Faber know how important it is for the Ohio Senate to approve HB45 Amended! Senator Keith Faber can expedite a full Senate Vote, Please Write and/or Call Senator Faber TODAY! Thanks!

Senator Keith Faber  
1 Capitol Square, 2nd Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
614-466-7584  
Richard D. Stobbs, MSA, RA  
Chairman, Gold Star Family Committee

Editor's Note: Military Sacrifice License Plates will honor Ohioans who die in a non-combat situation, while on active military duty.

Four years ago, New Albany resident Jim Miller was standing with 17 of his friends at his father's grave in Arlington National Cemetery when he decided he wanted to help veterans. After returning to Ohio, Miller established the Maj. Lawrence Miller Military Fund through the Ohio State University Foundation and has been supporting veterans ever since.

**REMINDER** The Greene County Veterans Summit, Monday Nov. 17 3:30 - 6:30 pm, 571 Ledbetter Road Xenia, Ohio 45385 [http://on.fb.me/14jAvAi](http://on.fb.me/14jAvAi)  
There will be representatives from the following agencies to provide information on veteran benefits; Greene County Veterans Service Office, Ohio Department of Veterans Services, Ohio Job and Family Services, Ohio State Treasurer, the Dayton VA Medical Center, Wright State University, University of Dayton, Sinclair College, Clark State, Cedarville University, Wright Patterson AFB, Central State University and more! Call (614) 562-6020 for details!

Brainline.org: Why LeBron James Doesn’t Let His Kids Play Football  
“"Only basketball, baseball, and soccer are allowed in my house,“” James said to reporters (what, no love for lacrosse, LeBron?) before clarifying that it was, indeed, a decision motivated by the health risks associated with football — he didn’t say it explicitly, but our assumption is the propensity for concussions and other brain injuries that are unique to that game, since there are no athletic activities that are entirely free from an injury risk.

Ohio Iraq War Veterans – Don’t Miss Out on Ohio Veterans Bonus  
[http://1.usa.gov/1EOsTCK](http://1.usa.gov/1EOsTCK)  
All Iraq War veterans, sure that they have applied for the Ohio Veterans Bonus – the deadline for those who served in Iraq is Dec. 31, 2014.

To be eligible for this component of the Ohio Veterans Bonus, eligible veterans and Ohioans serving on active duty must have been boots-on-the-ground in the country of Iraq from March 19, 2003 through Dec. 31, 2011.

**VETERANS TREATMENT COURTS**

CBS NEWS: For Veterans in legal trouble, special courts can help [http://cbsn.ws/1EOrUCz](http://cbsn.ws/1EOrUCz)
"[The courts] help veterans who would have otherwise been incarcerated have a much better outcome, sure," said Hagen. "But the military should have a transitional kind of treatment for people coming out of the military, when they're coming from areas that make people prone to PTSD, like he was."

Crosby agreed that such a program would reduce the number of veterans finding themselves in the kind of trouble that leads to veteran court.

"Vets are not going to stop coming to the VA in pain," said Crosby, "Between Iraq and Afghanistan, all the IEDs, explosions, the tolls it takes on soldiers bodies and minds...I think they need to find a better way to handle severe pain."

"Still, the court is definitely beneficial," he added. "You're held accountable for how you live."

**Michigan Program that gives veterans free legal support to be expanded**
Wayne State University Law School announced Tuesday Nov. 11 that Advocates for Warriors plans to expand its free legal service piloted in Macomb County to military service members, veterans and their families in Oakland, Wayne and other counties.

**Michigan court programs help veterans cope with problems** [http://on.freep.com/1uAt8Ow](http://on.freep.com/1uAt8Ow)
To help, Michigan currently has 20 veterans treatment courts — more than any other state, according to the Michigan Supreme Court — that promote sobriety, recovery and stability by offering alternative consequences and specialized treatment to former and current military service members who come into contact with the judicial system.

LILLINGTON, N.C. Gov. Pat McCrory plans to expand the state's veterans' treatment court. The court started in Harnett County last year using a grant of more than $65,000 from the Governor's Crime Commission. A similar program starts Thursday in Cumberland County.
- [Graduates of N.C.'s first Veterans Treatment Court celebrate a second chance](http://on.freep.com/1uAt8Ow)
- [Cumberland County opens veterans treatment court](http://on.freep.com/1uAt8Ow)
- [GOVERNOR PAT MCCRORY ATTENDS FIRST VETERANS TREATMENT COURT GRADUATION IN HARNETT COUNTY](http://on.freep.com/1uAt8Ow)
- [Six Graduate from State's First Veterans Treatment Court](http://on.freep.com/1uAt8Ow)

**N.J. bill to address veterans with mental illness accused of nonviolent crimes**
TRENTON — Assemblymen Bob Andrzejczak (D–1) is pushing legislation that would give veterans accused of nonviolent crimes the opportunity to get treatment instead of being sent to jail. The bill, also sponsored by Assemblyman Vincent Mazzeo (D–2), would set up a "Veterans Court Pilot Program" for veterans in Cumberland, Cape May and Atlantic counties.
- [Andrzejczak & Mazzeo Introduce Bill to Establish Veterans Court for Former Service Members with Mental Illnesses](http://bit.ly/1EFrVXE)

**MO: Judge Asel delivers State of the Court address**
Jodie Asel, Boone County Circuit Court presiding judge, described several ways the state’s 13th Judicial Circuit is excelling during her State of the Court address Wednesday, but she also noted areas for improvement. Asel also said the circuit is still seeking money for a drug court commissioner, the addition of which would allow the court to expand its specialty courts and also free up time for judges who work in those areas.
With a commissioner for the drug and specialty courts, the county’s Veterans Court would be expanded to multiple jurisdictions. Bukowsky said expanding specialty courts would allow more people the opportunity to stay out of jail and provide alternatives ways of handling child support cases.

**PA Stumbo unveils diversion program for veterans** [http://bit.ly/1xCOCuf](http://bit.ly/1xCOCuf)

The Lakelands top prosecutor used Veterans Day to unveil a new diversion program aimed at helping veterans obtain the help they need to battle issues such as substance abuse, mental health and other issues unique to veterans.

Eighth Circuit Solicitor David Stumbo said the new program, which is modeled after successful programs in the fifth circuit (Richland and Kershaw counties) and the 13th circuit (Greenville County), will provide an alternative to standard prosecution in cases where the defendant is a veteran who is eligible for Veterans Administration benefits.

Circuit Court Judges Frank Addy, Eugene Griffith and Donald Hocker will preside over the diversion program, which will have monthly sessions.


A hard elbow can be the difference between a veteran spending his or her best years between a jail cell and a street corner, or working toward a full reintegration into their native civilian society. For 25 veterans gathered in a courtroom in the Criminal Justice Center Wednesday, it was that elbow that pushed them toward a second chance.

The 25 graduated Philadelphia’s Veterans Court after successfully completing the required nine-month treatment program, which helps vets who lost themselves in a dizzy spell of addiction and broke the law, get back on track. With the help of the court, a city-run rehab program, they found their way back and were honored for their reclamation.

The city prosecutor, Assistant District Attorney Rich Bower, first congratulated the veterans for facing their problems head on. "Second of all," he added, "I want to apologize to all of you, sometimes our role is a little different. ... sometimes we have to be the guys or the gals to throw you an elbow or two to get you back on track, so hopefully it's water under the bridge."

Each veteran received a diploma, a coin, and no more than 30 seconds on the microphone to address their peers.
NV: Henderson Municipal Court Helps Veterans Back into Civilian Life
http://bit.ly/1xCOlaC

On November 13, six military veterans will complete their alternative sentencing program through Henderson Municipal Court’s Veterans Court as an honorable way to help them transition back into civilian life. The graduation will take place at 2 p.m. at Henderson Municipal Court, Department 1, 243 Water St.

“When I was a police officer I saw war heroes who had been awarded the Silver Star and were homeless. They were in the cycle of going to jail, getting out and then going right back to jail,” said Chief Judge Mark Stevens, who in 2011 spearheaded the effort to create the Veterans Court in Henderson.

FL: Court helps veterans put lives back on track http://bit.ly/1sUx2gT

The U.S. Supreme Court recently stated that “our Nation has a long tradition of according leniency to veterans in recognition of their service, especially for those who fought on the front lines.”

In this spirit, the Volusia County court system started a Veterans Court last November. This is not intended to be a free ride, but to offer a hand to those who served our country and who, perhaps through bad judgment, anger or substance abuse issues, now face criminal charges.

Started by my friend and colleague — and Vietnam War veteran — Judge David Beck, the Veterans Court has grown from having two veterans that first month, to our current caseload of 38 veterans. In the last year, almost 80 veterans have taken advantage of the benefits of Veterans Court, and 13 have graduated.

IN: The Veterans Court movement proudly marches on http://cjky.it/1sUxzPW

On Nov. 10, a crowd of more than 200 veterans, first responders, volunteers, community leaders and supporters from 20 organizations gathered at the Indiana National Guard Armory to celebrate the gains of Veterans Court for Southern Indiana. Many thanks to everyone who supports Veterans Court.

... Indiana is the fourth-largest military reserve component in the nation. Since 2001, our neighbors, co-workers and fellow citizens who are veterans have borne a heavy burden of multiple deployments far away from their families, jobs and communities fighting for us. These 400-day deployments include 90 days of training, 270 days in imminent danger and only about 40 days to get checked out before they are back in our community. It is a short time to realize and an even shorter time to admit that an untreated military illness like post-traumatic stress, depression or a substance abuse disorder is taking its toll.

MT: Missoula Veterans Court seeking mentors http://bit.ly/1sUxTy0

MISSOULA - The Missoula Veterans Court Mentor Program is looking for some new recruits to mentor veterans who have had problems with the law since returning from service. Since its introduction in 2011, the Missoula Veterans Court mentoring program has graduated 14 veterans.

The program has nine mentors, one of whom is Charles Abramson, a retired U.S. Air Force officer has been taking part in the program since it started. Abramson says he got involved because he knows the challenges veterans can face when they return home from war,
NY: Editorial: Maintain momentum on veterans services [hyperlink]

Locally, the mayors of Schenectady, Amsterdam, Albany, Troy and Saratoga Springs are working together in cooperation with federal agencies and local community veterans services organizations to find permanent residences for homeless veterans.

Another issue that needs to be addressed are the special needs of veterans in the justice system, which deals with post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, substance abuse and other mental health conditions suffered by veterans.

HI: Veterans Treatment Court expands to Big Isle [hyperlink]

A Veterans Treatment Court has launched on the Big Island to help veterans caught in the criminal justice system transition back into society. The court, which began on Oahu in 2013, provides veterans with specialized treatment, mentoring, and supervision for any health needs or issues they may face. Funded by a three-year grant from the Department of Justice, the Big Island court will be led by Third Circuit Chief Judge Ronald Ibarra and provide treatment to 12 clients a year.

The ProBoneO Program [hyperlink]

The ProBoneO Program is a nationwide advocacy network committed to the advancement of service dogs and their owners. The ProBoneO Program is comprised of individuals, trainers, legal volunteers (our ‘Legal Beagles’) and others who rely on, work with or simply wish to support Service Dog Teams. The ProBoneO Program offers both legal advice and support when necessary but also provides conflict mediation, planning and education.

PTS/TBI/MST

BU: Multifaceted Approach Needed to Help Brain-Injured Vets [hyperlink]

SPH study: severity of injury affects chances for employment

Since 2000, more than 300,000 members of the US military have sustained a traumatic brain injury (TBI)—largely from improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in Iraq and Afghanistan. Most of them have since come home—to families, communities, and the job market. But approximately 45 percent of them are now unemployed.

That figure comes from a new study led by BU School of Public Health researcher Terri K. Pogoda, a research assistant professor of health policy and management. The study shows that the veterans’ conditions are making it difficult for them to find and retain jobs, suggesting that they need multifaceted help to readjust to civilian life.

The study, published last month in the Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation, finds that almost half of veterans evaluated for TBI at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and diagnosed with a moderate to severe form, were unemployed, compared to about a third of those with mild TBI or no TBI history. Also, more than 80 percent had at least one suspected psychiatric condition, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, or depression, and 42 percent had two or more such conditions.

UAB Seeking Iraq and Afghanistan Combat Vets for The Brave Program [hyperlink]

University of Alabama is actively seeking Iraq and Afghanistan Combat Veterans for the Brave Project. The BRAVE Initiative is a Department of Defense sponsored project aimed at improving the motor deficit of veterans who have sustained a traumatic brain injury (TBI).
you or someone you know has had a TBI please contact our laboratory to learn how you
might become eligible to receive therapy at no cost. **All travel and living expenses will be
paid for the participant and one caregiver.** Go to the link or see the brochures at the
end of this newsletter for more information.

The VA's Pilots Database [http://1.usa.gov/1u0UTjb](http://1.usa.gov/1u0UTjb)
An Electronic Index to Traumatic Stress Literature. The Published International Literature on
Traumatic Stress (PILOTS) Database is an electronic index to the worldwide literature on
PTSD and other mental health consequences of exposure to traumatic events. Unlike other
databases, the PILOTS Database does not restrict its coverage to articles appearing in
selected journals. It attempts to include all publications relevant to PTSD and other forms
of traumatic stress, whatever their origin without disciplinary, linguistic, or geographic
limitations.

**Deployment Health News 13 November 2014**

**Medical tests for PTSD and TBI not far off**

Military Times, 5 November 2014: “Researchers are inching closer to creating medical tests
to detect post-traumatic stress or mild traumatic brain injury — conditions that now are
diagnosed only with self-reported symptoms and subjective exams. Scientists from five
institutions are one year into a five-year, $42.9 million study to find biomarkers that can
indicate evidence of these injuries common to combat veterans.”

**When Service Members Need Mental Health Help**

U.S. News and World Report, 11 November 2014: “Breathing is the first and last thing we do
in life, but most of us take the breath for granted – unless we are scared, angry or winded.
Some veterans throughout the country are using their breath to overcome wartime trauma.
For many, the breath gives back what years of medication alone have not been able to
resolve. They are practicing an exercise called Sudarshan Kriya Yoga, also known as SKY,
which releases trauma from the body and mind through a series of breathing exercises that
also puts people into states of meditation.”

**The Power Of Breath in Post-War Healing**

Stars and Stripes, 28 October 2014: “Sitting and sobbing outside the hotel room where her
Marine husband had just hanged himself, Kim Ruocco said she was horrified to find that
nearly everyone who responded to the scene somehow managed to make her feel worse.
First she asked the hotel manager where her husband was staying, and he wordlessly backed
into another room, shutting the door to avoid her. A trauma specialist told her to lie to her
children about what had happened.”

**Soldiers were sleepless after Iraq, Afghanistan**

Houston Chronicle, 4 November 2014: “A new medical study has determined that the Army
had the highest rate of chronic insomnia among the armed services over a long decade of
war. The study showed a sharp increase among men and women as the U.S. fought in Iraq
and Afghanistan from 2005 to 2013 and found those veterans were more likely to have high
blood pressure and Type 2 diabetes. “Insomnia is a common complaint in active-duty service
members,” the authors of the study wrote in a report issued by the Armed Forces Health
Surveillance Center. “Of those returning from deployment in Iraq and Afghanistan, 41
percent reported problems sleeping.”

**War-veteran-turned-counselor helps others out of a familiar darkness**

Los Angeles Times, 4 November 2014: “Like thousands of other American soldiers, Douglas
Pearce fell apart after he came home from Afghanistan. He was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury and depression. He considered suicide. 'Living seemed a much more difficult thing than just dying,' he recalled. 'If this is all life has to offer, maybe I should opt out, just end it all.' Pearce endured months of difficult therapy, and through the process, set himself on a course to become a therapist himself. Now he's Douglas M. Pearce, marriage and family therapist in training.”

I-PASS Reduces Medical Error Injuries During Patient Handoff by 30%
NewsWise.com, 5 November 2014: “Improvements in verbal and written communication between health care providers during patient hand-offs can reduce injuries due to medical errors. Reported in the Nov. 6, 2014, New England Journal of Medicine, researchers at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) and the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences (USU) recognized this critical safety concern and teamed up with nine civilian hospitals to develop I-PASS, an original system of bundled communication and team-training tools for hand-off of patient care between providers. The study revealed a remarkable 30% reduction in injuries due to medical errors after its implementation across all 9 institutions.”

Women's Health Issues launches special collection on Women Veterans' Health
NewsWise.com, 6 November 2014: “In honor of Veterans Day, the peer-reviewed journal Women's Health Issues (WHI) today released a new Special Collection on women veterans’ health, with a focus on mental health. The special collection also highlights recent studies addressing healthcare services, reproductive health and cardiovascular health of women veterans. 'In recent years, we have seen the Veterans Administration working to improve care and health outcomes of women veterans and service members,' said Chloe Bird, editor-in-chief of Women’s Health Issues. 'The studies published in Women’s Health Issues can help inform efforts to provide the highest quality of care to the growing population of women veterans.’”

PTSD in Women Linked to Premature Birth
U.S. News and World Report, 6 November 2014: “Having post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) significantly increases a pregnant woman's risk of premature birth, according to a new study. Researchers examined more than 16,000 births involving female U.S. military veterans between 2000 and 2012, and found that having PTSD in the year before delivery increased the risk of spontaneous premature birth by 35 percent.”

Eight organizations to receive IHF grants to improve care for military veterans
VA.gov, 3 November 2014: “Infinite Hero Foundation (IHF) today announced that eight organizations will receive charitable grants to fund therapies that address the most critical mental and physical challenges facing returning military veterans and their families. Since its inception in 2011, IHF has issued grants totaling nearly $2 million to organizations whose goal is to empower veterans in recovery through innovative, accessible and effective treatments.”

Modest Vietnam veteran shares experience with ‘moral injury’
The Modesto Bee, 5 November 2014: “Phil Schmitt spent two tours of duty in Vietnam loading 750-pound bombs into Air Force planes in bases at hellholes such as Da Nang and Phu Cat. Most of the planes came back to be reloaded. The bombs, of course, didn’t. ‘I loaded thousands and thousands of tons of bombs,’ the 67-year-old Modesto resident said. ‘They went somewhere.’ But it wasn’t until the brass reassigned him to debrief the pilots after their bombing runs that he saw the real effects.”
Manage post-traumatic stress disorder in college
U.S. News and World Report, 11 November 2014: “Mike Rials needed to sit in the back, on a row near the exit, in a college class with more than 50 people. Heart pounding, palms sweaty and overcome with anxiety, he would leave 10 minutes in if he couldn’t get a back seat. ‘I couldn’t focus on the teacher or anything that was going on. I had to escape, I felt the need to escape. It was almost like I was back in my Humvee when I got hit,’ he says. Rials went into the Marine Corps in 2003, after high school. He deployed twice to Iraq and once to Afghanistan during his four-year tenure. Rials was injured and lost a friend during his third deployment, when his vehicle hit an explosive.”

Man’s Best Friend Helps Veterans Struggling With PTSD in New A&E Series ‘Dogs of War’
Townhall.com, 11 November 2014: “When SSG. Jim Stanek was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder in early 2009, the treatment options he was given included medication and group therapy. The former made him feel like a zombie, and as for the latter, rehashing war stories with others just wasn’t helping him move on in life. That’s when Stanek and his wife, Lindsey, then a veterinary assistant, considered a service dog. But there were two small problems: They had neither the tens of thousands of dollars required to purchase one nor the patience for the long waiting lists.”

UCF program uses exposure therapy to help veterans with PTSD
Orlando Sun Sentinel, 10 November 2014: “When Stephen Cotta was deployed to Iraq in 2009, he was a loud, charismatic young man, looking to do something greater than himself. When he came back a year later, he was reclusive, angry and aggressive. ‘I thought someone was out there to get me, because over there, you can't identify who's good and who's bad, and that sticks with you,’ the 25-year-old said. ‘My life was out of control.’ Cotta was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. He sought treatment at the VA but didn’t stick with any of the programs. And he continued to spiral down.”

Long battles remain for veterans suffering from PTSD
NY Daily News, 11 November 2014: “The artillery fire has stopped and the battlefields long deserted. But for today's veterans, the lasting trauma of war doesn't stop after the last shot rings out. As many as one-fifth of returning Iraqi veterans experience post-traumatic stress disorder, which begins after a person experiences something especially distressing and manifests via depression, a reliving of painful memories and hyper-alertness — always being on the lookout for something bad to happen.”

One in Six Iraq, Afghanistan Veterans Might Have PTSD
National Journal, 12 November 2014: “More than one in six soldiers who served in the country's most recent wars may have post-traumatic stress disorder. That's the finding of the National Health Study for a New Generation of U.S. Veterans, according to the Veterans Health Administration, which sent out an update Wednesday on the study.”

Community-Based Mental Health Providers Need More Preparation to Better Care for Veterans
RAND, 12 November 2014; “Most community-based mental health providers are not well prepared to take care of the special needs of military veterans and their families, according to a new study by the RAND Corporation that was commissioned by United Health Foundation in collaboration with the Military Officers Association of America. The exploratory report, based on a survey of mental health providers nationally, found few community-based
providers met criteria for military cultural competency or used evidence-based approaches to treat problems commonly seen among veterans.”

Medical tests for PTSD and TBI not far off http://bit.ly/1sV3qA7
Researchers are inching closer to creating medical tests to detect post-traumatic stress or mild traumatic brain injury — conditions that now are diagnosed only with self-reported symptoms and subjective exams.

Scientists from five institutions are one year into a five-year, $42.9 million study to find biomarkers that can indicate evidence of these injuries common to combat veterans.

Among the most promising findings, according to preliminary results presented Nov. 4 in a press conference at New York University Langone Medical Center, are brain imaging, blood and genetic variation tests, eye movements and even vocal changes evident in service members and civilians who have experienced a TBI or have been diagnosed with PTSD.

DCoE: Military Care Coordinators Learn to Identify Brain Injuries, PTSD http://bit.ly/1xCKhHn
For the 18 military care coordinators in the room, the serious topics under discussion—brain injuries and psychological health--eclipse the lazy beams of afternoon sun shining into the second-floor training room in Shirlington, Virginia.

The men and women, representing many military departments, were there to learn how to recognize the signs and symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and mild traumatic brain injury (TBI) in warfighters. Learning how to identify these signs gives care coordinators the ability to make referrals to the experts who will provide proper treatment.

PTSD is a clinically-diagnosed condition that can happen to people who have experienced one or more traumatic events. TBI is caused by a blow or jolt to the head that disrupts the normal function of the brain. Mild TBI, also known as concussion, is the most common form of TBI in the military.

PTSD and concussion can be hard to identify because they aren’t always accompanied by a visible physical injury. Once recognized, both are treatable, and service members do better the sooner they get care, according to the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE).

Studies have shown a link between early brain trauma and criminal activity later in life. That’s why some state legislators are proposing a bill that would create a program to work with children who show signs of brain injury or have committed crimes. One study has found that jail and prison inmates report having had a head or traumatic brain injury at three to 10 times the general population. This bill would require New Jersey to increase screening for brain injury among at-risk youth.

National Center for PTSD Newsletter: CTU (Clinician's Trauma Update) Online, October 2014 http://1.usa.gov/1EOoIHd
- Can hydrocortisone help patients benefit from PE?
- An up-to-date look at patient and provider attitudes toward PE
- The pros and cons of PTSD biomarkers
- Commentaries on VA’s dissemination of EBPs
- Effectiveness and safety of yoga for common conditions in Veterans
- CPT with male military sexual trauma survivors
- Randomized controlled trial of breathing-based meditation for PTSD in Veterans
- New findings on the prevalence of PTSD among OEF/OIF Veterans
- A simple strategy to help Veterans get back to work

Traumatic Brain Injury News & Information - BrainLine.org
- The Risk Of Brain Injuries Shifts As Children Grow Up
- Congressman Urges NCAA to Have Concussion Penalties
- NFL Funds Additional Research to Prevent Traumatic Brain Injuries
- New Study: Severe Concussion Symptoms Don’t Necessarily Mean a Longer Recovery
- Children's Brain Injuries: How Do They Usually Happen?
- Oregon Research Team Scores with 'The Concussion Playbook'
- Abby Wambach Monitors Her Head Hits Leading to World Cup
- OPINION: Fair Share? The NFL Concussion Settlement and How to Make It Better
- Cause Celeb: Snowboarder Kevin Pearce fights PBA
- Why LeBron James Doesn't Let His Kids Play Football
- New Content: Playing the Glad Game
- Behind A Soldier's Suicidal Thoughts, An Unknown Brain Injury
- DoD & NCAA Merge Concussion Prevention, Treatment Efforts
- This Man Uses Twitter To Augment His Damaged Memory
- Link Between Crime and Brain Injuries Prompts Push for Legislation

Transcript: NIMH Twitter Chat on Depression and Novel Medications http://bit.ly/1nfRKuv
In recognition of National Depression Screening Day, NIMH hosted a Twitter chat on depression and the development of novel medications with expert Dr. Carlos Zarate on October 9, 2014. NIMH Twitter Chats Listing http://1.usa.gov/1EFvFIx

New study: Severe concussion symptoms don’t necessarily mean a longer recovery http://bit.ly/1zVOBVu
A recent medical study has found the severity of a child’s concussion symptoms did not necessarily explain how long it would take for these symptoms to go away. This study, if confirmed with adult populations with brain injury, has profound implications for how doctors manage concussions and traumatic brain injury patients, and how lawyers and insurance companies evaluate these cases for settlement.

NEW Jason’s Box presents PTSD/TBI workshops for clergy, Nov 18th in East Moline, Il and Nov. 20th in DeWitt, Iowa http://bit.ly/1xCM9zY
The workshops will assist clergy and church leaders in understanding the needs of combat veterans and learning what they can do to assist veterans and their families as they return to their community. Learning objectives include defining post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury and moral injury, learning how a congregation can help meet needs, learning the appropriate clergy interventions for PTSD and gaining an understanding of the clergy role in PTSD management.

More veterans press VA to recognize medical marijuana as treatment option http://wapo.st/1uArTPh
Veterans are lobbying for more states to legalize cannabis for medical use — 23 states and the District allow this — but the primary target is the federal government and, in particular, the Department of Veterans Affairs.
The federal government classifies marijuana as a Schedule I drug, the same as heroin and LSD, deeming that it has no accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse. This means that VA, which runs the largest network of hospitals and health clinics in the country, cannot prescribe pot as a treatment, even for veterans who live in a state where medical marijuana is legal.

**Virginia Veteran doesn’t let traumatic brain injury stop him from reaching goals**
http://bit.ly/1qCuvqM
For more information about Brain Injury Services, click here. If you’d like to learn more about the Virginia Wounded Warrior program, click here.

**The new face of veteran homelessness (MST)**
Welcome to the new 2014 model, in which the fastest-growing segment of the homeless veteran population appears to be women, many of whom have children. Statistically, female veterans are between two and four times as likely as their civilian counterparts to become homeless, according to recent studies. And if they’re young and black, those chances seem only to rise.

Among these “new” homeless veterans, one risk factor stands out: a past history of sexual trauma — whether before, during or after military service, and sometimes all three. In a survey of the roughly 130,000 homeless veterans who used VA outpatient services in 2010, about 40 percent of the females, and 3 percent of the males, said they’d experienced military sexual trauma (MST). In another study that compared homeless female veterans with housed female veterans, over 50 percent of the homeless population reported experiencing MST — twice the rate of their housed counterparts. Suddenly, trauma appears to be linked to homelessness among female veterans, and MST on top of prior trauma may be an even bigger risk factor.

**A Female Veteran Fights the Forever War: Prescription Drugs, PTSD and Addiction**
John Lasker won a Project Censored award in 2012 for his Toward Freedom reporting on Military Sexual Trauma or MST. He met dozens of female and male soldiers who were victims of MST. The following is the story of a female veteran from Seattle who is desperately trying to leave Iraq behind and reclaim her past life.

**A female Navy veteran recalls the harassment and humiliation**
http://lat.ms/112am6H
She wasn’t dodging bullets or disabling IEDs. Former Petty Officer Laura Estrada enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1997 and spent most of her four-year deployment on an aircraft carrier that cruised the Atlantic seaboard on training maneuvers. Yet Estrada finished her tour of duty with PTSD — or what the armed services now call MST, military sexual trauma.

**Editorial: America's women veterans deserve better**
http://bit.ly/1EOiTcA
Today, nearly one in five women veterans has delayed or gone without necessary health care in the past year. One in 11 is unemployed. Former servicewomen experience homelessness at between two to four times the rate of their civilian counterparts.

It’s unacceptable that the women who honorably served our country—our mothers, spouses, sisters and daughters—are at risk. A new report released by my organization, Disabled American Veterans, finds that the federal, state, and community programs to support women transitioning out of military service have serious gaps that put some women veterans in
Military sexual trauma or MST is the term used by the Department of Veterans Affairs to refer to experiences of sexual assault or repeated, threatening acts of sexual harassment. This section contains information, resources and links regarding MST.

Resources:
- Department of Veterans Affairs [www.mentalhealth.va.gov](http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov)
- Department of Defense (DoD) Safe Helpline is a groundbreaking crisis support service for members of the DoD community affected by sexual assault. Safe Helpline provides live, one-on-one support and information to the worldwide DoD community. The service is confidential, anonymous, secure, and available worldwide, 24/7 by click, call or text — providing victims with the help they need anytime, anywhere. [www.safehelpline.org](http://www.safehelpline.org)
- Make the Connection: Connecting veterans with information, resources and solutions to issues affecting their health, well-being and everyday lives. [www.maketheconnection.org](http://www.maketheconnection.org)
- After Deployment: Wellness Resources for the Military Community [www.afterdeployment.org](http://www.afterdeployment.org)
- U.S. Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response [www.sapr.mil](http://www.sapr.mil)
- Advocating for men and women affected by Military Sexual Trauma. Information and resources for: potential clients (active duty and veterans); friends and family members; the media; advocates; health care providers (civilian and military); academics (students and professors); and potential donor. [www.vetwow.com](http://www.vetwow.com)

First woman to lead American Legion says military should ‘stop sweeping’ sexual assaults ‘under the rug’ [http://wapo.st/1sV59oR](http://wapo.st/1sV59oR)

Verna Jones wants to push for more “accountability and consequences,” especially when it comes to the sexual harassment and military sexual trauma experienced by many female veterans.

**SUICIDE**


SYRACUSE -- “The suicide rate among veterans and the military is going up,” says NY’s senior US Senator Chuck Schumer, and on Monday, at Syracuse City Hall’s recognition of the 239th birthday of the Marine Corps, he proposed changing military regulation to do something about it.'

The screening gap is in members of the military who are not deployed overseas, along with the National Guard and reserves, so Schumer wants the current defense bill to include screenings for all members of the military, for as long as needed, which would also allow for intervention and treatment. "Many health issues are developed over time, so if you stop the screening when he’s back from combat, that’s not enough," says Schumer.

“There is a misconception that it’s young vets who have deployed,” he said. “More than 70 percent of our veteran suicides are age 50 and older and have been out of the service for years.”

Bossarte also stressed that the VA’s numbers are based on veterans who use Veterans Health Administration services, which he estimates accounts for about 65 percent of those who have served in the military, and that only 34 states provide veteran suicide data to the VA. That means the real numbers could be vastly different.

New Prediction Model Could Reduce Military Suicides, Study Finds (Deployment Health News 13 November 2014)

The New York Times, 12 November 2014: "Military doctors could reduce suicides among soldiers with psychiatric conditions by using a new screening system that flags those at highest risk of taking their own lives, a new study suggests. The system — a computer program that rates more than 20 actuarial factors, including age at enlistment, history of violence, and prescription drug use — would be the most rigorous suicide prediction model available, if it performs as expected in real-world settings. Most suicide screenings are questionnaires with virtually no predictive power, and are dependent on truthful answers from people who often have reason to hide their intentions."

- [Report: Soldiers' Suicide Risk Predictable With Big Data](#)
- [Military Creates Analytic Tool To Predict Army Suicides - Daily Caller](#)
- [How A San Diego Researcher Aims To Predict Military Suicides - KPBS](#)
- [Predictive Analytics Help Identify Military Suicide Risk - Health IT Analytics](#)
- [Full Coverage](#)


**Objective:** The Department of Defense Suicide Event Report (DoDSER) is the system of record for health surveillance related to suicide ideations, attempts, and deaths. This assessment focused on decreasing the number of “don’t know” responses on suicide death submissions by identifying changes to policy, training, or oversight. We also examined the sharing of DoD medical information with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

**Observations:** We identified seven topics for DoDSER submissions improvement:
- DoDSERs are submitted prematurely,
- DoDSER data collection is stovepiped,
- technical questions presented challenges for non-technical DoDSER submitters,
- user/commander feedback on DoDSER data is limited,
- Military Crisis Line staff lacks access to relevant military healthcare information,
- DoDSER data is not shared with the VA, and
- Military Criminal Investigative Organizations participation in the DoDSER process is inconsistent.

**Recommendations:** We recommend the Department of Defense improve the processes for collecting DoDSER information and submitting DoDSER data:
- Submit final DoDSER data after the Armed Forces Medical Examiner has completed the death investigation.
- Establish a multidisciplinary team approach to data collection to ensure accuracy.
- Improve subject matter expert participation in DoDSER data collection process.
- Empower local commanders to use DoDSER data to produce reports specific to their units/locations.
• Authorize the VA’s Military Crisis Line staff to access relevant healthcare information.
• Provide appropriate DoDSER data to the VA to use in their public health surveillance.
• Update Service policies to specifically encourage participation of Military Criminal Investigative Organizations in the DoDSER submission process.

Management Comments: We received comments from the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, the Services, and the Military Criminal Investigative Organizations. Management concurred with all 16 recommendations.

The nation’s leading suicide prevention organization the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's statement about the release of the Department of Defense Suicide Event Data Quality Assessment Report (DODSER): "The DOD has a duty to follow the recommendations in the DODSER and give the military valuable intelligence in the war on suicide – data that will help them put a stop to this tragic and preventable loss of life.

The issue of accurate data collection is an issue that we also face in civilian life. AFSP has and continues to advocate for full funding of the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) a collection of in-depth information on the details of and circumstances surrounding a suicide for the civilian population including veterans. Information included in the NVDRS goes beyond the basic information collected through the CDC’s National Vital Statistics Reports/Fatal Injury Report. Fully implementing the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) is also essential to developing informing and evaluating suicide prevention programs."

NEW PA: Cal U offers suicide prevention program centered on military, Nov. 17, 2014, California, PA http://bit.ly/1sV0e7p
Learn to identify the warning signs, and what you can do to help, at a Military and Veteran Suicide Prevention program organized and presented by Cal U staff. Presenters are:
• Capt. Robert Prah, director of the Office of Veterans Affairs at Cal U. A member of the Army National Guard, he is a suicide intervention officer and a trainer for the Army-approved Ask, Care, Escort (ACE) suicide prevention and awareness training program.
• Capt. Carolyn Clements, assistant director and military coordinator for Cal U Global Online. She is a trainer for Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST), the Army-approved intervention training for Army leaders, chaplains and other care providers. Explore resources for military students
• Jason Brosk, a readjustment counseling therapist who works with veterans at the Department of Veterans Affairs center in McKeesport, Pa.

Suicides Not Caused By Suicide-Linked Drugs Say Pharma Consultants to the Military http://bit.ly/1EOgSx7
In March, a report in JAMA Psychiatry penned by authors with financial links to Eli Lilly, GlaxoSmithKline, Ortho-McNeil, Janssen, Pfizer, Sanofi-Aventis, Shire and Johnson & Johnson said the deaths are a mystery but they certainly aren’t from psychoactive drugs whose labels have boxed warnings about suicide! SSRI antidepressants are called “first line medications for PTSD pharmacotherapy in men and women with military-related PTSD” in the VA’s Iraq War Clinician Guide but did not merit a mention by the authors.
Suicidal Behavior and Acculturation among Hispanics in the United States

"Every life is touched by suicide": Stanford psychiatrist on the importance of prevention

New Boise nonprofit puts mental health first for musicians

National Action Alliance releases Suicide Prevention and the Clinical Workforce: Guidelines for Training

Students invited to submit papers for Morton M. Silverman award

Webinar Facilitating Connections within the Safety Planning Process

Attacking suicides at Fort Lee [Link]

Fort Lee has had 11 suicides since 2006, all of which were non-theater, active duty. Suicide prevention resources at Ft. Lee include the Employee Assistance Program, which provides counseling, assessments and referrals to agencies for Department of Defense civilians and their family members, the Fort Lee Military and Family Life Consultant Program, open to all military personnel and their families to receive non-medical short-term situational problem-solving counseling, and Military OneSource, which provides help and information on topics such as stress and grief over the phone, online and through video conferencing. A major resource at Fort Lee is the Behavioral Health Department at Kenner Army Clinic for counseling or immediate crisis intervention. The Behavioral Health Department saw more than 13,000 service members in fiscal year 2013-2014

GENERAL NEWS

By the numbers: Veterans in Congress (PBS) [Link]

The 114th Congress will be made up of 70 current members and 11 incoming members of the U.S. House of Representatives who have served or are serving in the U.S. military. Three of the incoming members are Democrats; the other seven are Republicans. A number of veterans who are currently serving in the House decided to retire this year, and a small number lost re-election.

On the Senate side, three incoming members (two of whom are currently serving in the House) are serving or have served in the military — Tom Cotton of Arkansas, Gary Peters of Michigan and Joni Ernst of Iowa. There are currently only 13 members of the Senate who served in the military. In all, 97 members of the next session of Congress will have served in the U.S. military.

7 Things Every American Should Know About Military Families [Link]

Hello, America. It means a lot to military families to have the entire month of November set aside for National Military Family Appreciation Month. Over the last 13 years, you have seen military families like mine send our loved ones off to war. You have seen us welcome home our darlings. You have seen us pack up and move with them (again). Or stand by them after an injury. Or even lay them to rest. But do you really know military families? A Pew Research report said that 71 percent of Americans admitted that the public doesn’t understand the problems faced by those in the military.

NEW Webinar: All in the Experience? A Closer Look at First-Year College Students with Military Backgrounds, 18 NOV 2014 [Link]

Significant discussion on campuses regarding support for veterans, but do the needs and
challenges of military and veteran students differ depending on their military status? This session will examine different aspects of the military and veteran population, including active duty, reserve, and discharged to see how on-campus experiences and outcomes differ across different components of this population. Presented by: Dr. Sherry Woosley Director of Analytics and Research for EBI MAP-Works

Rev. Jesse Jackson on Veterans http://bit.ly/1sV5Hv1
"My first memory as a child was seeing my father come home from World War II. So I grew up in the home of a veteran. Veterans have such moral authority that I often wish I had served in the military. They risk and gave all for their country and we can do no less for them. They should not have to exist unable to get care, unemployed, homeless, addicted, on Food Stamps and in debt to payday lenders. We're a better nation than that!

UPCOMING CONFERENCES, WEBINARS & OTHER EVENTS

Please send us notices about events in your area.

VeteransCONNECT Virtual Career Fair, November 17th at www.veteransconnect.net.
Check the site often to see NEW Job Postings added daily from major employers hiring in your area!! Who: VetJobs, in partnership with the Professional Diversity Network, is sponsoring another VeteransCONNECT Virtual recruiting event for veterans, transitioning military, National Guard & Reserve, and their family members. These events have been very successful for thousands of Veteran's seeking new employment across the country! More than 60 Employers seeking Veteran hires are on board.

Stark County Ohio Court of Common Pleas 11th HonorCourt Graduation, November 17, 2014
You are invited to the Stark County Court of Common Pleas 11th Honor Court Graduation,-November 17, 2014 at 3:00 p.m., Courtroom 203, 2nd Floor—Stark County Courthouse, 101 W. Tuscarawas Street, Canton, Ohio 44702. Contact Lisa M. Williams with any questions or for directions!

Greene County Ohio Veterans Summit, November 17, Xenia, OH http://exm.nr/1EsRI71
A Veterans Summit will be held Monday, Nov. 17 from 3-6 p.m. at the Greene County Media Room, located at 571 Ledbetter Road, Xenia, OH, 45385. Groups who offer valuable services to veterans and their families from medical care to education opportunities to financial assistance will be available to meet with veterans and their families. This is an open house event meant to connect veterans with meaningful benefits available to them that they might not know about. All veterans in the area are invited, as well as friends, families and neighbors who know veterans. So tell the veteran in your life to come whenever they can, stay as long as they like, and learn more about how people can help. If you have any questions about the event, please contact Rep. Rick Perales office at (614) 644-6020, or the Greene County Veterans Commission at (937) 562-6020.

SfN's 44th annual meeting is the premier venue for neuroscientists to present emerging science, learn from experts, forge collaborations with peers, explore new tools and technologies, and advance careers. Join more than 30,000 colleagues from more than 80
Neuroscience 2014 will be held at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC.

NEW PA: Cal U offers suicide prevention program centered on military, Nov. 17, 2014, California, PA [http://bit.ly/1sV0e7p](http://bit.ly/1sV0e7p)
Learn to identify the warning signs, and what you can do to help, at a Military and Veteran Suicide Prevention program organized and presented by Cal U staff. Presenters are:
- Capt. Robert Prah, director of the Office of Veterans Affairs at Cal U. A member of the Army National Guard, he is a suicide intervention officer and a trainer for the Army-approved Ask, Care, Escort (ACE) suicide prevention and awareness training program.
- Capt. Carolyn Clements, assistant director and military coordinator for Cal U Global Online. She is a trainer for Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST), the Army-approved intervention training for Army leaders, chaplains and other care providers. [Explore resources for military students](http://bit.ly/1sV0e7p)
- Jason Brosk, a readjustment counseling therapist who works with veterans at the Department of Veterans Affairs center in McKeesport, Pa.

NEW VA Town Hall Meetings:
- Truman VA, 5:30pm, Nov. 18th, Columbia, MO [http://1.usa.gov/1tOh7Dw](http://1.usa.gov/1tOh7Dw)
- Dakotas VA Regional Office and Fargo VA Health Care System, 5 p.m., on November 20, 2014, Bismarck, ND
- Asheville VA Medical Center, 5 p.m., Dec. 10, at the Charles George VA Medical Center, 1100 Tunnel Rd., Asheville, NC
- Erie VMAC, Erie, PA [http://1.usa.gov/1EOlP9k](http://1.usa.gov/1EOlP9k)
  - Tuesday, November 18, 5:30pm-6:30pm
  - Wednesday, November 19, 1pm-2pm
  - Thursday, December 4, 5:30pm-7pm
- Carl Vinson VA Medical Center, Dublin, Georgia, December 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. [http://1.usa.gov/1EOmHuB](http://1.usa.gov/1EOmHuB)
- Louisville VA Medical Center, Thursday, December 11, 2014, Louisville, KY 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

NEW Jason’s Box presents PTSD/TBI workshops for clergy, Nov 18th in East Moline, Il and Nov. 20th in DeWitt, Iowa [http://bit.ly/1xCM9zY](http://bit.ly/1xCM9zY)
The workshops will assist clergy and church leaders in understanding the needs of combat veterans and learning what they can do to assist veterans and their families as they return to their community. Learning objectives include defining post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury and moral injury, learning how a congregation can help meet needs, learning the appropriate clergy interventions for PTSD and gaining an understanding of the clergy role in PTSD management.

Significant discussion on campuses regarding support for veterans, but do the needs and challenges of military and veteran students differ depending on their military status? This session will examine different aspects of the military and veteran population, including active duty, reserve, and discharged to see how on-campus experiences and outcomes differ across different components of this population. Presented by: Dr. Sherry Woosley
MedTech and BioTech Veterans Program (MVP) and Cyberonics Announce Veteran and Transitioning Military Re-careering Workshop, Huston, TX, November 19, 2014.
http://bit.ly/1t1dlmV

On November 19, 2014, Houston, TX-based Cyberonics, Inc. (NASDAQ:CYBX; www.cyberonics.com) will partner with the MedTech and BioTech Veterans Program (www.mvpvets.org) to conduct a re-careering event for transitioning military and veterans in south Texas.

Military personnel in transition from service and honorably discharged veterans are invited to apply for the opportunity to participate in this free one-day seminar that will include active one-on-one mentoring, resume building and personal engagement with hiring managers seeking to employ program participants.

RAYTHEON MILITARY VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR, November 19, 2014 3:00PM to 4:00PM EST http://bit.ly/1184A4q

HOW THIS ONLINE EVENT WORKS: Chat with representatives online from any location

As a premier supplier of technologies to the U.S. military and our allies, Raytheon values the strategic and tactical talents that only veterans can offer. Working with us provides an opportunity to bring your battlefield skills to the private sector for a successful transition into the civilian workforce.

We are especially proud of our Operation Phoenix Program, which provides opportunities for transitioning military personnel who were severely wounded, injured and/or ill during combat operations in the global war on terror (on or after September 11, 2001). Specific criteria consistent with military, government and VA definitions must be met. Raytheon also gives consideration to Wounded Warrior spouses and caregivers who have needed to take on the role of primary wage-earner for the immediate family.

OHIO SPECIALIZED DOCKET PRACTITIONER NETWORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE, November 20, 2014, Location: OSU Fawcett Center http://1.usa.gov/1v8eGyC

The Specialized Dockets Practitioner Network 11th annual conference offers national speakers and several breakout sessions on a wide-range of topics relevant to specialized docket programs. This annual event attracts more than 450 attendees from throughout the state, providing participants access to open communication and promoting relationships among professionals across county lines.

VA Annual National Veterans Small Business Engagement, Dec. 9 to Dec. 11, Atlanta, GA http://1.usa.gov/1xaYqxE

From Dec. 9 to Dec. 11, the Department of Veterans Affairs will host its annual National Veterans Small Business Engagement (NVSBE) at the Georgia World Congress Center, located at 285 Andrew Young International Blvd., NW, Atlanta, Ga., 30313.

This three-day event attracts thousands of Veteran-owned small businesses to connect with federal agencies, commercial corporations, prime contractors and other partners to foster success. With greater opportunities for direct access and exposure to contracting and
program specialists, NVSBE welcomes Veterans to make the connections necessary to succeed in today's competitive contracting environment.

**Santa Clara Valley Brain Injury Conference, Santa Clara, California, Feb 5-7, 2015**


The 4th Santa Clara Valley Brain Injury Conference: Building on the Legacy of Coma to Community, will be held February 5-7, 2015 at the Marriott Santa Clara, 2700 Mission Boulevard, Santa Clara, CA 95054.

This conference is the updated continuation of the Coma to Community Conference hosted by Santa Clara Valley Medical Center from 1977 through 1995. We anticipate an audience of 500 rehabilitation professionals representing a variety of disciplines as well as individuals with brain injury, family members, and caregivers. Our previous conferences were endorsed by the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine and the Brain Injury Association of America, and the International Brain Injury Association.

The main conference includes two days of multi-disciplinary state of the art educational sessions focusing on issues related to acquired brain injury treatment and research in both a military and civilian population. The 2015 conference will feature multiple half-day pre-conference workshops as an optional add-on. The 2015 main conference will focus on:

- Medical Complexity and Acute and Chronic Treatment (successful strategies and new approaches)
- Innovative Interventions and Assistive Devices (new technology, stem cells and others)
- Living After Brain Injury (socialization, relationships, advocacy and caregiving)
- Special Populations (military and veteran issues, cultural competence, dual diagnosis, pediatrics, and aging)

"Veterans in Justice" -- Linked-In Professional Group (VIJ)

Please join us on LinkedIn for networking and discussions on the issues regarding veterans in the criminal justice system. This group's mission is to connect professionals and advocates who work with and for justice-involved veterans and to share ideas and practices for assisting those veterans -- from the conditions that lead to justice involvement, through initial police contact, arrest, criminal case processing, conviction, sentencing, incarceration, and release. Subgroups include Veterans Treatment Courts, Mental Health, Female Veterans, and Peer & Mentoring. Access our group at [http://linkd.in/1947vfS](http://linkd.in/1947vfS)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/veteransinjustice](http://www.facebook.com/veteransinjustice)

Join The National Discussion - 1,110 Professionals in VIJ

Active Topics

- Gulf War Vets and the VA...Adversaries after the Conflict
- SHARING Veteran Legal Institute VLI [http://www.vetslegal.com](http://www.vetslegal.com)
- New blog at [www.vetlawandbenefits.org](http://www.vetlawandbenefits.org) with powerful post from Puller Clinic student and veteran about our responsibility to vote on Tuesday . . .
- UT Summit Goers Laud Veterans Court
- Louisville Veterans Court
- The GAINS Center
### LINKED-IN GROUPS

Veteran Mentor Network  [http://linkd.in/1fOlgOt](http://linkd.in/1fOlgOt)  28,933 members  
Institute for Veteran Cultural Studies  [http://linkd.in/1cz3qq1](http://linkd.in/1cz3qq1)  
NAMI  [http://linkd.in/1cz3Gg7](http://linkd.in/1cz3Gg7)  
BI-IFEA (Brain injury-Ideas for Education & Advocacy)  [http://linkd.in/1cz4e5V](http://linkd.in/1cz4e5V)  
Military-Civilian: Hot Jobs and Careers for Veterans and Their Families  [http://linkd.in/1c59DkM](http://linkd.in/1c59DkM)  
VETERANS IN JUSTICE GROUP  [http://linkd.in/12APdMS](http://linkd.in/12APdMS)  

Four subgroups created:  
- Veterans Treatment Courts  [http://linkd.in/145DdHc](http://linkd.in/145DdHc)  
- Mental Health  [http://linkd.in/120FCjI](http://linkd.in/120FCjI)  
- Female Veterans  [http://linkd.in/145CTbn](http://linkd.in/145CTbn)  
- Peer Support & Mentoring  [http://linkd.in/145D32G](http://linkd.in/145D32G)  

Cuyahoga County Ohio Veterans and Supporters (Bryan A. McGown “Gunny”)  [http://linkd.in/Zxwx1f](http://linkd.in/Zxwx1f)  
Veteran Employment Representatives  [http://linkd.in/ZxwUcc](http://linkd.in/ZxwUcc)  
Midwest Military Outreach, Inc.  [http://linkd.in/1eiMTkJ](http://linkd.in/1eiMTkJ)  
Military Veteran Job Fairs & Hiring Conferences  [http://linkd.in/Zxx4jS](http://linkd.in/Zxx4jS)  
Wounded Warrior Resources  [http://linkd.in/17TMNhJ](http://linkd.in/17TMNhJ)  
The Value of a Veteran  [http://linkd.in/15vD7H4](http://linkd.in/15vD7H4)  

MILITARY MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS POST DEPLOYMENT FOR PROVIDERS, COMBAT VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES  [http://linkd.in/1fkQLA8](http://linkd.in/1fkQLA8)  

(Please email us other groups that you find and think would be informative and useful for our audience)

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**NEW** The VA’s Pilots Database  An Electronic Index to Traumatic Stress Literature  
**NEW** The Veterans Choice Program  
**NEW** NIMH Twitter Chats Listing  
**NEW** VA Caregiver Support Home  
**NEW** Resources for MST  
**NEW** Operation Legal Help Ohio

- Department of Veterans Affairs  [www.mentalhealth.va.gov](http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov)  
- Department of Defense (DoD) Safe Helpline is a groundbreaking crisis support service for members of the DoD community affected by sexual assault. Safe Helpline provides live, one-on-one support and information to the worldwide DoD community. The service is confidential, anonymous, secure, and available worldwide, 24/7 by click, call or text — providing victims with the help they need anytime, anywhere.  [www.safehelpline.org](http://www.safehelpline.org)  
- Make the Connection: Connecting veterans with information, resources and solutions to issues affecting their health, well-being and everyday lives.  [www.maketheconnection.org](http://www.maketheconnection.org)  
- After Deployment: Wellness Resources for the Military Community  [www.afterdeployment.org](http://www.afterdeployment.org)  
- U.S. Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response  [www.sapr.mil](http://www.sapr.mil)  
- Advocating for men and women affected by Military Sexual Trauma. Information and resources for: potential clients (active duty and veterans); friends and family members; the media; advocates; health care providers (civilian and military); academics (students and professors); and potential donor.  [www.vetwow.com](http://www.vetwow.com)  
- Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center Medical Providers Information Website  
- My HealtheVet is VA’s online personal health record  
- VA Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disaster, Disease and Distress: Resources to Promote Psychological Health and Resilience in Military and Civilian Communities</td>
<td>„</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAR- Sebastian Junger</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What It Is Like to Go to War by Marlantes, Karl 1st (first) Edition Hardcover(2011)</td>
<td><a href="http://nyti.ms/14kWDn1">http://nyti.ms/14kWDn1</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIC: Buffalo Veteran's Court and Veterans Mentor Handbook</td>
<td><a href="http://1.usa.gov/11bDRSr">http://1.usa.gov/11bDRSr</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio Specialized Docket Certification Submission Guidelines</td>
<td><a href="http://1.usa.gov/13gaCgg">http://1.usa.gov/13gaCgg</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For daily news updates, please subscribe to our two Internet newspapers: [Traumatic Brain Injury News Daily](http://www.traumaticbraininjurynewsdaily.com) and [Veterans Courts News Daily](http://www.veteranscourtsnewsdaily.com)

**TO JOIN OUR NEWSLETTER**

To join our newsletter, please contact Editor Pete Miller at cruzzen@gmail.com

1. Please send us a little info about yourselves as we like to introduce our new sign-ups to others for networking purposes. (See our transmittal email page for examples.) If you do NOT wish to be recognized, please let Pete know, otherwise we will list you.

2. We provide these news clips summaries as a way to share information of a general nature and it is not intended as a substitute for professional consultation and advice in a particular matter. The opinions and interpretations expressed within are those of the author of the individual news stories only and may not reflect those of other identified parties.

3. We do not guarantee the accuracy and completeness of these news clips, nor do we endorse or make any representations about their content. We only pass them through to our readers and rely on you to check out their content. We don't intend to make any editorial judgment about their content or politics.

4. In no event will I, EStratton Consulting, or my Editor Pete Miller, be liable for any damages whatsoever arising out of the use of or reliance on the contents of this news clips summary. How you chose to use them is strictly up to you.

5. Please fell free to pass the news clips on to any of your networks, so that we may get the word out as far as possible. You may also send in information similar in content to what we pass on. While we may occasionally pass on such information, we don't intend to promote commercial or for profit products nor be a substitute for your own efforts to promote your own entity or website. We especially welcome information about national funding or training opportunities.

6. If you pass on our clips, please also pass on our Disclaimer.

**EDITOR/CONTACT**

Pete Miller, cruzzen@gmail.com, @OHCircuitRider
Ohio Attorney General's Task Force on Criminal Justice & Mental Illness
Ohio Veterans Treatment Courts

[Editor/Publisher - Veterans Treatment Court News Daily](http://www.veteranstreatmentcourtnewsdaily.com)
[Editor/Publisher - Traumatic Brain Injury News Daily](http://www.traumaticbraininjurynewsdaily.com)
Do you or someone you love experience difficulty using an arm and hand due to TBI? Have these difficulties made it difficult to do daily tasks? For people who have had a TBI innovative therapies are available to you at no cost. New research studies are underway. Call 205-934-9768 to see if you qualify.
TBI Rehabilitation Study Candidates

We are currently evaluating potential participants who meet the following criteria:

- At least 19 years old
- 3 months post TBI
- Have movement problems or weakness of the arms, but the ability to make at least some limited movements with the more affected hand
- No excessive pain
- Must be able to undergo MRI

If you or someone you know has had a TBI please contact our laboratory to learn how you might become eligible to receive therapy at no cost. All travel and living expenses will be paid for the participant and one caregiver.

UAB TBI Research Project
1720 2nd Avenue South,
CPM 712,
Birmingham, AL 35294

For additional information:
Email: TBIrehabtherapy@uab.edu
Call: (205) 934-9768
Fax: (205) 975-9791

or

Visit www.TBIrehabtherapy.net

University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)
A Department of Defense Project

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Rehabilitation Study
Lakeshore Enriched Fitness Training

The Brave Initiative
Lakeshore Enriched Fitness Training
A combination of activities that includes fitness, sports and recreation (land and water-based); adapted Yoga; breathing exercises and postural control; movement-to-music; and massage therapy.

CI Movement Therapy
CI therapy involves practice with a person's weaker arm on exercise and skilled movements to increase the use of that limb in daily life. A mitt is worn on the stronger arm to encourage use of the weaker arm.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) before and after treatment and one-year later will determine whether either therapy has an effect on the brain.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I become involved?
Contact the TBI Rehabilitation research project at (205) 934-9768. You will answer a questionnaire and be interviewed by teleconference to determine if it would be appropriate for you to come to Birmingham for an evaluation.

How is it determined which treatment protocol I will receive?
This is a randomized research trial which means you will be assigned to either group by chance, similar to a coin toss. Both treatments have been rated highly by participants.

How does the evaluation and selection process work?
After coming to UAB, potential participants will be evaluated by our physicians and therapists to ensure that they will have a good chance of benefiting from our program. The evaluation determines a patient's health status, general movement ability, balance and ability to use the weaker arm.

Housing will be at no cost at the Lakeshore Foundation, the site of the Paralympic Training facility, in recently built bungalows for wounded warriors. Living expenses will also be at no cost.

How much does the treatment cost?
If you qualify for the project, there will be no cost for the treatment, evaluations, and testing.

How much time is needed to participate in the research?
The therapy lasts for 3.5 hours daily for 2 weeks for a total of 10 treatment days. Testing will take 3 days before and 2 days after therapy. We also need to stay in touch with participants by phone at regular intervals after treatment and will ask them to return to UAB at no cost for repeat evaluations one year after treatment.