Building Bridges & Connecting Lives – a Trauma Conference for Military & Veteran Populations

**Military OneSource**
Service members, family members, service providers, and command-welcome to Military OneSource. Policies, procedures, timely articles, cutting-edge social media tools, and support. All in one place, empowering our military community.

**Wisconsin SMSD** will provide Wisconsin’s Service Members and their Families mobile, high quality, effective, and efficient assistance throughout the deployment cycle. Programs shall consist of informational events and activities for members of the Armed Forces, their families, and community members to facilitate access to services supporting their health and well-being.

Founded in 1969, the **National Military Family Association** is the leading non-profit organization focusing on issues important to military families. We believe that all military families deserve comprehensive child care, accessible health care, spouse employment options, great schools, caring communities, a secure retirement, and support for widows and widowers.

**Joining Forces** is a national initiative to engage all sectors of society to give our service members and their families the opportunities and support they have earned. Since the first days of the Administration, First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden have met with military families, learned about their successes and challenges, and made it their priority to support them.

**Operation Homefront** was formed in February 2002. It was developed to support the families of deployed service members immediately following 9/11. Operation Homefront is headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, and has evolved into a major nonprofit. The organization currently provides services to military families across the nation with 23 locations serving 43 states. The national office handles cases in states that do not have their own local offices. The majority of our clients are the lowest-paid service members, the E-1 through E-6 enlisted ranks.

The **Real Warriors Campaign** is a multimedia public awareness campaign designed to encourage help-seeking behavior among service members, veterans and military families coping with invisible wounds. Launched by the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) in 2009, the campaign is an integral part of the Defense Department’s overall effort to encourage warriors and families to seek appropriate care and support for psychological health concerns.

To reach the broadest audience possible, the campaign features a variety of strategies including outreach and partnerships, print materials, media outreach, an interactive website, mobile website and social media. The campaign features stories of real service members who reached out for psychological support or care with successful outcomes, including learning coping skills, maintaining their security clearance and continuing to succeed in their military or civilian careers. These Real Warriors are proving through example that reaching out is a sign of strength that benefits the entire military community.
Operation: Military Kids is the U.S. Army’s collaborative effort with America’s communities to support children and youth impacted by deployment. Regardless of whether Families are experiencing deployment for the first time, the second time or another in a series of multiple deployments, OMK’s goal is to connect military children and youth with local resources in order to achieve a sense of community support and enhance their well-being.

Military Kids Connect (MKC) is an online community for military children (ages 6-17 yr old) that provides access to age-appropriate resources to support children dealing with the unique psychological challenges of military life. MKC offers informative activities, fun games, helpful videos, and an online community that can build and reinforce understanding, resilience, and coping skills in military children and their peers.

Today’s military kids grow up in a world where they may experience many challenges of military life, including multiple deployments of important family members and frequent moves to new schools and neighborhoods. They need a unique set of skills to draw on in order to get through long and often difficult separations and situations. MKC helps children prepare for the challenges faced during these significant family transitions.

The Center for Deployment Psychology (CDP) trains military and civilian behavioral health professionals to provide high-quality, culturally-sensitive, evidence-based behavioral health services to military personnel, veterans and their families.

**MILITARY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS**

This site contains a comprehensive list of U.S. military terms and definitions.

**MILITARY ACRONYMNS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

This site contains a comprehensive list of U.S military acronyms and abbreviations.

We are here to support you—the Airmen, Soldier, Sailor and Marine. We are here to support you, your families, veterans and friends twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. With the ever changing face and duties of the National Guard, it is imperative to look to the future of Family Programs while remaining flexible in the present. Our goal is to support you along your journey, especially as a family member of the National Guard in any and every way.

The Badger Yellow Ribbon Program will consist of informational events and activities for members of the Wisconsin National Guard, other military services, their families, and community members to facilitate access to support services, provide information, education, and outreach opportunities in continued support of their health and well-being throughout the entire deployment cycle (pre-mobilization, deployment, demobilization, and post-deployment).

The purpose of the Wisconsin Badger Yellow Ribbon (BYR) program is to provide current information, resources, available services and proactive outreach opportunities for service members, Families, employers, and youth throughout the entire deployment cycle. The Yellow Ribbon Program works under the Wisconsin Service Member Support Division (SMSD) to ensure that service members and their Families receive the information about the services available to them including but not limited to: Tricare, VA support, financial planning, Family counseling etc.
The Wisconsin Employment Resource Connection (WERC) is an employment partnership program designed to provide relevant and timely workforce training and job-placement assistance to Wisconsin military Service Members and their spouses. The program’s specialized education, training and job-search services will enhance participant’s abilities to obtain and retain meaningful employment.

WERC bridges the gap between qualified Service Members and spouses with employers through the analysis of service member and employer needs.

ESGR, a Department of Defense office, was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component Service members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee’s military commitment. ESGR is supported by a network of more than 4,900 volunteers in 54 committees located across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam-CNMI, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Volunteers, hailing from small business and industry, government, education and prior military service bring a vast wealth of experience to assist in serving employers, service members and their families. Together with Headquarters ESGR staff and a small cadre of support staff for each State Committee, volunteers work to promote and enhance employer support for military service in the Guard and Reserve.

Have you just returned from deployment? Do you have a service-related injury or healthcare issue? Perhaps you’re about to retire from service and you’re looking for someone to show you how to get back into the swing of civilian life. Getting to know your local Transition Assistance Advisor means you’ll have reliable, professional support whenever you need it, whatever the circumstance.

Our Transition Assistance Advisors are in every State, Territory, and the District to ensure you have a hand to help you receive the benefits you’ve earned as a result of your service in the National Guard.

The Psychological Health Program aims to:

- Provide high-quality services that are National Guard member specific; friendly and comprehensive, while typically increasing state/territory utilization rates to promote National Guard member readiness.
- Assist National Guard program managers and supervisors to improve a National Guard member’s readjustment to civilian life by managing professional services and/or overseeing an individual’s mental health needs.
- Provide consultation and support to help address organizational and individual health care situations, which have a detrimental effect on the National Guard member’s reintegration to civilian life.
- Offer consultative guidance and support to state and territory National Guard senior management on state specific mental health needs based on Guard member demographics and mental health status.
- Provide National Guard oriented mental health training throughout the full spectrum of the deployment cycle.
As a trusted behavioral health services partner to government agencies, MHNGS delivers a comprehensive suite of products that drive change around the globe. Through our state-of-the-art behavioral health services, MHNGS helps hundreds of thousands of Active, Guard and Reserve and retired military service members and their families cope with the challenges of military life and build greater resiliency to address these challenges while enhancing their performance at work and at home.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES
- Military & Family Life Counseling (MFLC) Program
- MFLC Child and Youth Behavioral Program
- Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) Marine Outreach Program
- MFLC Joint Family Support Assistance Program (JFSAP)
- On-Demand and Surge MFLC Personal Financial Counseling Program

Provide resilience and total fitness education and training to Service Members, families and DA Civilians to enable them to thrive in the military and civilian sectors and meet a wide range of operational demands. Grow and thrive in the face of challenges and bounce back from adversity.

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The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO) is responsible for oversight of the Department’s sexual assault policy. SAPRO works hand-in-hand with the Services and the civilian community to develop and implement innovative prevention and response programs.

Services Offered
Users have multiple ways to get confidential support.
- CLICK: Logging on to www.SafeHelpline.org allows users to receive live, one-on-one confidential help with a trained professional through a secure instant-messaging format.
- CALL: Calling 877-995-5247 allows users to speak with trained Safe Helpline staff for personalized advice and support.
- TEXT: Texting a location or zip code to 55-247 in the U.S. and (001) 202-470-5546 outside the U.S. allows users to receive contact information for vital resources.
- Transitioning Service Member Resources: Information and resources tailored to the needs of Transitioning Service Members (TSMs) are available on SafeHelpline.org.
- Mobile App: The Safe Helpline Mobile Application (App) is designed specifically for military sexual assault survivors. It enables users to connect with live sexual assault response professionals via phone or anonymous online chat from their mobile devices.
- SafeHelpline.org: Visitors may access the Safe Helpline website and search for their nearest resource as well as access valuable information about understanding the effects of sexual assault.
- Safe HelpRoom: DoD SAPRO’s ground-breaking online service called the “Safe HelpRoom” allows military sexual assault survivors to connect with one another in a moderated and secure online environment at SafeHelpline.org.
- Complaint Feature: Visitors may choose to provide feedback to SAPRO directly through a confidential and anonymous feedback form on SafeHelpline.org.

Additional details on Safe Helpline services can be found in our Information Paper.
Established in November 2011, the Defense Suicide Prevention Office (DSPO) is part of the Department of Defense’s Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. DSPO oversees all strategic development, implementation, centralization, standardization, communication and evaluation of DoD suicide and risk reduction programs, policies and surveillance activities. To reduce the impact of suicide on Service members and their families, DSPO uses a range of approaches related to policy, research, communications, law and behavioral health. DSPO works with the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and National Guard Bureau to support our Service members and strengthen a resilient and ready force. DSPO strives to help foster a climate that encourages Service members to seek help for their behavioral health issues.

The rendering of Military Funeral Honors for an eligible veteran, free of charge, is mandated by law. An honor guard detail for the burial of an eligible veteran shall consist of not less than two members of the Armed Forces. One member of the detail shall be a representative of the parent Service of the deceased veteran. The honor detail will, at a minimum, perform a ceremony that includes the folding and presenting of the American flag to the next of kin and the playing of Taps.

Survivor Outreach Services is the official Army program designed to provide long term support to surviving Families of Fallen Soldiers. This is your program! Conceived of and developed by Survivors, this program is continually refined based on Survivor feedback and involvement by senior Army leaders.

Survivor Outreach Services is a “one” Army program. Regardless of your loved one’s Army component, duty status, location, or manner of death, Survivor Outreach Services Support Coordinators and Financial Counselors are here to provide dedicated outreach and support when, and for as long as you desire.

We are here for you. Army National Guard, US Army Reserve and Active Component Families are served by the closest Survivor Outreach Services support office.

Acres of Hope and Aspirations

Acres of Hope and Aspirations Where Healing is Nurtured by Nature features Gardens of Hope and Creatures of Rehab. Acres of Hope and Aspirations is a rehab facility dedicated to make a difference to those lives affected or touched by brain injury. The grounds contain gardens, a rehab home and farm that is supervised and staffed 24 hours/day by RNs and rehab staff skilled and experienced in brain injury rehab and recovery and neurobehavioral problems.

Acres of Hope and Aspirations helps clients and their families recover, rehabilitate and overcome and compensate for deficits sustained from a brain injury. Clients can face lives worth living as they embark on a new but different journey that provides support, motivation and hope.
Since its founding in 1978, The National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers has stood at the forefront of the addiction treatment field, speaking with a clear and unified voice on behalf of its 300 member organizations. Those organizations consist of over 600 treatment facilities which set the standard for quality, caring therapeutic services for men and women, young and old, suffering from addictive diseases. NAATP has a long history of advocating for fair and equal legal recognition of the services its member organizations provide, with the same fair and equal reimbursement benefits for the patients served by its members.

The membership of NAATP covers a wide range of providers, non-profit and for profit; hospital based, residential, outpatient and extended care facilities; some that follow the time-tested 12 Step model and others that have modified that model. But one clear, unifying objective ties all the membership together—a strong commitment to giving addicted persons and those important to them a new chance at a sober, clean, productive life.

Find a facility near you.

The American Red Cross’ unwavering commitment to members of the U.S. military, its veterans and their families continues to grow and develop more than a century after Clara Barton first recruited nurses to support the U.S. Army. Today, the Red Cross is meeting the needs of a changing military and expanding services to veterans. Red Cross support of military members and their families enhances morale and contributes to increased operational capability in several ways.

Camp Hometown Heroes is specifically designed to provide the children of fallen U.S. service members ages 7-17 with opportunities for friendship, fun, acceptance, and personal growth. Through the support of pediatric grief specialists from Kyle’s Korner, the children and teenagers are provided the chance to grieve and heal. At long last, children of the fallen are given the chance to grow and move forward.

Healing Warrior Hearts provides programs for military personnel and their families, dedicated to healing the emotional, moral and spiritual wounds of war. The Starfish Foundation, a 501c3 charitable organization, sponsors Healing Warrior Hearts and offers the programs at no cost to military veterans and their families.

Our commitment: We don’t leave our wounded behind.

There should not be a single homeless veteran in America. But in Milwaukee, one of every four homeless persons is a veteran, and 300 to 400 veterans are homeless on any given day. Over the course of a year, four times that many are homeless for a time. An additional 5,500 local veterans are classified as at risk, because they are living below the poverty line, spending more than half of their incomes on housing, or living with another family.

Those are the people we have served since 2008 — more than 1,200 veterans and their families. We seek out and help those who are currently homeless. We also do homelessness prevention, to help those who are only one misfortune away from losing their homes. They could slip into homelessness without the support they receive from us and others.
From a nurtured seed grows a mighty oak.

Red Oak Counseling is a Mental Health and Substance Abuse clinic. We specialize in addictions, eating disorders, relationships, family dynamics, work-related topics and military concerns. Our mission is to enhance the well-being of individuals and families blending traditional and innovative approaches. We create an atmosphere of dignity and respect while fostering hope and encouragement for our clients.

Snapshot of Services Offered:
- Substance Abuse Relapse and Maintenance Planning
- Addictions
- Treatment and Family Recovery
- Adult Children of Addicts
- Trauma (PTSD)
- Military Issues
- Reintegration
- Depression & Anxiety

SafeLink Wireless Free Cell Phones

SafeLink Wireless, a Tracfone company, is the largest, oldest and best known of the companies that offer free cell phones through the government’s Lifeline phone service program. They have millions of customers in 38 states plus Washington, DC and Puerto Rico. And they’re working on getting into the remaining 12 states.

If you qualify under the Lifeline Assistance program guidelines, you will be able to get a free cell phone and up to 250 minutes of airtime and 1,000 texts each month for free plans vary according to state). After one year, if you are still eligible for the phone, you simply need to re-certify. It’s unfortunate, but with the way the economy is going, it seems many people will get several years of use from the phone.

The Safelink phone program is available now in the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Connecticut, DC, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

And they are coming soon to Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Vermont and Wyoming.

Salute the Troops was founded in April 2012 to benefit veterans who have sacrificed for our nation and now need our help.

Volunteer: Salute the Troops is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to supporting the veterans that have sacrificed so much for our freedoms. We need your help to host a successful event. You can join our planning committee or volunteer for race day events.

Our Mission is: To enable veterans to live full and independent lives by providing resources that empower them.
University of Phoenix helps you earn your degree as you pursue an advanced military role or civilian career.

We’re here to support veterans, active-duty servicemembers and spouses like you who are pursuing their education. We offer:

- Military advisors who understand the culture and lingo you’re used to because most have military backgrounds
- Special military tuition rates for active-duty servicemembers and their spouses
- Help navigating the application process for GI Bill® benefits and other financial aid
- Credit for your applicable military training and education
- A wide range of programs at all levels — from associate through doctoral
- An education that helps prepare you with the skills and knowledge you’ll need for professional life after the military
- Career transition resources, including an online tool that helps translate your military experience into corresponding civilian jobs

Whether attending a local campus or online, college for the military community is possible no matter where you are.

**Veteran Quest Clinic**

**Veteran Quest** is a clinical program which provides free therapy/counseling and peer support services for veterans and their families. This includes spouses/significant others, siblings, children and parents.

A staff, which consists of trained trauma professionals, along with a special program involving peer counseling, looks at all areas involving readjustment issues. The basic concept is veterans helping veterans. Methods used involve both standard and holistic approaches [mind, body and spirituality].

In addition to treatment, the clinic provides classes and seminars relating to major issues such as post-traumatic stress, grief, depression and sleep disorders. Holistic or cultural approaches also include treatment involving Reiki, Meditation and Yoga.

The purpose of the clinic is to meet the needs of those veterans and their families unable to receive services through the VA or Vet Centers or is on a waiting list. However, the clinic also provides supportive services to individuals currently in other treatment programs.

**Veterans For Peace** is a global organization of Military Veterans and allies whose collective efforts are to build a culture of peace by using our experiences and lifting our voices. We inform the public of the true causes of war and the enormous costs of wars, with an obligation to heal the wounds of wars. Our network is comprised of over 140 chapters worldwide whose work includes: educating the public, advocating for a dismantling of the war economy, providing services that assist veterans and victims of war, and most significantly, working to end all wars.
Vets Journey Home is an organization dedicated to helping veterans with emotional issues from time in military service. Vets Journey Home focuses on PTSD, MST (Military Sexual Trauma), emotional guilt and trauma many veterans carry with them long after their time in service. These are feelings that are hard to release to family and friends who have not experienced them. Vets Journey Home is committed to giving veterans the Welcome Home they deserved and helping them heal their hearts and bring peace to their souls.

Dryhootch is a nonprofit 501c3 organization formed by combat Veterans to help Veterans in their return home. Dryhootch was envisioned as a place where Veterans could gather informally in a coffee house; a safe, comfortable, drug-and-alcohol-free environment. The idea revolved around the creation of a retail coffee shop run by and for Veterans, which would also support an extended network of Veteran families, and encourage Veteran interaction with the community as a whole. "Hootch" is military jargon for a hut or safe place to sleep during combat. The term "dry" denotes the organization's mission to provide a social gathering place for Veterans that is free of alcohol - one of the major problems plaguing Veterans of all eras. As such, the concept behind "Dryhootch" was a desire to establish a café-like environment dedicated to "helping Veterans who survived the war, survive the peace."

Disability Rights Wisconsin is a private non-profit organization which was founded in 1977. Designated by the Governor to ensure the rights of all state citizens with disabilities through individual advocacy and system change, DRW is part of a national system of federally mandated independent disability agencies. DRW is completely independent of government and the disability service system in order to be free of any conflicts of interests which would undermine our capacity to advocate vigorously on behalf of the human and legal rights of people with disabilities.

As Wisconsin’s protection and advocacy agency, DRW operates several federally funded advocacy programs focused on various populations and issues. In addition, DRW operates some other state and federally funded programs:

- Family Care and IRIS Ombudsman
- Disability Benefit Specialist
- Medicare Part D Helpline
- Quality Education Coalition
- SSI Managed Care
- Violence Against Women with Disabilities Project
About the Milwaukee VA Medical Center

The Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center is located on 125 acres on the western edge of Milwaukee and part of VA Integrated Services Network 12 (VISN 12), which includes facilities in Iron Mountain, Mi; Tomah and Madison, WI, and North Chicago, Hines, and Chicago. The Medical Center delivers primary, secondary, and tertiary medical care in 168 care acute operating beds and provides over 500,000 visits annually through an extensive outpatient program. The nursing home care unit of 113 beds offers geriatric programming and the 356 domiciliary beds are the locus of programs in Substance Abuse Rehabilitation, Psychiatric Rehabilitation and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder care.

In an effort to improve access to veterans in Milwaukee County, the VAMC has deployed a mobile clinic that provides primary care four days a week to veterans. The Medical Center also assists the Vet Center located in the City of Milwaukee. In addition, this Medical Center participates in a four-way partnership with the WDVA, the Center for Veterans Issues, Ltd., and the Social Development Commission, to operate Vets Place Central, a 72-bed transitional housing program. Milwaukee also has community based outpatient clinics in Appleton, Cleveland, Green Bay, and Union Grove, Wisconsin. These programs serve a veteran population of 234,953 in southeastern and east central Wisconsin.

Women Veterans

Women who have served in U.S Military and who meet eligibility requirements can receive their health care at a VA Medical facility. The same eligibility requirements are applied to men and women Veterans. The VA actively encourages women Veterans to utilize the benefits they are due.

Wisconsin American Legion, an organization comprised of veterans committed to serving veterans, their families, and their communities.

The American Legion Department of Wisconsin was chartered on August 1, 1920. There are currently over 500 American Legion Posts located throughout the state, comprised of over 73,000 members.

The Posts are grouped by individual Counties, the Counties by Districts (12 Districts) and the Districts under the Department (State). Each of the levels, including the Department, has committees devoted to Americanism, community service, youth activities, volunteerism, legislative and religious matters, veterans rehabilitation, and more.

American Legion members contribute significantly to their individual communities. Members give many thousands of pints of blood each year and much is donated by way of scholarships, community projects, emergency aid and youth activities. Many of the individual Posts have a clubhouse, which is used by the community as well as for the Posts' social functions.

Easter Seals Southeast Wisconsin touches the lives of over 10,000 children and adults with disabilities in Southeast Wisconsin. We connect the children and adults we support to a world of possibilities, so they can live, work and play in the community of their choice. With 80 years of history, we have a strong track record of positive family outcomes that truly changes lives.

Our Mission
Our Mission is to provide exceptional services to ensure that all people with disabilities or special needs and their families have equal opportunities to live, learn, work and play in their communities. We connect children and adults with disabilities to a world of possibilities by eliminating barriers that separate them from achieving greater independence, access to the community and exercising choice in their lives.