Department of Veterans Affairs

2021 Virtual Summit

Serving a Diverse Veteran Population
Conrad Washington

Director
Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (CFBNP)
U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs

Conrad Washington serves as the Director with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (CFBNP) within the Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs (OPIA). In this capacity, he provides collaborative strategic leadership to develop and cultivate partnerships nationwide with faith-based, non-profit, and community organizations. These partnerships assist to increase awareness of VA programs and services for Veterans, their families, survivors, caregivers and other beneficiaries.

Previously, Mr. Washington served in the Corporate Senior Executive Management Office (CSEMO) delivering an enterprise-wide approach to executive personnel management for the VA.

Mr. Washington retired from the United States Marine Corps with 20 years of active-duty service to include an infantry battalion combat tour in 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II (OIF-II). Positions during his military career include; Administrative/Personnel Chief, Senior Drill Instructor, Formal Schools Instructor, and Adjunct Faculty.
VA COVID19 Administration Site Video
Reverend Dr. Mark Whitlock, Jr
Senior Pastor
Reid Temple AME Church
Glenn Dale, Maryland

Reverend Whitlock is committed to serving God, family, the AME Church and the community. He, his wife and his mother, are beyond thrilled to be in Glenn Dale, Maryland serving Reid Temple AME Church (RTAME). Prior to his historic July 2019 appointment at RTAME, Rev. Whitlock served as pastor of Christ Our Redeemer A.M.E. Church (COR Church) in Irvine, CA beginning in August 1998. Over the course of his ministerial and nonprofit career, Pastor Whitlock has raised more than $1.2 billion for the kingdom of God through individual donors, corporate, federal and institute grants.

Rev. Whitlock’s vision for Reid Temple is based on Hebrews 10: 23-25. God has called for Reid to become the Beloved Community under Pastor Whitlock’s watch. In order to fulfill this vision, Pastor Whitlock is following the AME mission as well as the tenets of evangelism, discipleship, stewardship and social justice. Using the successful blueprint of COR Church and its Community Development Corporation, Pastor Whitlock is partnering with Reid Temples five 501c3 corporations to take Reid Temple AME Church to the next level. Rev. Whitlock has BA in Religion from University of La/Verne, Master of Business from USC, and is an M.Div and D. Min with the Payne Theological Seminary.

Rev. Whitlock has been happily married to Rev. Hermia Shegog Whitlock for 35 years. He has three sons, Ariel, Mark, III; and Devin.
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Conrad Washington
Director
Conrad.Washington@va.gov
Overview

- Mission
- History
- Partners
- Faith-based Data
- Objectives
- Actions
Our mission is to engage, educate and inform faith-based, community, and non-profit organizations with VA information and resources to better serve the needs of Veterans, their families, survivors, caregivers, and other beneficiaries within their respective organizations.
History

February 14, 2021: **Executive Order 14015** - Establishment of The White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnership

May 3, 2018: **Executive Order 13831**: Establishment of a White House Faith and Opportunity Initiative

April 5, 2013: **Executive Order 13640**: Continuance of Advisory Council

November 17, 2010: **Executive Order 13559**: Fundamental Principles and Policymaking Criteria for Partnerships with Faith-Based and Other Neighborhood Organizations

June 1, 2004: **Executive Order 13342**: Establishment of Centers for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives at the Departments of Commerce and Veterans Affairs and the Small Business Administration

December 12, 2002: **Executive Order 13279**: Equal Protection of the Laws for Faith-Based and Community Organizations

January 29, 2001: **Executive Order 13199**: Established the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
Federal Centers for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships

White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (WHOFBNP)
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Agency for International Development
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. Department of Education
U.S. Department of Labor
U.S. Small Business Administration
U.S. Department of State
U.S. Department of Justice
Environmental Protection Agency
Securities and Exchange Commission
Corporation for National and Community Service
Establishment of The White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnership – Reestablished February 14, 2021

Faith-based and other community-serving organizations are vital to our Nation’s ability to address the needs of and lift-up low income and other underserved persons and communities. Principal functions include:

- Promote awareness among diverse civil society leaders of opportunities to partner—both financially and otherwise—with the Federal government to serve people in need and to build institutional capacity
- Assist in organizing more effective efforts to serve people in need across the country and around the world, in partnership with civil society, including faith-based and secular organizations
- Empower faith-based and secular organizations by assisting in the delivery of vital services in neighborhoods across the nation
We are the “door” into the VA for faith-based and community organizations:

- Establish a Veterans ministry or welcome center in your organization where Veterans can connect regularly
- Partner with VA CFBNP to host outreach events that consist of suicide prevention training, E-Benefits, homelessness, survivor assistance, and much more
- Serve as a resource and referral point for your community of Veterans, their families, and beneficiaries
PSA Development and Distribution

Faith and recovery PSA
- Podcast with The Warriors Journey (TWJ):
  - Episode 56; “Serving Those Who Serve”
- Featured on Dallas radio station K-Heaven 970 AM (KHVN, Dallas) to promote VA’s “2019 Symposium: Suicide Prevention in Faith Communities”

Radio PSA
- Podcast with KLOVE syndicated radio station that reaches nearly 24,000 listeners nationwide
- Podcast with "Frontlines of Freedom", weekly, two hour syndicated Military News & Talk Radio show that reaches over 100,000 listeners per week with over 170 radio stations
### Nationwide-Veteran Religious Affiliation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>120,992</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>4,816,270</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Orthodox</td>
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<td>Ethiopian Orthodox</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greek Orthodox</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hindu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jewish</td>
<td>276,638</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lutheran</td>
<td>10,761</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mormon</td>
<td>84,922</td>
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<tr>
<td>Muslim</td>
<td>62,375</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protestant</td>
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<td>Shinto</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sikh</td>
<td>3,379</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>1,198,391</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
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</table>

Total: 20,165,625

Source: 2020 National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics
Veteran Population-Nationwide
Objectives

• Provide FBCOs with tools and resources about VA programs and services.

• Disseminate to FBCOs comprehensive community-based Veteran suicide prevention resources and training.

• Connect FBCOs with housing and VA services for homeless Veterans.

• Develop and coordinate partnerships for outreach efforts to disseminate information and resources to faith-based, community, and non-profit organizations.

• Continually growing partnerships nationwide. Join us to reach the 20 million Veterans in the United States!
Actions

• During COVID-19, we have conducted over 30 collaborative webinars in partnership with our faith-based and community partners.

• Established partnerships with external faith-based and non-profit organizations; Unity Freewill Baptist Church, Global Ministries for Lutheran Hour Ministries, Mighty Oaks Foundation, Boeing Corporation, University of Utah, Concordia University, Purdue University’s Military Family Research Institute (MFRI), Detroit Pistons, and numerous houses of worship nationwide.

• Coordinated suicide prevention training to over 100 clergy leaders and faith-based leaders across the nation.
5 STEPS TO START A VETERAN MINISTRY or WELCOME CENTER

Step 1: Identify the number of Veterans in your organization
  • Set-up recruiting tables before and after service/event (awareness and sign-up)
  • Create a tracking system to identify veteran population within organization

Step 2: Create a Veteran Ministry or Welcome Center group mission/vision statement

Step 3: Elect Veteran group leadership council officers (President Vice President, Secretary, etc.)

Step 4: Hold monthly meetings with officers and members

Step 5: Develop a strategic plan for the upcoming year
  • Weekly/monthly group, activities, trips, seminars, etc.
  • Connect with local VA Medical Center (VAMC)
• **Goals:**
  • Recognize Veterans in your organization:
    • Recognize Veterans during primary service/event during month of November
    • Host formal banquet during the month of November in honor of your Veterans
  • **Partner with the VA Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (CFBNP)**
    • Visit our website and download:
      • “How to Start a Veteran Ministry or Welcome Center Pocket Guide”
    • Host an annual collaborative outreach event
    • Request current VA resources and information
What does it look like?

- Small “cell” groups (example: Every Tuesday)
- Veterans group for men/women (example: Every Wednesday)
- Fishing/coffee (example: 2nd Saturday of each month)
- Supporting spouses of Veterans (example: oil changes, mowing grass)

Sign-up to join and start a Veteran Ministry or Welcome Center
https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVA/signup/19966
A Glance at CFBNP Events
Donate needed items to homeless Veterans, provide deployment care packages, organize conferences & workshops, visit Veteran homes, recognize service members and Veterans during military appreciation month, and participate in community events.
CFBNP Contact Information

Director: Conrad Washington
cord.Washington@va.gov or at (202) 461-7865

Senior Program Specialist: Trulesta “Tru” Pauling
Trulesta.Pauling@va.gov or at (202) 821-3848

Program Specialist: William Morales Jr.
William.Morales2@va.gov or at (202) 461-0753

Program Specialist: Nicholas Walters
Nicholas.Walters@va.gov or at (202) 443-5374

CFBNP WEBSITE:
www.va.gov/cfbnp

CFBNP EMAIL:
VACFBNP@va.gov
Stephanie Birdwell

Director
Office of Tribal Government Relations
U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs

Ms. Birdwell is the Department of Veterans Affairs’ Director, Office of Tribal Government Relations (OTGR), which is located within the Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs. The VA OTGR was established in 2011 as part of the agency’s effort to implement the VA tribal consultation policy and enhance relationships with 574 tribal governments located in 38 states.
Established office in January 2011
- In response to President Clinton’s Executive Order 13175 and President Obama’s memorandum on Tribal Consultation date November 5, 2009
- Recognizes unique Government-to-Government relationship with Tribes
- 6 FTEE – Director, Program Analyst, 4 Regional Specialists

VA’s Tribal Consultation Policy completed February 2011
- First VA Consultations occurred in 2012
- Most recent in April 2020

OTGR Specialists hired August/September 2011
- Responsible for managing a portfolio of relationships with Tribal governments within a specific region – currently 574 federally recognized tribes
- Serve as a resource to Tribal Governments for VA services
Top Priorities in Indian Country

Percentage of Consultation Respondents Identifying Each Priority

- Housing: 48%
- Access to Medical Care: 47%
- Understanding Benefits: 40%
- Treatment for PTSD and Mental Health: 39%
- Benefits for Families: 29%
- Transportation: 26%
- Homelessness: 24%
- VA/IHS/Tribal Facilities Working Together: 21%
- Employment/Vocational Rehab: 19%
- Tribal Veterans Representatives: 18%
- Suicide Prevention: 18%
- Traditional Providers/Treatments: 13%
- Substance Abuse Treatment: 11%
- Care in the Community: 8%
- Including Urban Indians/Organizations: 5%
- Consultation, Listening Sessions: 5%
- Veterans Status: 5%
- Cemeteries: 3%
- Tribal Veterans Advisory Committee: 3%
- Nursing Care: 3%
- Dental Care: 2%
- Increasing VA's Cultural Sensitivity: 2%
- VA Outreach to Tribal Communities: 2%
Connecting Tribes to Goals

OTGR Goal 1: Implement Tribal Consultation Policy
## Executive Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Nov 2020</th>
<th>Dec 2020</th>
<th>Difference</th>
<th>FY21</th>
<th>Program Inception to Date</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Disbursed</strong></td>
<td>$1,218,016</td>
<td>$1,679,357</td>
<td>$461,341</td>
<td>$4,451,154</td>
<td>$127,726,092</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Unique Veterans</strong></td>
<td>1,276</td>
<td>2,375</td>
<td>1,099</td>
<td>2,935</td>
<td>11,550</td>
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<td><strong>Inpatient Claims</strong></td>
<td>317</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>-77</td>
<td>999</td>
<td>6,450</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Outpatient Claims</strong></td>
<td>2,687</td>
<td>4,035</td>
<td>1,348</td>
<td>9,683</td>
<td>359,555</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Claims</strong></td>
<td>3,004</td>
<td>4,275</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>10,682</td>
<td>366,005</td>
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</table>
Connecting Tribes to Goals

OTGR Goal 3: Promote Economic Sustainability

• “Your Service. Our Mission: Bringing VA Benefits Home.”

• OTGR partnered with VBA Benefits Assistance Service in FY18-FY20 for a nationwide campaign to Indian Country.

• Presumptive Conditions

• 53 Tribes/67 Claims Events
Recent Enactments of the 116th Congress: Native Veterans legislation

- Reimbursements to Indian Health Service and PRC (HR 6237)
- Urban Indian Health Programs and Reimbursement Agreements with VHA (HR 6237)
- Co-pay prohibitions for Native American Veterans (HR 7105 section 3002)
- State Veterans Homes Grants (HR 7105 section 3004)
- HUD-VASH (section 4206)
- VA Tribal Advisory Committee (HR 7105 section 7002)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/26</td>
<td>VA COVID-19 Clinical Trials</td>
<td>Dr. Mary “Molly” Klote</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/8</td>
<td>Urban Indian Health Informational Session</td>
<td>VA/OTGR-ORH, IHS</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/24</td>
<td>Vet Centers in Indian Country</td>
<td>Rich Barbato, Matt Tiger (Tulsa Vet Center), Veronica Duncan</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/3</td>
<td>VHA National State Veterans Homes Overview</td>
<td>Lisa Minor, Valarie Delanko, Anna Gaug, Colette Alvarez</td>
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<td>3/10</td>
<td>Tribal Veteran Court/Veteran Justice Outreach</td>
<td>Mark Panasiewicz, Jessica Naa-yvsh-ne Wolsfeld, Katie Stewart</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/24</td>
<td>Women Veterans - MST</td>
<td>Heather McKibben, Muskogee VBA RO Lead Supervisor VSR</td>
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<td>4/7</td>
<td>Native American Veterans: Federal Employment</td>
<td>Kelly Woodall, Steven Juneau, Courtney Bernal, Allison L. Phillips</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
OTGR Partners

- Tribal Governments
- VA Administrations (VHA, VBA and NCA)
- State Departments of Veterans Affairs
- VA Rural Health Consultants
- Minority Outreach Coordinators
- Tribal Indian Health Boards
- Tribal Health Program Directors
- Indian Health Service
- Urban Indian Health Programs
- Veteran Service Organizations
- Other Federal, State and Community Partners
OTGR Contact Information

StephanieElaine.Birdwell@va.gov – Director

www.va.gov/tribalgovernment - Main website

Tribal.agreements@va.gov – VA-IHS-THP Reimbursement Agreements

Tribal.Consultation@va.gov – email for tribal leaders to submit inquiries directly to VA
Jim Winkler serves as President and General Secretary of the National Council of the Churches of Christ (NCC) in the USA. He has been president and general secretary since January 1, 2014. In his role, Jim is responsible for the management and operations of the Council, for providing visionary leadership, and for speaking for the Council.

The NCC is comprised of 38 Christian denominations consisting of 30 million church members in 100,000 local congregations. Historic Black, mainline, Orthodox, Anglican, Evangelical, and peace churches make up the National Council of Churches.

The NCC conducts interreligious dialogues, engages in advocacy for peace and justice, works closely with councils of churches around the world, publishes the International Sunday School Lessons, conducts Faith & Order discussions, and owns and manages the copyrights of the Revised Standard Version and New Revised Standard Version of the Holy Bible. Prior to serving as President and General Secretary of the NCC, Jim Winkler was for 13 years the General Secretary of the United Methodist General Board of Church & Society.

Jim is married to Michelle and has three children and one grandchild.
Suicide Prevention: “I’m Good” Video
Ms. Shurhonda Love is a proud Veteran of the U.S. Army who serves as a key member of the national VA Suicide Prevention Program team building partnerships between VA and community stakeholders to include Federal as well as private and non-profit partners.

Ms. Love is active within the Veteran community, where she serves as a national trainer and peer leader for WoVeN, the Women Veterans Network, BRIDGES guide, and is an Alumni of the Wounded Warrior Project. Drawing on her extensive work in the women Veteran community, Ms. Love assists in the management of VA’s suicide prevention partner programs and projects impacting women Veterans. Ms. Love is also recognized as a 2021, Center for Women Veterans Trailblazer. Before joining VA, Ms. Love served as an Assistant National Legislative Director for Disabled American Veterans (DAV). She spent more than 11 years representing the organization’s more than 1 million Veteran members. For 5 years, as an Assistant National Legislative Director, she worked to help advance federal legislative goals of the organization, advocated on policies for disabled Veterans and their families, and helped to safeguard Veteran benefits and services from legislative erosion. For a period of 3 years, she served as a member of VA’s Geriatric and Gerontology Advisory Committee. She also represented DAV before Congress as a subject matter expert on issues related to women Veterans, military sexual trauma, Veteran homelessness, mental health, long term services and supports, and suicide prevention.
Suicide Prevention, and Faith Based Leaders and Communities; A collaboration to S.A.V.E. Lives

May 5, 2021
Ms. Shurhonda Love,
Community Relations Specialist, VA Suicide Prevention Program
Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention
Suicide as a National Problem: We Need Your Help Now

- **National public health problem (as defined by CDC)**
  - Over 46,000 Americans died by suicide in 2018, including 6,435 Veterans.

- **Veteran and service member issue**
  - In 2018, the suicide rate for Veterans was 1.5 times the rate for non-Veteran adults.

**Veteran populations at risk**
- Younger Veterans
- Women Veterans
- Veterans in a period of transition
- Veterans with exposure to suicide (Suicide Loss Survivors)
- Veterans with access to lethal means

*Suicide affects all Americans, not only service members and Veterans.*
### 2018 Key Data Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The rate of suicide was <strong>2</strong> times higher among female Veterans compared with non-Veteran adult women. <em>after accounting for differences in age</em></td>
<td>The rate of suicide was <strong>1.3</strong> times higher among male Veterans compared with non-Veteran adult men. <em>after accounting for differences in age</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Male Veterans ages</th>
<th>Male Veterans ages</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>18–34</strong> experienced the <strong>highest rates of suicide.</strong></td>
<td><strong>55 and older</strong> experienced the <strong>highest count of suicide.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

69% of all Veteran suicide deaths resulted from a firearm injury.
Remembering Our Anchors of Hope

• Anchor 1: From 2017 to 2018, adjusted suicide rates fell among Veterans with recent VHA care, while rising among other Veterans.

• Anchor 2: Among Veterans in VHA care, rates fell from 2005 to 2018 in those with depression, anxiety, and substance use disorders.

• Anchor 3: In 2018, suicide rates decreased for specific Veteran populations engaged in VHA care.

• Anchor 4: The Veteran suicide rate did not increase significantly between 2017 and 2018.

• Anchor 5: There is a groundswell of support for coordinated efforts at the local, regional, and national levels to implement a public health approach to end suicide.

Findings documented in this report highlight the continuing and increasing problem of suicide among U.S. adults and among Veterans, and the need for ongoing efforts to improve methods of suicide risk mitigation. Yet there are within the report signals of improvement and of hope.

Access the reports online:
https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/mentalhealth/suicide_prevention/data.asp
What does it all mean?

- Suicide is preventable
- VHA care matters
- Suicide prevention requires a public health approach, combining clinical and community-based strategies

Everyone has a role to play in suicide prevention

Including YOU!
Faith Based Leaders and Community Organizations

- Reach Veterans in places that VA cannot
- Pastors and other leaders in the community are often the first to know and respond to life altering events
- Some Veterans may be in your churches, or utilizing your facilities but not utilizing VA for care, services or benefits
- Benefit from having Leaders and others within the faith-based community with awareness of VA Suicide Prevention resources
- Benefit from having suicide prevention training
Understanding Veteran Populations At Risk

- Veterans in a period of transition
- Women Veterans
- Veterans / Suicide Loss Survivors
- Young Veterans
- Veterans with access to lethal means
Transitioning Service Member

- Making calls to every newly separated service member three times during their first year of separation
- Help understanding benefits, home loan information, mental health support and more

For questions about VA Solid Start, call our toll-free hotline:
  - 1-800-827-0611
Women Veterans

- Women Veteran in VHA care Suicide rates decreased from 94 in 2017 to 81 in 2018, and age adjusted rates decreased from 15.7 per 100,000 to 14.0
- Among other women Veterans, the number of suicide deaths was unchanged from 2017 to 2018
- A rapidly growing part of the Veteran population, representing about 9 percent of Veterans

The Center for Women Veterans, Women’s Mental Health, and Women Veterans Health Care
Supporting Survivors of Suicide Loss

• Suicide Loss Survivors are at greater risk for substance use disorders and mental health issues than those who haven’t experienced such a loss.

• Suicide loss affects employees, and in turn the workplace. Supporting employees following a loss benefits individual employees and the workplace as a whole. This section provides information on ways suicide postvention can be incorporated into the workplace.

Uniting for Suicide Postvention - Community - MIRECC / CoE (va.gov)
Younger Veterans

- Veterans ages 18-34 had the highest suicide rate in 2018 (45.9 per 100,000).
- The stressors experienced prior to suicide among Veterans varied by age group. Nearly half of Veterans ages 18–34 had experienced relationship problems immediately before suicide.

VA Adaptive Sports and Therapeutic Arts
Lethal Means

- In 2018, 68.2% of Veteran suicide deaths were due to a self-inflicted firearm injury, while 48.2% of non-Veteran adult suicides resulted from a firearm injury.

- In 2018, 69.4% of male Veteran suicide deaths and 41.9% of female Veteran suicide deaths resulted from a firearm injury.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Percentage of Non-Veteran Adult Suicide Deaths</th>
<th>Percentage of Veteran Suicide Deaths</th>
<th>Percentage of Male Non-Veteran Adult Suicide Deaths</th>
<th>Percentage of Male Veteran Suicide Deaths</th>
<th>Percentage of Female Non-Veteran Adult Suicide Deaths</th>
<th>Percentage of Female Veteran Suicide Deaths</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Firearm</td>
<td>48.2%</td>
<td>68.2%</td>
<td>53.5%</td>
<td>69.4%</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poisoning</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>30.3%</td>
<td>31.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suffocation</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
<td>29.8%</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Encourage Storage of Guns & Firearms

- Discuss securing firearms with Veterans, their friends and families, promote community-wide
- Increase in firearm sales (2.5M new gun owners in the first quarter of 2020 (reference NSSF)
- Firearms should be stored unloaded with ammunition separately
- Use a cable lock on the firearm
- Store behind a locking mechanism
- Consider out of home storage (refer to your state laws here)
- Place on the storage device:
  - Pictures of loved ones & reasons for living
  - Suicide Prevention Safety Plan
  - Veterans Crisis Line Sticker
**Medication Storage & Safety**

- Have a family member or friend help manage medication dosages
- Limit the amount of medication access (ask your doctor or pharmacist)
- Keep medications out of children’s sight and reach
- Place Veterans Crisis Line & Safety Plan or other visual reminders where medications are stored
- Use a week-long medication box and store the remaining medications
- Dispose of medication that is:
  - Past expiration date
  - You haven’t used in the past 12 months
  - If you no longer need it
Collaborating

Every day, VA Suicide Prevention Coordinators (SPCs) and their teams, located at every VAMC, connect Veterans with care and educate the community about suicide prevention programs and resources. September is Suicide Prevention Month, a great time to become engaged with your local VA if you have not done so.

- Reach out to your local VA Medical Center Leadership
- Get to know the SPC’s
- Share your events with VA locally
- Invite VA leaders and or SPC’s to your events
- Attend events hosted by VA
What can you do?

1. Mental Health

Get Help

As a Veteran, you might experience difficult life events or challenges after leaving the military. We're here to help no matter how big or small the problem may be. VA has resources to address the unique stresses and experiences that Veterans may face — and we're just a click, call, text, or chat away.

Are you a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one?
Find support anytime day or night.

Resources for Veterans

National Call Center for Homeless Veterans
If you are or know a Veteran who is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, you may contact the National VA Call Center for Homeless Veterans. These resources are also available to Veterans' family members and friends, VA medical centers, VA partners, community agencies, and service providers.

2. Signs of suicidal thinking should be recognized

Ask the most important question of all — “Are you thinking of killing yourself?”

Validate the Veteran’s experience

Encourage treatment and Expedite getting help
Resources
Tools and Resources for Veterans and Supporters

• With a comprehensive offering of resources, VA aims to reach Veterans and their families and friends, as well as providers outside VA health care centers.

- Make the Connection
- Coaching into Care
- Be There
- Social Media Safety Toolkit
- TRAIN Learning Network
Veterans Crisis Line

This resource is available 24/7 to connect Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring VA responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Upon national expansion in July 2022, Veterans will be able to Dial 988 then Press 1 to access the Veterans Crisis Line.

https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/
Find a Local VA SPC at VeteransCrisisLine.net/ResourceLocator

More than 400 SPCs nationwide.
Mental Health Mobile Apps

[Image of various mental health apps available on the VA App Store]

Top Veterans Apps
- VA Launched for Vets
- VA Mobile Scheduling
- Edward Coach
- Uber Driver for Veterans
- My Heal VA

All Veterans Apps
- MindMood Coach
- ACT Coach
- CBT Coach
- PCL Coach
- ASK Coach
- DBT Coach
- TRICARE Pay
- Military Dating
- Transgender Coach
- PTSD Handy Coach
- PTSD Mobile Coach
- PTSD Family Coach
- PTSD App for Soldiers

[Visual representation of app icons and descriptions]

VA App Store
Clic

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
VA S.A.V.E. Training

• Suicide prevention training video that’s available to everyone, 24/7
• Less than 25 minutes long
• Offered in collaboration with the PsychArmor Institute at https://psycharmor.org/S.A.V.E.

Available online for free: psycharmor.org/courses/s-a-v-e/
Stay Connected

Follow us on social media to stay up to date on our programs and initiatives.

@deptvetaffairs
@veteransmtc

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Make the Connection

@deptvetaffairs
@veteranshealth
Elizabeth Estabrooks

Acting Executive Director
Center for Women Veterans
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Elizabeth Estabrooks leads development and implementation of new initiatives that support and enhance the Center for Women Veteran’s mission and vision. She advocates for cultural transformation both within and outside the VA to recognize the service and contributions of women Veterans and servicemembers and raise awareness of the responsibility to treat women Veterans with dignity and respect.

Prior to coming to the VA, Ms. Estabrooks served as the Oregon Woman Veterans Coordinator with the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs where she brought decades of knowledge gained from her career working on relevant issues that included domestic violence, sexual assault, military sexual assault, peer support services, community safety, gender- and culturally-responsive services, and adult learning. As an independent consultant, she worked with clients that included the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; Oregon Department of Human Services; Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training; Battered Women’s Justice Project; Mental Health Partnerships of Pennsylvania; and the Edmonton Police Department in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Elizabeth also spent four years working with the international cyber security and information security training organization, The SANS Institute.

Ms. Estabrooks holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Gender Studies and Political Science from Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, Oregon, where she graduated Summa Cum Laude and a Master of Science in Social Work from Columbia University in New York. She was appointed to the Department of Veterans Affairs 2012 National Domestic Violence Task Force and was a 2013 Fisher-Cummings Washington D.C. Fellow. Ms. Estabrooks is a Cold War Veteran of the United States Army, serving at Harvey Barracks in Kitzingen, Germany from 1978 – 1980.
Serving Women Veterans: Bridging the Gaps

Elizabeth Estabrooks, Acting Executive Director

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Center for Women Veterans
Center for Women Veterans established November 2, 1994 by Congress

**Our Mission:**

- To monitor and coordinate VA’s administration of health Care, benefits, services and programs for Women Veterans.
- To serve as an advocate for cultural transformation (within and in the general public in recognizing the service and contributions of women Veterans and women in the military.
- To raise awareness of the responsibility to treat women Veterans with dignity and respect.
Our Vision:
Modernize the Center to become the portal for all things women Veterans and extend its outreach to all women Veteran Champions, reaching women Veterans nationally and internationally, ensuring equity in access, eligibility, care, and service delivery.
In a 2016 Service Women’s Action Network survey, 74 percent of the respondents said that the general public did not recognize their service.
Women Veteran Population Increases
U.S. Veteran Population Decreases

2018: 9.7% of Veteran population women
• 19.6 million total Veterans
• 17.7 million male Veterans
• 1.9 million women Veterans

2030: 13.5% of Veteran population women
• 15.5 million total Veterans
• 13.4 million male Veterans
• 2.1 million women Veterans

Center for Women Veterans
Two Million Women Veterans & Growing

- 10% of the Veteran population
- 15% of the U.S. Active-Duty force
- 18% of the National Guard & Reserve
- 20% of all new military recruits

Not to Scale
Underserved Communities and CWV

- Round tables
  - American Indian / Alaska Native Roundtable
  - Caribbean Health System Roundtable
  - Guam and Philippines
- Partnership with Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) focusing on minority women Veterans
- MOAs and outreach
  - Women Veterans Interactive
  - Minority Veterans of America
How CWV Connects with Women Veterans

- Conduct outreach to help women Veterans learn about their benefits and eligibility
- Connect women Veterans to the VA through
  - Webinars
  - FB Live events
  - Social Media and website
  - Email
CWV Initiatives

1. #BringWomenVeteransHome2VA
2. 2022 Women Veterans Summit
3. I Am Not Invisible
4. Naming VA Spaces for Women Veterans
5. Partnerships that include:
   I. Memorandums of Agreement
   II. Outreach Initiatives
   III. Program development
6. Social Media outreach
7. Advisory Committee on Women Veterans
8. Special Events

Thanks to Veterans Canteen Service for their support

Center for Women Veterans
How CWV Collaborates with VA Partners

Advisory capacity related to gender and racial/cultural appropriateness in areas of

- Policy
- Health / Mental Health
- Claims
- Research
Together: Building a Soft Place to Land

- Safety
- Support
- Welcoming
- Education
- Outreach
- Inclusive
- Language
- Identify
There’s an App for that!

- **VA App Store** [https://mobile.va.gov/appstore/](https://mobile.va.gov/appstore/)

**VETERAN APPS (4★ +)**
- Beyond MST
- ACT Coach
- Mindfulness Coach
- MOVE Coach
- Pain Coach
- PTSD Coach
- Annie App for Veterans
- Insomnia Coach
- Live Whole Health
- VA FitHeart
- VA Health Chat
- VA Pressure Ulcer Resource
- Ask a Pharmacist

**PROVIDER Apps (★+)**
- Caring4WomenVeterans
- Preconception Care
- Annie App for Clinicians (VA)
- PFA (Psychological 1st Aid)
- VA Video Connect
- COVID Coach
- RX Refill
- VVC Now (Video Link, Official VA use only)
- Revamp App
- Scheduling Manager
- VA Staff Launchpad
- VA Scan (orthotics)

**MENTAL HEALTH APPS (4★ +)**
- Caring4WomenVeterans
- Mindfulness
- PTSD
- ACT Coach
- Beyond MST
- Insomnia Coach
- VA Video Connect
- PFA Mobile
- Stay Quit Coach
Resources

• Other Resources from www.va.gov
• eBenefits: (https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal)
• Caregiver Support: (http://www.caregiver.va.gov/)
• Make the Connection: (http://maketheconnection.net/)
• Homeless Veterans (http://www.va.gov/homeless/index.asp)
• Burials and Memorials: (http://www.cem.va.gov)
• MyHealthE Vet: (https://www.myhealth.va.gov/)
• Office of Survivors Assistance: www.va.gov/survivors/
• Center for Minority Veterans (https://www.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans/)
Thank You

CWV Staff

- Acting Executive Director, Elizabeth Estabrooks
- Advisory Committee Manager, Shannon Middleton
- Communications Manager, Missina Schallus
- International & National Outreach Manager, Ana Claudio
- Outreach Program Manager, Michelle Terry
- Operations/Project Manager, Julia Kelley

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Center for Women Veterans (00W)
810 Vermont Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Phone: 202-461-6193
Fax: 202-273-7092

Website: [www.va.gov/womenvet](http://www.va.gov/womenvet)
Email: [00W@mail.va.gov](mailto:00W@mail.va.gov)

Social Media: @VAWomenVets on Facebook and Twitter
#BringWomenVeteransHome2VA
Reverend Dr. Mark Whitlock, Jr  
Senior Pastor  
Reid Temple AME Church  
Glenn Dale, Maryland

Reverend Whitlock is committed to serving God, family, the AME Church and the community. He, his wife and his mother, are beyond thrilled to be in Glenn Dale, Maryland serving Reid Temple AME Church (RTAME). Prior to his historic July 2019 appointment at RTAME, Rev. Whitlock served as pastor of Christ Our Redeemer A.M.E. Church (COR Church) in Irvine, CA beginning in August 1998. Over the course of is ministerial and nonprofit career, Pastor Whitlock has raised more than $1.2 billion for the kingdom of God through individual donors, corporate, federal and institute grants.

Rev. Whitlock’s vision for Reid Temple is based on Hebrews 10: 23-25. God has called for Reid to become the Beloved Community under Pastor Whitlock’s watch. In order to fulfill this vision, Pastor Whitlock is following the AME mission as well as the tenets of evangelism, discipleship, stewardship and social justice. Using the successful blueprint of COR Church and its Community Development Corporation, Pastor Whitlock is partnering with Reid Temples five 501c3 corporations to take Reid Temple AME Church to the next level. Rev. Whitlock has BA in Religion from University of La/Verne, Master of Business from USC, and is an M.Div and D. Min with the Payne Theological Seminary.

Rev. Whitlock has been happily married to Rev. Hermia Shegog Whitlock for 35 years. He has three sons, Ariel, Mark, III; and Devin.
Anthony L. Love

Interim Executive Director
U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

Mr. Love is currently serving as USICH's Interim Executive Director via detail assignment from the Department of Veterans Affairs. In his role at VA, Mr. Love serves as Senior Advisor and Director of Community Engagement for Veterans Healthcare Administration, Homeless Programs working out of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration Homeless Programs Office. Prior to his tenure at VA, he served as Deputy Director at USICH, where he was responsible for coordinating the state and local work of the Council and served as the lead on Veterans issues for the Council.

Anthony has almost 25 years of experience in homelessness, Veterans, and poverty issues. He holds a BA in Broadcast Journalism from Texas State University, and a Master’s of Public Administration from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.
Statutory Authority and Mission

- Originally authorized by Title II of the **Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 (PL 100-77)** to serve as an independent establishment within the executive branch.

- Most recently reauthorized by the **Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act** of 2009.

- **USICH is charged with** coordinating the federal response to homelessness and creating a national partnership at every level of government and with the private sector to reduce and end homelessness in the nation while maximizing the effectiveness of the federal government in contributing to the end of homelessness.
USICH Roles and Activities

• **The Council** - Oversees strategic movement of federal homelessness initiatives and makes recommendations for improvements.

• **Communications Activities** – Provides tools and resources to strengthen practices.

• **DC-Based Policy Team** – Coordinates strategies across federal agencies, engages industry, issue guidance.

• **Field-based National Initiatives Team** – Drives progress in communities by working with local leaders and community members.

• **Finance and Administration** – Provides the resources for teams to effectively implement and disseminate policy priorities.

• **Legislative Affairs** – Articulates the agency’s policy position and connects the overarching agency priorities to congressional and governmental partners.

• **Office of the Executive Director** - Links the administration priorities back to the agency, responsible for oversight and implementation of the agency’s mission.
Coordinating the Federal Response

• The Council

• Interagency Working Groups

• Performance measurement and accountability
Interagency Working Groups

Population Specific:
- Veterans
- People with Disabilities Experiencing Chronic Homelessness
- Families with Children
- Unaccompanied Youth
- American Indians/Alaskan Natives

Issue or Strategy Based:
- COVID-19 and Homelessness
- Transitioning Service Members
- Employment and Homelessness
- Implementation of Federal Definitions of Homelessness
Creating a National Partnership

• Regional and State Interagency Councils
• Governors, Mayors, County Elected Leaders
• Faith-based and Nonprofit Organizations
• Private Sector
• Philanthropy
USICH Regions: National Initiatives Team

Dark Blue:
Helene Schneider
helene.schneider@usich.gov

Red:
Katy Miller
katy.miller@usich.gov

Light Gray:
Beverley Ebersold
beverley.ebersold@usich.gov

Dark Gray:
Beverley Ebersold
beverley.ebersold@usich.gov

Light Blue:
Joe Savage
joe.savage@usich.gov
Strengthening Practices

- More than **80** new resources a year on key issues and strategies
- Twice-monthly newsletter to more than **22,000 leaders**
- Conferences and training events around the country
- Media engagement on local and national issues
Point-in-Time Counts, 2010 – 2020

Overall Homelessness: 9%
Chronic Homelessness: 4%
Family Homelessness: 29%
Veteran Homelessness: 50%
Youth* Homelessness: 10.7%


*2017-2020
Progress So Far

- **81 communities and 3 states** have ended Veteran homelessness
- **4 communities** have ended chronic homelessness

As of February 22, 2021
Essential Strategies Driving Progress

- Federal agencies working in closer partnership with states and local communities to support their strategies and actions.

- Setting ambitious goals and asking leaders to publicly commit to them to generate significant momentum on a problem once believed to be unsolvable.
Essential Strategies Driving Progress

• **Defining what it means to end homelessness** provides government and communities alike clear goalposts to focus their efforts and resources.

• **Increasing focus on helping people access permanent housing** as the platform for achieving other goals and improving outcomes – employment, education, health, public safety, reduced emergency costs.
Essential Strategies Going Forward

• **Increasing focus on helping people access permanent housing**, by promoting the use of a “housing First approach that will quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry.

• **Commitment to ending Veteran homelessness once and for all** through a whole of government approach by collaboration and coordination of resources.

• **Help Communities to strategically and effectively use American Rescue Plan resources** to rapidly rehouse individuals and families and increase supply of affordable housing.
Essential Strategies Going Forward

• **Address disparities and elevate policy solutions**, rooted in evidence-based practices, for communities of color that are disproportionately represented within the homelessness services system.

• **Honor the unique government-to-government relationship**, with tribal sovereign nations by working together with tribal nations in furthering meaningful involvement in federal decision-making within the scope of Council.
Intermission

5 minutes
Sean C. Clark

National Director
Veterans Justice Program
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Mr. Clark serves as National Director, Veterans Justice Programs in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. VA’s Veterans Justice Programs include Health Care for Reentry Veterans, which provides outreach and linkage to VA services for Veterans reentering communities after long-term incarceration in state and federal prisons, and Veterans Justice Outreach, which serves Veterans involved with the “front end” of the criminal justice system (police, courts, and jails). Together, these programs are a prevention-oriented component of VA’s effort to prevent and end homelessness among Veterans, targeting the close relationship between incarceration and homelessness. Their mission also includes facilitating Veterans’ access to legal services, including by supporting the growing number of free legal clinics operating in VA facilities.

Mr. Clark joined the VA in 2007 as a Presidential Management Fellow. He has also served as a Special Assistant United States Attorney in Washington, DC. Mr. Clark earned his J.D. from William & Mary School of Law.
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (VHA)
HOMELESS PROGRAMS OFFICE

VETERANS JUSTICE PROGRAMS (VJP)

Sean Clark, J.D.
National Director, VJP, VHA Homeless Programs Office

May 5, 2021
Veterans in Prison and Jail


Note: For years in which prison or jail inmates were not surveyed, the total prison or jail population was multiplied by the veteran distribution from the most recent survey. See Methodology.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics data collections on prison and jail inmates and U.S. Census Bureau population data collections. See table 1 for complete list.
Incarceration as an adult male is the single highest risk factor of ever being homeless (NSHAPC/Burt, 1996)

“Lengthy periods of incarceration in remote locations often attenuate the social and family ties that are crucial for successful reentry into the community.” (p. 9-5).

“(E)ven short term incarcerations may disrupt lives and interfere with the ability to maintain employment and housing.” (p. 9-6).

(Metraux, Roman, and Cho on prison reentry/jail stays, National Symposium on Homelessness Research, 2007)
Mission
To identify justice-involved Veterans and contact them through outreach, in order to facilitate access to VA services at the earliest possible point. Veterans Justice Programs accomplish this by building and maintaining partnerships between VA and key elements of the criminal justice system.

Vision
Every justice-involved Veteran will have access to the care, services and other benefits to help him or her maximize their potential for success and stability in the community, including by avoiding homelessness and ending their involvement in the justice system.
Limits on VA Services for Incarcerated Veterans

• Can provide:
  – Outreach, assessment, referral and linkage to services
  – Treatment for justice-involved Veterans who are not incarcerated

• Title 38 CFR 17.38 (c)(5) does not allow VHA to provide:
  – Hospital and outpatient care for a Veteran who is
    • Either a patient or inmate in an institution of another government agency
  • If that agency has a duty to give that care or services
**Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO)**
- Gain access to the jail
- Identify veterans and determine eligibility
- Conduct outreach, assessment, and case management for Veterans in local courts and jails
- Provide/coordinate training for law enforcement personnel
- Linkage to VA and community services/resources

- Number of VJO Specialists funded: 383
- Number of local jail facilities serviced: 1,831
- Number of Veterans receiving VJO services (Oct. 2009 – June, 2020): 226,162

**Health Care for Reentry Veterans (HCRV)**
- Gain access to the prison
- Educate Veterans’ groups about VA and VA services
- Identify Veterans and Determine Eligibility
- Reentry Planning
- Linkage to VA and Community Services

- Number of HCRV Specialists funded: 44
- Number of state and federal prisons serviced: 996
- Number of incarcerated Veterans receiving reentry services (Aug. 2007–June, 2020): 91,162
Veterans Treatment Courts:

- Hybrid Drug and Mental Health Treatment Courts, serving Veteran defendants
- Volunteer Veteran Mentors
- 601 courts operating in 47 states and one territory

VA Contributions:

- VJO Specialist on treatment team; in courtroom when in session
  - Linkage to health care services at VA medical centers
  - Regular updates on Veterans’ progress in VA treatment
- VA does not establish, fund, operate, or set eligibility rules for VTCs
Most Veterans seen in VJO and HCRV have a mental health (VJO 72%; HCRV 31%) or substance use disorder (VJO 56%; HCRV 18%) diagnosis, or both (VJO 48%; HCRV 14%).

In Fiscal Year 2019:

- 4% of Veterans seen in HCRV had an OUD diagnosis
- 11% of Veterans seen in VJO had an OUD diagnosis
Recent research by a VA investigator demonstrated that:

- Within one year of their VJO outreach visit, 94% of Veterans with mental health diagnoses had at least one VHA mental health visit; within one year of their HCRV visit, 88% of Veterans with mental health diagnoses had at least one VHA mental health visit.

- Within the same timeframe, 72% of VJO Veterans with substance use disorder diagnoses had at least one VHA substance use disorder visit, and 58% of HCRV Veterans with substance use disorder diagnoses had at least one VHA substance use disorder visit.
How do I connect with a VJP Specialist?

• Contact your nearest VJO specialist here: https://www.va.gov/homeless/vjo.asp#contacts

• Contact your nearest HCRV specialist here: https://www.va.gov/homeless/reentry.asp#contacts
• Comments or Questions?

• Health Care for Reentry Veterans: http://www.va.gov/homeless/reentry.asp

• Veterans Justice Outreach: http://www.va.gov/homeless/VJO.asp
VJP National Leadership Team

- Sean Clark, J.D.
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Imam Dr. Talib M. Shareef

President / Imam
Masjid Muhammad, The Nation’s Mosque
Washington, DC

Imam Shareef, is a retired U.S. Air Force member with 30+ years of service; he has a Doctorate Degree and Chaplain’s Certification from Global Oved Dei Seminary and University, an MBA from American Intercontinental University, a Diploma from the Imam Muhammad ibn Saud Islamic University, and the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center in Arabic and Middle East studies. He is a student of the late Imam W. Deen Mohammed, Muslim-American Spokesman for Human Salvation.

Imam Shareef served as Imam in five U.S. cities and seven military locations around the world. His Majesty Mohammed VI, the King of Morocco, presented Imam Shareef the Kingdom’s highest Royal Medal and honor for his outstanding interfaith leadership. He was the first Imam with military service to open a session of the U.S. Congress with prayer. Imam Shareef was honored to be recognized for his service by President Obama at the White House. Serves as Dean and Professor of Islamic Studies at the Global Oved Dei Seminary University. He participated in signing the Abuja Peace Declaration organized by the International Global Peace Foundation and the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution in Nigeria.

Imam Shareef is the Director of American Muslims Against Terrorism and Extremism Initiative, a model program funded by Congress through the Department of Homeland Security that challenged the narrative extremist use to radicalize. Recipient of the IWDM Global Ambassador for Peace Award; the NAACP Roy Wilkins Leadership Award.

Imam Shareef and wife, Tahirah, have three children, served as custodial parent for three others and have fostered several children.
2021 CFBNP Virtual Faith Summit

May 5, 2021

Masjid Muhammad, The Nation’s Mosque

Veteran’s Services

President/Imam Dr. Talib M. Shareef
Overview

• Brief History of Veterans Service
  • Masjid Muhammad
  • Muslim American Veterans Assn (MAVA)

• National MAVA Post

• Services / Activities
Brief History of Veterans Services

- Imam W.D. Mohammad Picks Up the USA Flag
  - Mid-1970s
  - New World Patriotism Day
- Veteran’s Committee Est. @ MM (1977)
- Muslim Military Members (1990)
- Muslim American Military Association (1994)
- Muslim American Veterans Association (1997)
History

- Currently has 16 MAVA Post Nationwide
- Headquarters & Post 1 @ Masjid Muhammad
Programs, Services, Activities

- Believers in Uniform – Annual Conference
  - Veterans Support Workshops
- Veterans Family Health Fair Screenings
- Monthly Food / Grocery Distributions
- Financial Aid/Benefits/Shelter Assistance & Referrals
- Gifts Programs (Birthdays, Wedding, Deaths, etc)
- Veterans Memorial & Wreath Laying Events
- Veterans Activities (Field Trips, Movies, Exercises, Bowling, Chess/Cards/Bingo, Feed the Homeless)
- Veterans Benefits Education Seminars
- Parades & Veteran’s Day Recognition Events
- Veteran’s Affordable Housing
Kevin Weaver
President & CEO
The Warrior’s Journey

Kevin serves as President/CEO and Co-Founder of The Warrior’s Journey and is a U.S. Air Force veteran. He served in the USAF Security Forces at the 24th SPS and in the Office of Special Investigations at U.S. Southern Command in the Republic of Panama from 1983-1987. Leveraging his 30 years of pastoral leadership experience, he utilizes his skills to help develop and advance the vision of The Warrior’s Journey.

Kevin and his wife KyAnne have three sons; Kaleb and his wife Michaelah and twin daughters, Norah and Charis, staff Pastors at Abundant Life Church, Lee’s Summit, MO; Keith, Capt. U.S. Army Special Forces, Ft. Bragg, NC. along with his wife Kelli and their children, Thomas and Taylor; and Klay, 1st LT U.S. Army Armor officer, 101st Airborne, Ft Campbell, KY., and his wife, Amanda.
THE FOUR DELIVERABLES OF THE WARRIOR’S JOURNEY

• ONLINE INTERACTIVE COMMUNITY

• PROVIDE RESOURCES

• PROVIDE SERVICES

• PARTNERSHIPS
ONLINE INTERACTIVE COMMUNITY
Challenges

Isolation
Insignificance
Deep Loss
Fear
Family Brokenness
Moral Injury
Separation/Reintegration
Financial Difficulty
Lack of Identity
Post-Traumatic Stress
Deployment
Helplessness
HOW IT WORKS

Search
People search for answers to their life issues unique to the military community.

Present
They find faith as the answer through TWJ articles and videos.

Connect
They interact with connectors who address the immediate need and direct them to TWJ resources and vetted partners.

Grow
They engage practical resources and vetted partners to equip them to navigate life.

Belong
They are directed to a Chapel, local church or faith community.

The Warrior's Journey partners with additional organizations to provide warriors with referral support.
Latest Statistics

628,679 Visits
24,437 Responses
4,729 Connections
Curriculum for Invisible Wounds Care
* Beyond Trauma Training System
* Chaplains Resource
* Invisible Wounds Center (Pensacola, FL)
* Military Friendly Church Workshops

Small Group Resources
* Surrender Only to One
* The Warrior’s Challenge
* The Ethos Challenge
* Indivisible – The Movie Discussion Guide

Podcasts/Devotional Subscriptions
* Weekly Episodes
* Daily devotionals sent directly to email

Free Gifts and Resources
* The Warriors Bible
* Military Bible Stick
* Devotionals for Military Spouses
* Path to Resiliency Books
Military Friendly Church Workshops

Workshop Includes
* Awareness to unique issues
* Pastoral and staff training
* Tools for small group development
* Ongoing support for military ministries in local churches

US Military Services/Workshops
* Unit Ministry Training, UMT
* C2C Retreats (Care to the Caregiver) Germany/South Korean/Hawaii
* Special Operations Pre/Post Deployment resiliency workshops
* VA Assistance
* Referral Services

SERVICES
KMRC/Rhema Cafe
Kaiserslautern Military Resiliency Center, Germany

Coffee Shop: Rhema Café

**Workshops**
* Conducted 6 days a week
* Practical options
* Presented by Behavioral Health Personnel from RAFB
* PTS, Moral Injury, Family
Larry Stubblefield

Associate Administrator
Office of Veterans Business Development
U.S. Small Business Administration

Mr. Larry Stubblefield is the Associate Administrator for the Office of Veterans Business Development (OVBD) at the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). In this role, Mr. Stubblefield oversees the OVBD team in formulating, implementing, administering, and promoting policies and programs that equip veterans, service members (active duty, National Guard, Reserve), and military spouse-owned small businesses with counseling and education, access to capital, and contracting opportunities.

Mr. Stubblefield joined the SBA in 2016, serving as the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil Rights, and most recently as the Acting Associate Administrator for OVBD. Prior to the SBA, he held numerous leadership positions with the US Army, including Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Diversity and Leadership and Functional Chief Representative for the Army’s Equal Employment Opportunity Career Program.

Mr. Stubblefield has first-hand military experience, having served 30 years as an enlisted soldier and active-duty officer in the US Army. In 2005, he retired from the military as a Colonel and was appointed to the Senior Executive Service. He holds an MBA from the University of Tennessee and a BS in Business Management from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.
Office of Veterans Business Development

Larry Stubblefield
Associate Administrator, OVBD
Contact Information

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FACEBOOK.COM/BOOTS2BUSINESS
TWITTER.COM/BOOTS2BUSINESS
Conrad Washington

Director
Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (CFBNP)
U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs

Conrad Washington serves as the Director with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (CFBNP) within the Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs (OPIA). In this capacity, he provides collaborative strategic leadership to develop and cultivate partnerships nationwide with faith-based, non-profit, and community organizations. These partnerships assist to increase awareness of VA programs and services for Veterans, their families, survivors, caregivers and other beneficiaries.

Previously, Mr. Washington served in the Corporate Senior Executive Management Office (CSEMO) delivering an enterprise-wide approach to executive personnel management for the VA.

Mr. Washington retired from the United States Marine Corps with 20 years of active-duty service to include an infantry battalion combat tour in 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II (OIF-II). Positions during his military career include; Administrative/Personnel Chief, Senior Drill Instructor, Formal Schools Instructor, and Adjunct Faculty.
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