

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

VA Northern California Health Care System
10535 Hospital Way
Mather, CA 95655

Contact:

Erika Y. Figueroa

Interim Chief of Public Affairs

Phone: 916-843-9247

Email: Erika.Figueroa@va.gov

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 1, 2023

VA Northern California provides free support to survivors of military sexual trauma

SACRAMENTO — As part of its annual campaign during Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April, the VA Northern California Health Care System (VANCHCS) is working to heal the impacts of military sexual trauma (MST) and to inform Veterans who experienced MST about VA’s free recovery related services.

“The healing process can be different for every Veteran,” said David Stockwell, Medical Center Director for VANCHCS. “Effective treatment and support can make all the difference. Our goal is to provide a supportive space and any needed clinical attention for those who experienced MST. VA is here to help. VA encourages everyone to learn about MST and its effects and to explore opportunities to support the recovery of MST survivors in the Northern California area.”

VA offers free counseling and treatment to military Veterans for mental and physical health conditions related to MST. They do not need to have reported the MST experience at the time or have any documentation of it to receive care. They may also be eligible to receive these services even if they do not qualify for other VA care.

Sexual assault and harassment must never be condoned or tolerated. These experiences can impact a person’s mental and physical health for many years. VA’s Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program (IPVAP) provides support services and resources for Veterans who experience sexual assault and intimate partner violence. For more information, visit www.socialwork.va.gov/IPV.

Northern California Veterans who experienced MST and would like to learn more about VA support may call 925-372-2554 to speak with VANCHCS’ MST coordinator. They can also visit [military sexual trauma care page](#). Information about VA’s national MST and MST-related services is available at www.MentalHealth.va.gov/msthome.

###