ONLINE EVENT: VETERANS AND HOMELESSNESS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2016 @ 1:00 P.M. EDT

COLUMBIA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
Lt. Col. Franklin Swayne currently serves as director of the cadet counseling center at the United States Air Force Academy. Lt Col Swayne led a mental health response team to the Pentagon after Sept 11, and has deployed three times in support of overseas operations. As a mental health provider in the Air Force, he has provided extensive assessment/treatment for those diagnosed with PTSD.
What is a veteran?

A veteran (from the Latin Vetus, meaning old) is a person who has had long service or experience in a particular occupation or field

• Source: Wikipedia.org/wiki/veteran

For the Dept of Veteran Affairs, there is no standardized legal definition of “military veteran.” Veteran benefits weren't created all at one time. They've been added one-by-one for over 200 years by Congress.

• Each time Congress passed a new law authorizing and creating a new veteran benefit, they included eligibility requirements for that particular benefit. Whether or not one is considered a "veteran" by the federal government depends entirely upon which veteran program or benefit one is applying for.

• Source: Military.com

“Veteran” can mean from 1 month of active duty service to up to 30+ years, deployed or not.
For transitioning military members:

• DD 214 - Certificate of release or discharge from active duty military service

• TAPs – Transition Assistance Program

• InTransition – coaching, empowering and connecting those who have served
  • [http://intransition.dcoe.mil/](http://intransition.dcoe.mil/)
39,471 Homeless Veterans

560,000 Veterans living doubled up
(estimate based on total doubled up population (6,999,086) times veteran subpopulation (.08)

1,400,000 unstably housed Veterans
(rent is greater than or equal to 50% of their income)
Rose Stauffer, a licensed clinical social worker, reacts to her client Manuel “Al” Alcantara’s humor during his final therapy session at the inpatient posttraumatic stress disorder clinic at the Bay Pines Veterans Administration Healthcare Center in Bay Pines, Fla. Oct. 29, 2015. (DoD News photo by EJ Hersom)
Cadence, a four-month-old service dog-in-training, rests on the Pentagon lawn during a meeting with Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta and his dog, Bravo, May 23, 2012. Cadence is a member of the Warrior Transition Brigade Service Dog Training Program which was created to meet the needs of service members and veterans with psychological and physical injuries.
Once homeless, veterans find refuge in Eastside housing complex
by Esmeralda Bermudez

For the first time in 30 years, this veteran has a place to call home.

Jamal Haqq, a former Marine, became unemployed during the recession. On Monday, he moved into the Guy Gabaldon Apartments in Boyle Heights, an affordable housing complex for homeless veterans. People ask me how I feel, and you know what I tell them?” he said. “Resurrected.”
(Mel Melcon / Los Angeles Times)
CSSW and veterans

Prior webinar in this series:


Videos of CSSW Students Who are Veterans:

– Air Force Veteran Chooses Social Work as a Career: https://youtu.be/fLsFkK0dHd0

CSSW and Cohen Veterans Network Form Partnership to Strengthen Field of Veterans’ Mental Health:

Columbia University resources for students who are veterans

• Military and Veterans Affairs, Columbia University
  – http://militaryandveteranaffairs.columbia.edu/

• Student Financial Services: Veterans and Service Members
  – http://sfs.columbia.edu/departments/veterans-service

• US Military Veterans of Columbia University:
  – http://cu-milvets.com/
  – https://www.facebook.com/CUMilvets/
Resources - Homelessness

- [https://www.usich.gov/opening-doors](https://www.usich.gov/opening-doors)

Resources - Military Culture

- [https://www.apa.org/about/gr/issues/military/military-culture.pdf](https://www.apa.org/about/gr/issues/military/military-culture.pdf)
- Resource from Brendan Bechard on Military (download)

Resource – Public Service Loan Forgiveness

Further Reading


References and Photo credits

• References:
  – http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml

• Photo links (creative commons use allowed):
  – https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sustainment_Soldiers_return_home_from_15_months_in_Iraq_DVIDS126319.jpg
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  – https://www.flickr.com/photos/401stafs/8784401092/in/photostream/