My Country ‘Tis of Thee: Respite Care for our Nation’s Heroes

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Get in Tune with Respite
2014 National Lifespan Respite Conference
Nashville, TN
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Agenda

- Welcome & Introduction to Easter Seals
- Military Caregivers Overview
- Public Policy Landscape in the Military Respite Care Arena
- Military Culture
- Opportunities and Challenges in Meeting the Respite Care Needs of Military Caregivers
Established in 1919
Largest health charity in US, with 550+ service sites
  Also provide services and supports in Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico and Australia
Premier nonprofit provider of services for people with disabilities and other special needs and their families, working to create a world of inclusion, empowerment and independence.
Support individuals with all disabilities across the lifespan with expertise in:
  Young children
  Mobility/transportation
  Youth transitioning from school to work
  Adults & seniors with disabilities
  Military service members, Veterans & their families
Easter Seals: Helping Veterans Since WW II

- Coast Guard
- Air Force
- Marines
- Navy
- Army
Expanding services and reaching out to returning military, Veterans, their families and families of the fallen to assure they receive the services they need, when they need them.

- Community OneSource™
  - (866) 423-4981 or veterans@easterseals.com
  - One access point to needed resources
- Veteran job training and employment programs
- The Dixon Center
  - www.thedixoncenter.org

"From his tireless work in the Pentagon to the emergence of Dixon Center, Col. David Sutherland inspires and encourages all of us to break down the silos and never forget to put the Veteran first." -- Admiral Michael Mullen, U.S. Navy (Retired)

- Military/Veteran Caregiver Training & Support
National Veteran Caregiver Training Program
- Initiating 4th year of multi-modal training for Caregivers of Veterans with disabilities (English/Spanish) thru contract with VA
- Training provided to over 22,000 Caregivers to date
- National Partners (Atlas Research, National Alliance for Caregiving, Family Caregiver Alliance, Axiom Resource Management, and National Alliance for Hispanic Health)

USO Caregiver Training

Military Caregiver Webinar Series
- www.easterseals.com/carewebinar

Corporation for National & Community Service:
- Partnership with University of Maryland
- 7 module training for over 500 AmeriCorps volunteers across the US providing respite care for service members/veterans & their families.
Military Caregivers Overview

- National Alliance for Caregiving
  - Caregivers of Veterans – Serving on the Homefront (Nov. 2010)
  - [www.caregiving.org](http://www.caregiving.org)
  - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RV0pWd7x5YM&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RV0pWd7x5YM&feature=related)
  - Six focus groups in Bethesda, MD, San Antonio, TX, and San Diego, CA along with in-depth interviews with 42 caregivers of veterans. Also an on-line and paper survey of 462 caregivers of veterans.

- RAND Corporation
  - Hidden Heroes: America’s Military Caregivers
  - [www.rand.org](http://www.rand.org)
  - [http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR499.html](http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR499.html)
  - National survey of 1,129 military caregivers, 1,828 civilian caregivers, and 1,163 non-caregivers along with a comprehensive environmental scan (web search, snowball sampling, review of National Resource Directory, & outreach at mtgs. and events.)
5.5 million Military Caregivers with 1.1 million supporting service members/veterans who served post-9/11

- Pre-9/11 similar to overall caregiving population
- Post-9/11 are younger, less likely to have a support network, more likely to be employed & needing to make workplace adjustments, more likely to meet criteria for probable depression, more likely to be a spouse – 33% (25% are parents).
- High levels of caregiver burden (65% vs. 31% nationally) NAC
- Long-term caregiving trajectory
- “Value” of caregiving – Pre-9/11 ($10.6 Billion), Post-9/11 ($3 Billion), Civilian ($41 Billion)
- Gaps in services – eligibility requirements age 60+, programs focus on veteran/service member needs vs. caregivers, RESPITE care
Behavioral Health Concerns

- Behavioral health: 64%
  - 36% (red)
  - 33% (gray)
- Traumatic brain injury: 20%
  - 10% (red)
  - 10% (gray)
- Chronic (e.g., cancer): 77%
  - 35% (red)
  - 63% (gray)
- Neurological: 6%
  - 31% (red)
  - 29% (gray)
Military Caregiver Public Policy Landscape

- Overall Environment

- Caregiver Specific Policy Trends and Proposals
  - VA Caregiver Support Program – GAO Report
  - Community-Based Caregiver Policy
  - Military and Veterans Caregiver Caucus
Knowledge Check – Military Culture

- Which branch of service is responsible for cyberspace defense?
- During peacetime, this branch of service does not report to the Department of Defense? Which Department does it report to?
- Place these military conflicts in chronological order:
  - Operation Enduring Freedom
  - Korean War
  - Operation Iraqi Freedom
  - Gulf War
- What are the three major line organizations within the Dept. of Veterans Affairs?
- What percentage of Veterans are women? Are over age 65?
Army

- Since 1775, largest and oldest military service branch
- Main ground force of United States
- Comprised of active duty and Reserves
- Army Reserve managed by federal government
- Army National Guard managed by each state
- Army National Guard used during natural disasters when Governor of state declares state of emergency

www.army.mil
Navy

- U.S. Navy is largest fleet in the world
- Mission is to preserve the freedom of the seas
- Active duty and Reserves

www.navy.mil

Image Credit: Spirit of America / Shutterstock.com
Marines

- Called the “infantry of the Navy”
- Known for ability to respond on short notice
- Use U.S. Navy for logistical and administrative support
- Specialize in amphibious operations
- Maintain active duty component and reservist component

www.marines.mil
Air Force

- Established in 1947
- Aerial warfare branch
- Previously part of Army
- Mission is to fly, fight and win the air, space, and cyberspace
- Has active duty component and reservist component
  - Air Force Reserves
  - Air National Guard
- Air National Guard serves as state’s air force militia

www.af.mil
Coast Guard

- Since 1790 have safeguarded U.S. maritime interests
- Smallest branch of military
- Has active duty and reserves
- Previously part of U. S. Department of Transportation
- In 2003 transferred to Department of Homeland Security
- During wartime, Coast Guard reports to U.S. Navy

www.uscg.mil
Department of Veteran Affairs

- Established in 1930 by Congress to provide benefits and services to service members when discharged
- 1989 elevated to cabinet level office
- Administered through three organizations
  - Veterans Benefit Administration
  - National Cemetery Administration
  - Veterans Health Administration

www.va.gov
Variety of Veterans

- Veterans have served in different branches and military conflicts
- Over 40% of veterans are age 65+

8.3% are Women

22 Million Veterans
WARRIOR ETHOS
I will always place the mission first
I will never accept defeat
I will never quit
I will never leave a fallen comrade
Respite Scenario Activity

- Form groups of 3 – 6 participants
- Read the scenario
- Discuss each question in group
- Write answers to questions
- Be prepared to share with class
Armed Conflicts Across Generations

- Armed conflicts represented on a flip chart
  - World War II (1939 – 1945)
  - Korean War (1950 – 1953)
  - Gulf War (1991)

- Write your thoughts about that conflict on the flip chart
- As each conflict is discussed, take notes in your Workbook
Branches of the U.S. Military

- U.S. Marine Corps – [www.marines.mil](http://www.marines.mil)
- U.S. Coast Guard – [www.uscg.mil](http://www.uscg.mil)

Military Ranks for all Branches of Service

- [www.militaryfactory.com](http://www.militaryfactory.com) (see military ranks)
- [www.vaughns-1-pagers.com](http://www.vaughns-1-pagers.com) (in politics section)
Reading list

- The Greatest Generation, (World War II)
- The Long Walk: A Story of War and Life that Follows, (Iraq)
- Frank and Me at Mundung-Ni: A Korean War Memoir, (Korean War)
- The Killing Zone: My Life in the Vietnam War, (Vietnam War)
- Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption, (World War II)
- From Desert Storm to Iraqi Freedom: One Soldier’s Story, (Gulf War & Operation Iraqi Freedom)
Opportunities & Challenges

- Military respite needs across the lifespan
- Specialized training needs
- Creative models of service delivery
- Leverage momentum behind military caregivers
- Opportunities related to diversified funding streams
- Challenges related to diversified funding streams
- Engaging Veterans themselves in provision of respite
- VA Caregiver Support program & Veteran Directed Respite initiative
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