Partnering to Solve Veterans’ Transportation Needs
Overview

This presentation is intended to provide community transportation providers with a better understanding of:

- Veterans transportation needs
- Veterans organizations to engage in creating transportation solutions
Who is a Veteran?

“The term ‘veteran’ means a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.”

A disabled veteran is someone who has a service connected disability which is a medically diagnosed condition that was incurred in or aggravated by military service.

Active duty: Full-time duty in the Armed Forces, other than active duty for training (National Guard and Reserve Component)

Definitions from 38 USC § 101
What is the Size of the Veteran Population?

According to Dept. of Veterans Affairs for FY 2011:

- Total veterans: 22,234,242
- Disabled veterans: 3,354,741
What We Know About Returning Veterans

Tend to possess an overall skill set that shows tremendous benefit in the civilian workforce:

Commitment and loyalty
Dedication and focus
“Get the job done” attitude
Unsurpassed experience working under pressure
Experience in conflict resolution
Multicultural experiences
Security issues on an international scale
What We Know About Injured Returning Service Members

• >49,000 service members have returned with injuries.
• *Signature injuries* of the current conflicts are unseen
• Nearly *one in five* veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars has dealt with depression or stress disorder and up to 300,000 have been diagnosed with PTSD.
• 19% report they might have experienced a traumatic brain injury (TBI), usually as the result of a roadside bomb
• About 60,000 have sustained mild TBI
Understanding Veterans Injuries

Service Members are returning with debilitating wounds and injuries that include

- burns, spinal cord injuries, amputations,
- visual impairments, hearing loss

and the two signature, but sometimes invisible wounds

PTSD and TBI

Collectively, we need to ensure these conditions that impact employment and independence are addressed efficiently and effectively with a high degree of success.
Transportation Issues: All Vets

Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University (IVMF), in *Supporting the Employment of Veterans & Military Families*:

Cites transportation as a major issue for veterans and military families in accessing employment.

Transportation Issues: Homeless Female Vets

DOL Women’s Bureau (WB) Report of Listening Sessions with Homeless Women Veterans:

“Homeless women veterans face many barriers to seeking services, including not knowing where to turn for help, lack of awareness/understanding of veterans benefits (especially education benefits) and eligibility requirements, mistrust of authority, shame, pride, lack of transportation.” (emphasis added)

http://www.dol.gov/wb/programs/listeningsessions.htm
Who’s Supporting for Vets Transportation?
The Wounded Warrior Leader - Medical Rehabilitation Handbook

The assistance that an SFAC [Soldier and Family Assistance Center] provides can take many forms. Some services at an SFAC include assistance in money management, identification cards, ground transportation…”

“ARC also provides thousands of volunteers in VA medical centers. ARC also helps with transportation to treatment appointments”
Connecting Transportation Providers w/Veterans’ Service Organizations
Who are Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs)?

List of U.S. military & veteran organizations, by state or category

http://www.vetfriends.com.organizations
VSOs to Know

American Legion www.legion.org
Disabled American Veterans (DAV) www.dav.org
AMVETS www.amvets.org
Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) www.pva.org
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) www.vfw.org
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) www.iava.org
Student Veterans of America (SVA) www.studentveterans.org
Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) www.woundedwarriorproject.org
National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV) www.nchv.org
Military Service Organizations (MSOs)

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) www.moaa.org
Retired Officers Association (ROA) www.roa.org
National Military Family Association (NMFA) www.militaryfamily.org
Others that Serve Veterans/Military

National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA)
www.nasdva.org and click “Links” to find your State Director

Adjutants General Association of the United States
http://agaus.org/assets/templates/agaus/tagroster.pdf

The American Red Cross
www.redcross.org and search for “transportation”

U.S. Department of Labor Veterans’ Employment and Training Service (VETS)
www.dol.gov/vets

VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Service
http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre
Military Services
Wounded Warrior Programs


**Navy:** [http://safeharbor.navylive.dodlive.mil/](http://safeharbor.navylive.dodlive.mil/)

**Air Force:** [http://www.woundedwarrior.af.mil](http://www.woundedwarrior.af.mil)

**Marines:** [http://woundedwarriorregiment.org](http://woundedwarriorregiment.org)
VI  Follow-up Activities

- Contact your local VSO/MSO (VSOs do not have Regional representatives, only national, state, and local)
- Review the referenced literature
- Develop a “resource/contact directory”
- Identify and contact your DOL VETS Regional and State Directors
- Identify and contact your VA VR&E Officers
- Check the Military Wounded Warrior Program websites to see if you have any activity in your catchment area
Additional Information

For information on this presentation, contact:

Ron Drach
Drach Consulting
consultrwd@yahoo.com
240-413-3183