



***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.

[http://vets.syr.edu/wp-content/uploads/
2012/08/guidetoleadingpractices1.pdf](http://vets.syr.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/guidetoleadingpractices1.pdf)

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...”

<http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a552878.pdf>

“ARC also provides thousands of volunteers in VA medical centers. ARC also helps with transportation to treatment appointments”

<http://www.thearc/page.aspx?pid=2730>

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

Army: http://wtc.army.mil/soldier/careers_and_employment.html

Navy: <http://safeharbor.navylive.dodlive.mil/>

Air Force: <http://www.woundedwarrior.af.mil>

Marines: <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
- Review PPT presentation “A Guide to Serving your Military Community” March 7, 2012
- 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

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