From Foxhole to Family-room

Exploring the Unique Needs, and Challenges Faced by American Military and Veteran Families
➤ 22 Million Veterans in the US today

➤ 68% of Veterans are married

➤ Nearly half of current service-members, and a third of Veterans have at least one dependent child in the home.

Combat Veterans returning with TBI rates as high as 1 in 5 and 1 in 3 will suffer the effects of Post Traumatic Stress and/or Major Depressive Disorder.

(Aponte, 2010; Department of Defense 2014; Tanielian 2008)
Potential for Violence in the Military/Veteran Home

- Nationally, 1670 children have been killed due to abuse and neglect annually since 2011.
- DOD reports that although substantiated abuse and neglect have varied in the past decade, there is a meaningful year-to-year upward trend since 2009.
- Most common abuse in military homes is physical abuse and ranged between a third, and three-quarters of the cases.
- About 15% of military members have been identified in engaging in intimate partner violence, a rate which has climbed at a rate of about two percent per year.

(Burge, 2016; DoD Family Advocacy Program, 2017; Fraser, 2011; NCAND, 2017; Ohye, 2017; Tinney, 2016)
Substance Abuse & Mental Health

- Alcohol abuse is the most pronounced risk factor for violence in military homes.
- Alcohol Use is a fundamental part of US Military culture historically, but rates of binge drinking and dependency have risen steeply, and seem to be correlated with psychiatric distress among Afghanistan and Iraq-era veterans.
- Mental Health Challenges were also directly correlated with violence within the home:
  - 34% of veterans who’ve served in combat later develop symptoms of PTS
  - 38% of males, and 78% of females report sexual harassment
    *About 55.5% of those who were assaulted by their fellow soldiers later developed severe PTS and often MMD symptoms*

(Calhoun, 2018; Creech, 2017; Diehle, 2017; DoD FAP, 2017; Fraser, 2011; Labrum, 2017; National Center for Veterans Analysis, 2016; Shirvani, 2017; Street, 2004; Tinney, 2014)
Behavioral Conditioning, Socialization & Institutionalization

(Army, 2017; Army TRADOC Command, 2013; Goldberg, 2012; Martin, 2016; US Congress. Senate. Committee on Military Affairs, 1695)
Current Discharge Training & Services

• Transition Assistance Program (TAP)

Perspiration counseling including:

• Explanation of Selective Reserve Requirements expected of the service member
• Employment information such as: introduction to writing a resume, obtaining certifications, and licensing requirements applicable to civilian occupations
• Discussion on educational benefits the service member may have earned
• Finally, *if the service member is being medically separated, possible compensation and medical benefits to cover the service related injury related to the separation
In Closing:
Questions & Comments