

# **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  
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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

# About Easter Seals



- 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

A black and white photograph of a Coast Guard helicopter in flight, performing a hoist rescue over the ocean. The helicopter is carrying a rescue basket and is positioned above a smaller boat on the water.

Air Force

A color photograph of two F-16 fighter jets flying in formation over a desert landscape. The jets are dark in color and are seen from a side-on perspective.

Marines

A color photograph of a Marine in a dark dress uniform with a white belt and a white sailor-style cap. He is seen from the back, saluting with his right hand. In the background, a large American flag is visible.

Navy

A color photograph of a young man in a white Navy sailor's uniform, including a white cap. He is looking upwards and to the right. A machine gun is visible in the background.

Army

A color photograph of an Army soldier in full combat gear, including a helmet and camouflage uniform. He is lying on the ground, possibly in a trench or battlefield setting.

# National Military & Veterans Initiatives



- 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](mailto:veterans@easterseals.com)
    - One access point to needed resources
  - Veteran job training and employment programs
  - The Dixon Center
    - [www.thedixoncenter.org](http://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

# Caregiver Support



## National Veteran Caregiver Training Program

- Initiating 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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>
  - 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).

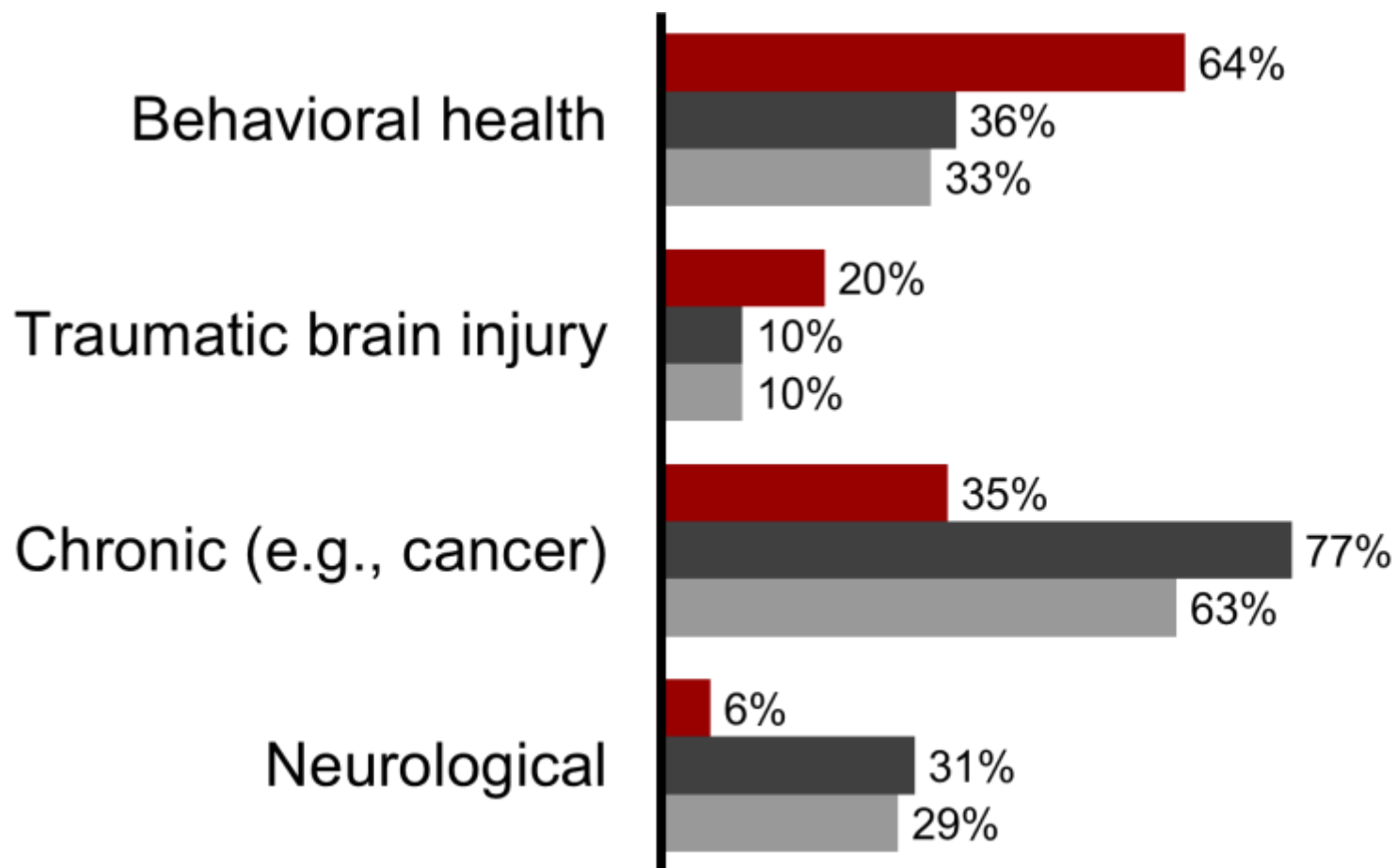
# Military Caregivers



- 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



# 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?

- 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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

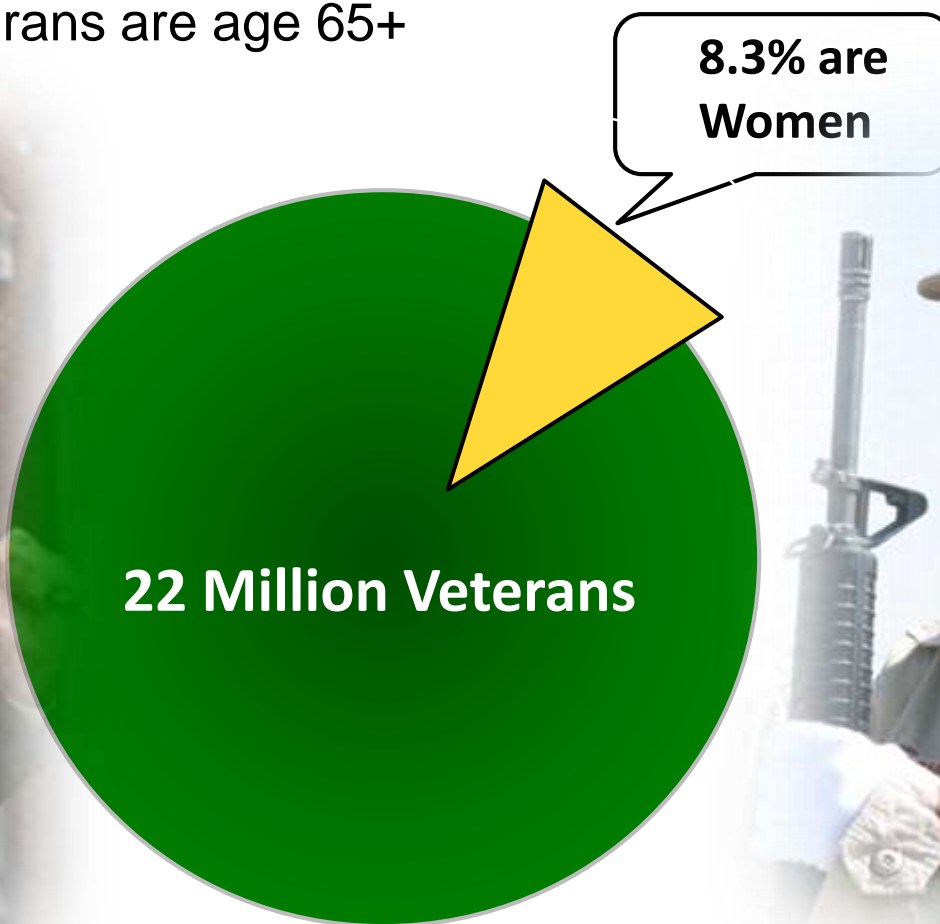
[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)



# Variety of Veterans



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



# **Warrior Ethos**

## **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

A white flipchart on a silver metal stand with three legs. The flipchart has a white sheet of paper with the text "Flipchart Activity" written in green.

## Flipchart Activity

- Armed conflicts represented on a flip chart
  - World War II (1939 – 1945)
  - Korean War (1950 – 1953)
  - Vietnam War (1961 – 1973)
  - Gulf War (1991)
  - Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) – (2001 – present)
  - Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003 – 2010)
  - Operation New Dawn (Iraq) – (2010 – present)
- Write your thoughts about that conflict on the flip chart
- As each conflict is discussed, take notes in your Workbook

# Additional Resources & References



## Branches of the U.S. Military

- U.S. Army – [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil)
- U.S. Navy – [www.navy.mil](http://www.navy.mil)
- U.S. Marine Corps – [www.marines.mil](http://www.marines.mil)
- U.S. Air Force – [www.af.mil](http://www.af.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)



# Additional Resources & References



## 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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