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OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF) and OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF)

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VA HUDSON VALLEY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

MONTROSE CAMPUS MONTROSE, NY 10548 914 737-4400 CASTLE POINT CAMPUS CASTLE POINT, NY 12511 845 831-2000

Dear Operations Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom Veteran,

Welcome home! On behalf of the employees at the Department of Veterans Affairs Hudson Valley Health Care System, please accept our heart felt thanks for your service to our country. The Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense are working as partners to meet the needs of our newest veterans—the men and women who served in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF)—by creating a seamless transition from active duty to civilian life. We would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to access the many services available at the Department of Veterans Affairs, including a variety of benefits, health care services, and counseling. This booklet is provided to serve as your resource guide and includes many telephone numbers, web sites, and descriptions of various federal, state, and local programs available to address veterans' issues.



If at any time you have questions or need clarification about any of the information provided, please do not hesitate to contact:

Juliana Laurenzi, LCSW-R, our OEF/OIF Program Manager at 914 737-4400, ext 3383.

Your OEF/OIF Team

CA Carmel
CP Castle Point
GN Goshen
MO Montrose
NC New City
PJ Port Jervis
PK Poughkeepsie
PP Pine Plains

SU Monticello

Name/Title: Telephone:

<u>Program Director</u>: CP: 845-831-2000, x4628 **JULIE LAURENZI** MO: 914-737-4400, x3383

<u>Transition Pt Advocate</u>: CP: 845-831-2000, x4629 **DEBRA LUCAS** MO: 914-737-4400, x2658

Cell: 914-943-8489

Case Managers:

FRANK AMORUSO, LCSW-R CP: 845-831-2000, x4617

(CP, CA, PP) Cell: 914-804-2426

BETSY VALENTINE, RN CP: 845-831-2000, x4616

(SU, CP, PK) Cell: 914-447-0295

SONYA SHABINSKY, LCSW MO: 914-737-4400, x3798

(MO, NC) Cell: 914-760-2472

Benefits Information:

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION SERVICE (HAS):

At Castle Point call:

WANDA ROBINSON 845-831-2000, x5413

At Montrose call:

DENISE JOHNSON 914-737-4400, x2516

TRANSITION PATIENT ADVOCATE:

The transition patient advocate (TPA) serves on a four-member team within the OEF/OIF Case Management Program. The TPA provides the severely injured OEF/OIF combat service member and veteran with:

Transitional assistance from DOD to VA system

Coordination of care

Advice on eligibility in the VA system

Debra Lucas

Montrose Campus 914 737-4400 ext 2658 Castle Point Campus 845 831-2000 ext 4629

Cell 914 943-8489

your questions on:	. 0
Benefits/Claims	
Employment	
Family Support	
Housing Assistance	
V.A. Food Pantry	
V.A. Clothing Room	
YOUR CASE MANAGER IS:	
Phone number is:	

Your Case Manager will meet with you to discuss your individual concerns and help to find local resources. The OEF/OIF Case Manages are listed on page 2 and can answer

LOCATIONS AND PHONE NUMBERS FOR THE MONTROSE AND CASTLE POINT CAMPUSES AND THE CBOC'S COMMUNITY BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC'S

Montrose Campus Route 9A Montrose, Route 9A Montrose, NY 10548 914 737-4400 Ext 3795 or 3798

Carmel Clinic 1875 Route 6 Provident Bank (2nd Floor) Carmel, NY 10512 845 228-5291

Goshen Clinic 30 Hatfield Lane Suite 204 Goshen, NY 10924 845 294-6927

Monticello Clinic 60 Jefferson Street Unit 3 (Lower Parking Lot) Monticello, NY 12701 845 791-4936

Poughkeepsie Clinic Freedom Executive Park 488 Plains Road Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 845 452-5151 Castle Point Campus Route 9D Route 9D Castle Point, NY 12511 845 831-2000 ext 4616 or 4617

New City Clinic Citi Bank Building Suite 400 20 Squadron Blvd. New City, NY 10956 845 634-8942

Pine Plains Clinic Eastern Dutchess 2881 Church Street Route 199 Pine Plains, NY 12567 518 398-9240

Port Jervis Clinic 150 Pike Street Port Jervis, NY 12771 845 856-5396 **Medical Services:** The V.A. provides cost free health care services for conditions possibly related to military service to veterans with combat service after November 11, 1998 for a period of 5 years beginning on the date of separation from active military service.

Outpatient Services are, but not limited to:

Primary care and preventive services
Mental Health
Ambulatory Surgery
Optometry
Women's health
Gulf War Exams
Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Evaluation

Vocational Rehabilitation

Sexual trauma counseling

Specialized health care for women veterans

Wednesday evening clinics are available for the following clinical areas:

Primary Care Audiology Mental Health Speech Therapy Lab X-Ray

Inpatient services:

Medical
Mental Health
Residential Services:
Substance Abuse Treatment,
Domiciliary
Residential PTSD Programs

Women Veterans Health Care Program:

The Women Veterans Health Care Program provides accessible and comprehensive health care to meet the need of women veterans. The focus is on health promotion, disease prevention and management, and the emotional well-being of women veterans.

http://www1.va.gov/womenvet/ http://www1.va.gov/wvhp/

NYNJ Women Veterans Program Regional Offices:

http://www1.va.gov/visns/visn03/womenvets/regctrs.asp

Castle Point:

845 831-2000 ext. 5823 (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday)

Montrose:

914 737-4400 ext. 2154 (Tuesday)

Dental Program:

Veterans can apply for an appt up to 180 days from discharge if exam not done prior to discharge from service.

COMING HOME

Returning home from a combat zone always involves readjustment.

Returning veterans often report that they:

Have short tempers

Forget things and have trouble concentrating

Constantly recall memories of the combat zone

Miss the excitement of deployment

Have trouble sleeping and experience nightmares

Have problems "fitting in" with family and friends and at work

Want to keep to themselves

Feel jumpy and hyper-alert

Drink more alcohol

Vet Centers offer broad readjustment services. They focus on counseling for military traumas, employment and family problems. They also provide referral services for VA benefits and medical assistance and liaisons with community agencies. Individual and group counseling is available for veterans and their significant others. The centers also provide substance abuse information, referrals and job counseling. To find your local Vet Center call (800) 905-4675 or look online at:

http://www.vetcenter.va.gov/

Northeast Region of Readjustment Counseling Service

NY, ME, NJ, NH, CT, MA, RI, VT (800) 905-4675 White Plains:

300 Hamilton Ave. 1st floor White Plains, NY 10601 Phone: (914)-682-6250 Fax: (914)-682-6263

Orange County: 111 Craigville Road Goshen, NY 10924 Phone: (845) 291-2470 Fax: (845)291-2558

HELPFUL WEBSITES:

Department of Veterans Affairs Home Page:

www.va.gov

Veterans Benefits Information

www.vba.va.gov 1-800-827-1000

Accessing VA Healthcare:

http://www1.va.gov/health/index.asp

To enroll in the VA system:

https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/

VA Sites in New York and New Jersey:

www.va.gov/visns/visn03

http://www1.va.gov/visns/visn03/docs/postdeployment.pdf

Department of Veteran Affairs War-Related Illness and Injury Study Center (WRIISC):

1-800-722-8340

The WRIISC provides health care such as medical assessment of post-deployment health including environmental exposures and physical fitness evaluations and screenings for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans.

www.va.gov/WRIISC-DC

Seamless Transition—Operations Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF): www.seamlesstransition.va.gov

VA Gulf War Information Helpline:

1-800-PGW-VETS (1-800-749-8387)

www.va.gov/gulfwar

VA Services for Veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom:

www.vethealth.cio.med.va.gov

The below links will take you to a non-VA website and are provided for convenience only. You are leaving the VA Internet and VA is not responsible for the content of the sites to which you will be taken. If you agree, click on the link to continue.

Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR):

Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is a Department of Defense organization within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

www.esgr.com/

1-800-336-4590 1555 Wilson Blvd., Suite 200 Arlington, VA 22209-2405

America Supports You Our Military Men and Women:

www.americasupportsyou.mil

Environmental Agents Service:

Information related to environmental issues.

www.va.gov/environagents

Wounded Warrior Project

1-877-TEAMWWP

The Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) is dedicated to assisting the new generation of severely wounded servicemen and women by delivering personal and responsive attention for these heroes, WWP provided free programs and services for the severely wounded, enables veterans to help veterans, and educates the public and enlists their aid in this effort.

http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org

Feds Heal:

1-800-666-2833

Feds Heal is a partnership combining the medical resources of Federal Occupational Health (FOH), the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), and a network of private providers to provide members of the ready reserves with improved access to readiness-related medical services.

(800) 666-2833

http://www.foh.dhhs.gov/Public/Fedsheal3/AR/ARDefault.html



TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS):

Active duty and retired members of the uniformed services, their families, and survivors should contact TRICARE Military Health Care Program's Northeast Region office. (877) 874-2273

http://www.tricare.mil/

Deployment Health Clinical Center (Army):

Links to BattleMind Video for Veterans and Families, Fact Sheets, FAQs www.pdhealth.mil

U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (CHPPM):

http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/

Military One Source:

1-800-342-9647

Military One Source is a 24/7/365 information and referral service available via toll free telephone and internet access. They provide referral for nonmedical, short-term, solution-survivor programs. focused, and face-to-face counseling. (This is for Active Duty, Reserves and National Guard)

www.militaryonesource.com

Jobs, Career, School Counseling and Workforce Integration:

These websites are provided in addition to the Vocational Programs at the V.A.

Jobs for Military Veterans http://www.operationheroforhire.com

Vet Jobs

http://www.vetjobs.com/

Vocational Rehabilitation Services http://www.vetsuccess.gov/

Pathway to Career Success http://www.careeronestop.org/

Scholarships

http://www.sentinelsoffreedom.org/index.php

Job Links

http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/ot/linkpage.htm

Transition Assistance Online-Jobs http://www.taonline.com/generalpages/SiteMap.asp#

Financial Counseling

Beneficiary Financial Counseling Service for Veterans and Families http://www.insurance.va.gov/sgliSite/BFCS/BFCS.htm

TurboTAP: The Official <u>Transition Assistance Program</u>
http://www.transitionassistanceprogram.com/portal/transition/lifestyles/Personal_Finances/

Help with Financial Planning, Wills and Trusts for Servicemembers http://www.ameriforce.net/finance/

FAQs on Out-of-Service Debt http://www.dfas.mil/militarypay/debt.html

Lists of scholarships, grants and financial aid available to veterans and their dependents. The site provides forms.

http://www.finaid.org/military/

Dealing with Stress or PTSD Issues:

Returning from the War Zone: Guide for Families; Fact Sheets www.ncptsd.va.gov

Deployment Health and Family Readiness Library http://deploymenthealthlibrary.fhp.osd.mil/

Job Stress

http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/stresswk.html

Dealing with Anger and Irritability:

Courage to Care Fact Sheets for Reintegration Issues, Helping Children Cope with Deployment, National Guard and Reserve Reentry to the Workplace, etc.

http://www.usuhs.mil/psy/courage.html

National Domestic Violence Hotline Phone Numbers and Education http://www.ndvh.org/

Anger and Trauma Fact Sheet

http://www.ncptsd.va.gov/ncmain/ncdocs/fact_shts/fs_anger.html?opm=1&rr=rr84&srt=d&echorr=true

Marriage, Family and Child Post-Deployment Issues:

Combat Stress Resources for Military Families http://www.militaryonesource.com/skins/MOS/home.aspx

Talk Listen Connect Videos: When Parents are Deployed http://www.sesameworkshop.org/tlc/

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention:

Health Information for Veterans and the Public, with Links to MyHealthevet, HealthierUS Veterans, and *MOVE!* –the VA's Weight Management Program http://www.prevention.va.gov/

Health Information on Readjustment, Smoking Cessation, Substance Abuse, Depression, etc.

http://www.myhealthevet.va.gov/

Smoking Cessation

http://www.publichealth.va.gov/smoking/

Help with Depression, Drinking, Drug Use and Suicide Prevention:

These websites are in addition Mental Health and Substance abuse at our facilities.

VA National Suicide Prevention Hotline http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/
1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Mental Health Info and How to Access Services http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/

FAQ's and Handouts about Alcohol for the General Public

http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/Publications/EducationTrainingMaterials/guide.htm

Alcohol Patient Education Downloadable Brochures

http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/Publications/EducationTrainingMaterials/guide.htm#patient

Drug Abuse and Addiction Basic Facts http://www.nida.nih.gov/Infofacts/index.html



Deployment-Related Health Information on Exposures and Special Public Health Initiatives:

Women Veterans Health Program; War Related Illness and Injury Study Centers; OEF/OIF Review Newsletters, Depleted Uranium, Ionizing Radiation; Military Sexual Trauma

http://www.vethealth.cio.med.va.gov/default.htm

Iraqi and Afghanistan Veterans Information

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America is the nation's first and largest group dedicated to the Troops and Veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the civilian supporters of those Troops and Veterans.

http://iava.org

Toll Free Telephone Numbers:



1-877-222-8387

VA Depleted Uranium Follow-up Program: 1-800-815-7533

National Domestic Violence Hotline:

1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

VA Suicide Prevention Hotline:

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Alcohol and Drug Treatment Center Referral: 1-800-821-4357

National Institute of Mental Health Information Center:

1-866-615-6464

Vet Jobs:

1-877. Vet. Jobs (838-5627)

VA Life Insurance:

1-800-669-8477

Office of Service Members Group Life

Insurance:

1-800-419-1473

CHAMPVA:

1-800-733-8387

TRICARE:

1-888-333-4522 (Health Net)

Social Security Administration:

1-800-772-1213

Hope for New Veterans:

1-877-HOPE-VET (467-3838)