

**Alliance Newsletter**

Volume 4, Issue 2



**Mission Statement:** The Alliance seeks to optimize the preparedness of behavioral health providers working to enhance the resilience, recovery and reintegration of Service members, Veterans, and their Family members and communities throughout the military, post-military, and family life cycles.

## Current Research

Griffin, J.M., Lee, M.K., Bangerter, L.R., Van Houtven, C.H., Friedemann-Sánchez, G., Phelan, S.M., Carlson, K.F., Meis, L.A. (2017). Burden and mental health among caregivers of veterans with traumatic brain injury/polytrauma. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 87, 139-148. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/ort0000207>

This study focused on caregiving for veterans that have survived multiple traumatic injuries, including traumatic brain injury and effects on caregivers' health. The study utilized cross-sectional data from the *Family and Caregiver Experiences Study*, a survey of 564 caregivers caring for veterans who served after September 11, 2001, survived TBI/polytrauma during service, and received inpatient rehabilitation care in a Veterans Affairs *Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center*. Results indicated that veterans' neurobehavioral problems and intensity of required care were associated with more caregiver burden, and more burden was associated with poor mental health. Intrapersonal and family or social resources mediated the relationship between veteran functioning and mental health. Family or social resources also moderated the relationship between care intensity and burden. The authors concluded that caregivers of veterans with neurobehavioral problems who require intense care are at risk for burden and poor mental health. They suggested that increasing resources to bolster family or social resources may reduce risks.

## Resource for Deploying Parents

*A Story Before Bed* offers free recordings to parents in the U.S. military who are spending time away from their kids. Parents who are members of one of the branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and are deploying or already deployed away from their children for any amount of time are eligible to sign up for free recordings so that they can read a bedtime story to their children. Follow this link <http://www.astorybeforebed.com/military>, and fill out the information request. An e-mail confirming sign up for the service will be sent, and after following the link included in the email, the deployed parent will be able to start making free recordings immediately.



## Video Vignettes: *Faces of Military Culture*



In developing a *Core Competencies for Healthcare Professionals* online course, the *Center for Deployment Psychology* interviewed hundreds of Service members, Veterans, family members and healthcare professionals about the military culture. Dozens of vignette were developed and recorded and are available [here](#), in video format, as part of a series titled, *Faces of Military Culture*. These vignettes provide in-depth and personal looks at the military culture. Vignettes cover themes from introduction to military ethos, to military organization and roles, stressors and resources, and treatment, resources, and tools.

## Self-paced Online Training: *Military Cultural Competence*

An online, self-paced course is being offered on *Military Cultural Competence* by the *Center for Deployment Psychology*. interactive online training course provides an overview of military culture to include organizational structure, rank, branches of service, core values, and demographics as well as similarities and differences between the Active and Reserve components. It is intended to assist civilian mental health providers in better understanding, communicating and effectively interacting with Service members and their families. Learning objectives include: a) explain the military rank structure and organization and distinguish the primary mission and core values of each branch of service; b). describe differences and similarities between Active and Reserve components; c.) discuss demographic characteristics of Service members; and d.) recognize general and deployment-related military terms. The course can be taken for free, or for 1.25 Continuing Education credit hours. Click [here](#) to sign-up, or [here](#) for the course outline.



## Conferences

### [Council of College and Military Educators Symposium](#)

March 6-9, 2017  
Atlanta, GA

### [International Summit on Violence, Abuse & TraumaInformation](#)

March 27-30, 2017  
Honolulu, HI

### [National Council for Behavioral Health](#)

April 3-5, 2017  
Seattle, WA

### [APNA 15th Annual Clinical Psychopharmacology Institute](#)

June 8-11, 2017  
Baltimore, MD

## Federal Job Opportunities

All federal jobs are posted on the USAJOBS.Gov website. Go to [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov) & go to “Advanced Search” & under “Series Search” type in “0101”, “0180” or “0185”  
NOTE: You can refine your search on the page to limit to VA, Army, Navy, Air Force etc. Tips for using the USAJOBS website can be found [here](#).

**0101 Series Jobs:** Covers jobs in the Social Sciences, Psychology, and Welfare Services. These jobs may or may not require licensures.

**0180 Series Jobs:** Covers jobs in the Psychology and Counseling Psychology. Primarily jobs for those with PhD or PsyD, LMFT, or other counseling degrees and licensures.

**0185 Series Jobs:** Covers jobs for Social Workers ONLY. Must have licensure (i.e. LCSW)

**0602 Series:** Covers jobs for Psychiatrists.

## Non-Appropriated Fund (NAF) Positions

NAF employment is considered federal employment. However, the monies used to pay the salaries of NAF employees come from a different source. Civil service positions are paid for by money appropriated by Congress. NAF money, on the other hand, is self-generated by activities and services that use NAF employees. Visit the following links to apply for NAF positions.

[USMC](#) (Click on Prospective Employees)

[ARMY](#)

[AIR FORCE](#)

[NAVY](#)

## Department of Veterans Affairs Jobs

**[VA Hiring Initiative:](#)** The VA is hiring behavioral health providers for positions at VA facilities across the country.

**[VA Jobs:](#)** The VA has created links for providers that make it easy to search for VA jobs in your profession. Please click on the links below in order to see all of the current VA job openings, as listed on the USAJOBS website, for your profession:

[Psychiatrists](#)

[Psychologists](#)

[Social Workers](#)

[Licensed Professional Counselors](#)

[Marriage and Family Therapists](#)

[Psychiatric Nurses](#)

## Non-Federal Job Opportunities

The federal government also uses contractors to provide behavioral health services to Service members and others. The government contracts with private contracting companies, who will then hire the individual providers to provide the necessary services. Several contractors known to hire behavioral health providers are listed below, along with links to websites that list job opportunities for providers.

Zeiders Enterprises [Link to current job openings.](#)

SERCO - [Link to All SERCO Job Announcements](#)

Choctaw Enterprises - [Main link to all jobs](#)

SAIC Career Opportunities - [SAIC Job Openings](#)

Health Net - [Link to all job openings at Health Net](#)

Health e-Careers Network - [Main link to all jobs](#)

Magellan Health- [Main link to all jobs](#)

**Do you have information for the March 2017 Newsletter?**

Please send it to Dr. Angela Lamson at [lamsona@ecu.edu](mailto:lamsona@ecu.edu) by March 8, 2017