



Welcome

The Ten Key Components of a Veterans Treatment Court



U.S. ARMY

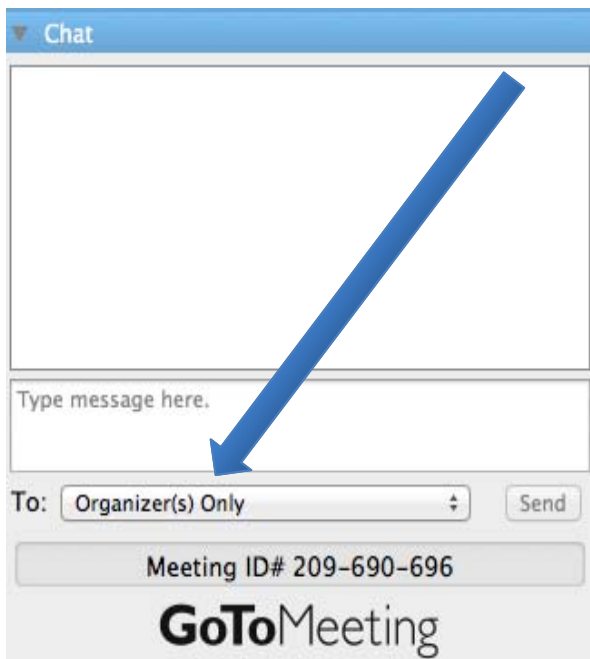
ARMY OneSource

Please remember to:

- Enter the audio PIN provided after login
- Mute your phone

Format

Use chat to ask a question.



Structure

- Announcements
- Overview & Introductions
- Subject Matter Expert presentations

Poll

- Interactive poll to measure audience experience, interests, local issues and concerns

Asking questions

- Questions can be posted anytime
- Send questions via chat to: "Organizers Only"

Follow-up and Evaluation

- Evaluation survey sent via email
- Recording & handouts posted by 5:00PM EST
- Access the recording and handouts

www.aosresourcecenter.com LEARN/training library



Moderator



Clyde “Butch” J. Tate II

Major General, U. S. Army (Retired)
Senior Fellow for Veteran Legal Affairs
Justice for Vets
Alexandria, Virginia

On January 1, 2014, Major General Clyde J. “Butch” Tate II retired from the United States Army where he most recently served as the Deputy Judge Advocate General, one of the top two military attorneys in the Army.

In more than 31 years of service, he held diverse legal and leadership positions including prosecutor, Army liaison to Congress, ethics official, regulatory law advisor, Director of Personnel, Commandant U.S. Army Judge Advocate General’s Legal Center, senior lawyer in special operations and airborne units and legal advisor in Germany and Iraq.

During his first assignment with the 82^d Airborne Division, he recognized the importance of partnering with community-based legal service providers and how valuable these partnerships are in resolving the legal issues facing our Servicemembers and Families.



INSTANT POLL

Instant Poll



The Ten Key Components of a Veterans Treatment Court



Topics:

- Best practices
- Operational standards
- Role of U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Critical partnerships
- Role of policy and policy development
- Standards of ethical conduct
- Training of staff and mentor volunteers
- Metrics and evaluation
- Interdisciplinary response
- Ten key components

Topics



Subject Matter Expert



The Honorable Robert T. Russell, Jr.
Associate Judge, Buffalo City Court
Acting Erie County Judge
Buffalo, New York

In January of 2008, Judge Robert T. Russell created and began presiding over the nation's first "Veterans Treatment Court". Prior to his service as a Treatment Court Judge for Veterans, he created Buffalo's Drug Treatment Court in December 1995 and continues to serve as its Presiding Judge.

In addition, in December 2002, he established and began presiding over Buffalo's Mental Health Treatment Court. This court oversees treatment cases involving individuals diagnosed with severe mental illness. Several organizations including National Vietnam Veterans of America, National Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, NAMI, and the New York State Bar have honored Judge Russell for his work.





The Honorable Robert T. Russell, Jr.

The History and Role of Veterans Treatment Courts

The Honorable Robert T. Russell, Jr.
Associate Judge, Buffalo City Court
Acting Erie County Judge
Buffalo, New York



Veterans Treatment Courts



Veterans Treatment Court

“History and Role of Veterans Treatment Courts”

Army OneSource 06-18-2014

Judge Robert Russell

Their Sacrifice

Remember



Brandy Scuttars

Buffalo's Experience: Veterans Treatment Court

- Treatment Court Background-Drug & Mental Health Courts
- Veterans seen in Treatment Courts
- Facilitation by fellow Veterans
- Visit to Buffalo Veterans Hospital Advisory Board, (WNY) V.A. Director Michael Finnegan
- Community forums with Veterans Health Care, the Court and Community Behavioral Health Care Providers-Keynote Speaker Deputy Under Secretary William Feeley

Veterans Court

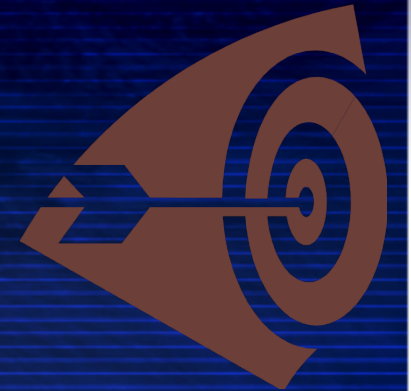
- A specialized criminal court docket
- Established to address the needs of veteran-defendants with substance dependency and/or mental illness issues
- Majority non-violent felony or misdemeanor offenses (violent offenses: case by case)
- Substitution of treatment problem solving model for traditional court processing





Target Population/Eligibility

- Combat vs. Non-combat
- Violent Offenders
- Active Duty, Reservists, National Guard
- High Risk, High Need
- Military Discharge Status
- VA Eligibility



Our Mission

To **successfully habilitate veterans** by diverting them from the traditional criminal justice system and providing them with the tools they need in order to lead a productive and law-abiding lifestyle.

Our Goal

Our program's goal is to **reduce the veterans' inappropriate behavior** while helping them turn their lives around. We will find them, offer them assistance, assess their needs, manage their care and help them solve their problems.

Our Objective

To provide Veterans with substance abuse, alcoholism and mental health treatment coupled with academic/vocational skills improvement, while actively assisting with residential, outpatient and/or transitional services leading to job placement and job retention.

EARLY IDENTIFICATION

Veterans needs are identified through evidence based screening and assessments. They voluntarily participate in a judicially supervised treatment plan that a team of court staff, veteran health care professionals, veteran peer mentors, AOD health care professionals and mental health professionals develop with the veteran.





Participants

- Veterans (family members?)
- Legal defense team & Prosecutor
- Court staff
- Veteran health care professionals
- Veteran peer mentors
- AOD health care professionals
- Mental health professional
- VA benefit coordinators



Unique Components

- **Court entirely of Veterans**
- **In Court: Veterans Health Care Worker(s)**
- **Veteran Mentors**
- **Therapeutic Environment**
- **Hybrid Drug & Mental Health Court**



Non-Traditional Resources

- Veterans Treatment Courts -

- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



- U.S. Department of Labor



- State Departments of Veterans Affairs



- Veterans Service Organizations

V.A. Health Care Worker

- **Barry Chapman, (SATS) Veterans Justice Outreach, Tel # 716-862-3100**
- Liaison
- Obtaining VA Releases of Information
- Facilitating VA linkages for services
- Coordinating and providing VA status report regarding Tx, tox, appointments, etc.
- Case management & crisis management



FEDERAL OFFICE OF VETERANS BENEFIT AFFAIRS

- **Carly Klein and Timothy Philo**, Veteran Service Representatives-716-857-3188 & 716-857-3315
- Liaison
- Obtaining VA Releases of Information
- Facilitate processing or review of Pension Disability Benefits
- Process review of potential errors or corrections on veterans DD214



Challenge

Overcoming “Warrior mentality”



Veteran Mentors

“Leave no one behind”



Veteran Mentors' Role

- Coach
- Facilitator
- Advisor
- Sponsor
- Support



CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Resource: WWW.NADCP.ORG &
WWW.BUFFALOVETERANSCOURT.ORG**

Thank you for your support



Subject Matter Expert



Melissa Fitzgerald
Senior Director
Justice for Vets
Alexandria, Virginia

In November 2013, Melissa Fitzgerald joined Justice For Vets as its new Senior Director. As an actor, Melissa is best known for her seven-year role as Carol on the NBC smash hit, *The West Wing*.

Melissa is co-founder of the youth outreach theater program, Voices in Harmony. In 2007, she traveled to war-torn Northern Uganda to bring the Voices in Harmony program to former abducted child soldiers and other teenagers affected by the region's brutal rebel war. The experience opened her eyes to the lingering impact of war.

In 2011, Melissa co-executive produced *Halfway Home*, a documentary about Veterans, their experience in war and their struggle to reintegrate and recover upon returning home.



Melissa Fitzgerald

The Justice for Vets Perspective on Veterans Treatment Courts

Melissa Fitzgerald
Senior Director
Justice for Vets
Alexandria, Virginia



Justice for Vets



VETERANS FOUGHT FOR OUR **FREEDOM**;
NOW IT'S OUR TURN TO FIGHT FOR THEIRS



Justice for Vets
is the only national
organization dedicated
to expanding Veterans
Treatment Courts.



<http://justiceforvets.org>

Justice for Vets



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Justice for Vets



- Division of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, a 501 (C) (3) nonprofit organization
- Facilitate and coordinate the growth of Veterans Treatment Courts
- Comprehensive training program for communities
- Vet Court Con National Conference
- Build a National Veteran Mentor Corps of trained volunteers to serve in Veterans Treatment Courts
- Expand Veterans Treatment Courts
- Aggressively promote in media

Justice for Vets



Veterans Treatment Court Locations

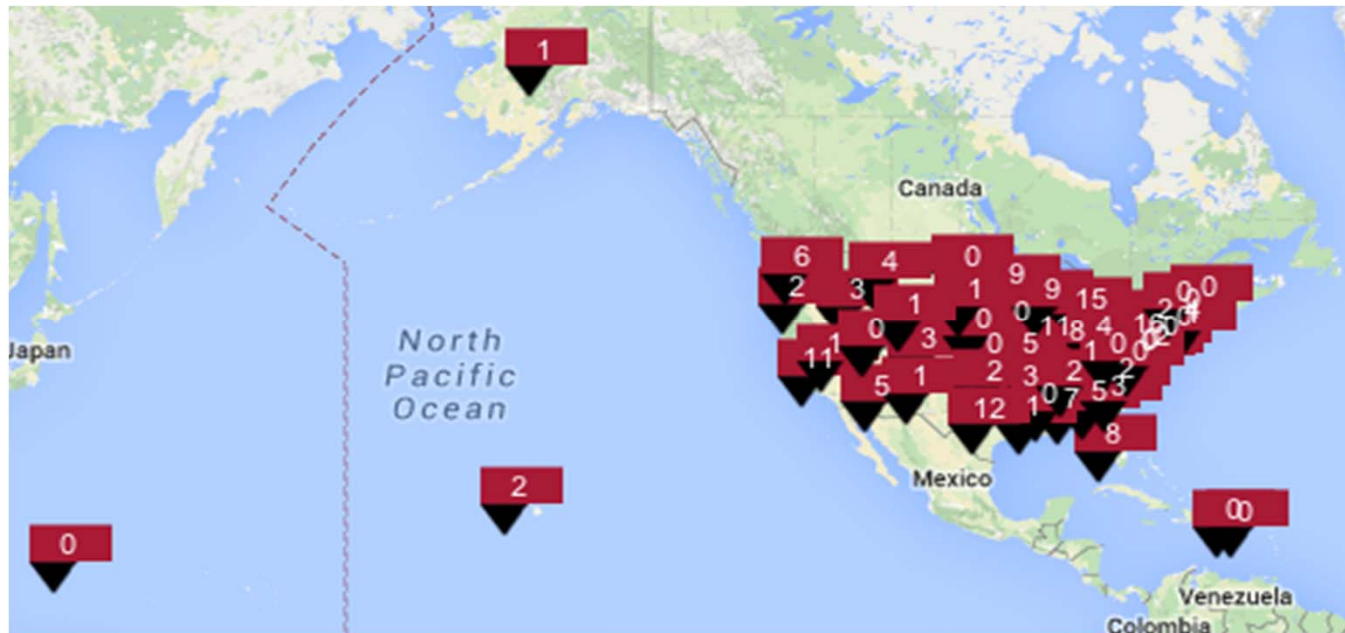
- Trained over 90 courts and on target to train 30 more this year.

Find a Veterans Treatment Court

Is there a Veterans Treatment Court in your area? Click here for an interactive map of Veterans Treatment Courts in the U.S.



justiceforvets.org/veterans-treatment-court-locations



VTC Locations





Melissa Fitzgerald

Melissa Fitzgerald
Ph. 571-384-1871
<http://justiceforvets.org>





Major General (Ret) Clyde J. Tate II

Justice for Vets Ten Key Components of a Veterans Treatment Court

Clyde “Butch” J. Tate II

Major General, U.S. Army (Retired)
Senior Fellow, Veteran Legal Affairs

Justice for Vets
Alexandria, Virginia





The National Clearinghouse for Veterans Treatment Courts at the
National Association of Drug Court Professionals

The 10 Key Components of Veterans Treatment Courts

**Presented by
Butch Tate
Senior Fellow for
Veteran Legal Affairs
Justice For Vets**



www.JusticeForVets.org



The National Clearinghouse for Veterans Treatment Courts at the
National Association of Drug Court Professionals

The 10 Key Components

- Key Component #1: Veterans Treatment Courts integrate alcohol, drug treatment and mental health services WITH justice system case processing.
- Key Component #2: Using a nonadversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.
- Key Component #3: Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the Veterans Treatment Court program.
- Key Component #4: Veterans Treatment Courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, mental health and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.



The National Clearinghouse for Veterans Treatment Courts at the
National Association of Drug Court Professionals

The 10 Key Components

- Key Component #5: Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing.
- Key Component #6: A coordinated strategy governs Veterans Treatment Court responses to participants' compliance.
- Key Component #7: Ongoing judicial interaction with each Veteran is essential.
- Key Component #8: Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness.



The National Clearinghouse for Veterans Treatment Courts at the
National Association of Drug Court Professionals

The 10 Key Components

- Key Component #9: Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective Veterans Treatment Court planning, implementation and operations.
- Key Component #10: Forging partnerships among Veterans Treatment Court, Veterans Administration, public agencies and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances Veterans Treatment Court effectiveness.



The National Clearinghouse for Veterans Treatment Courts at the
National Association of Drug Court Professionals

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Subject Matter Expert



The Honorable Patrick F. Dugan Philadelphia Municipal Court Veterans Court Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Judge Patrick F. Dugan has presided over the Philadelphia Veterans Court since 2010. He is also a JAG Captain in the U.S. Army Reserves.

He first enlisted in the Army Reserves in 1981, and from 1983-89, he served on active duty as an airborne infantryman. In 2003, Dugan, who was 43 and a practicing attorney, re-enlisted after a 14-year break in service. In 2004, he was in Mosul Iraq as part of the 416th Civil Affairs Unit and organized a drive that resulted in tens of thousands of items being sent from the states to be distributed to the children of Iraq. In 2005, Dugan received a Direct Commission to the U.S. Army JAG and deployed to Bagram Airbase, Afghanistan in 2006.

Among Dugan's two dozen military awards are the Bronze Star, Combat Action Badge, Parachutists Badge and Expert Infantryman's Badge.





The Honorable Patrick F. Dugan

Case Study: Philadelphia Veterans Court

The Honorable Patrick F. Dugan
Philadelphia Municipal Court
Veterans Court
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



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Philadelphia Veterans Court Key Points



- Started 2010 – Over 500 Participants
- Accepts all classifications of Veterans
 - Combat, Peacetime, VA eligible, non VA eligible, All types of discharges
- Court has Partnered with Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, Probation, Public Defender's Office, VA, PDBHIDS (Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disabilities) & Non Government Organizations (NGOs)
- Each case looked at individually
- No standard length of time for defendants
- Attempt to accept all levels of crimes except murder & sexual assaults

Philadelphia Veterans Court



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Be the Champion Start a Veterans Court



- Need one champion in a jurisdiction
- York County PA – Craig Trebilcock ran for judge with a promise to start a Veterans Court as part of his campaign
- A new DA in Philadelphia in 2009 accepted the idea of a Veterans Court after the previous DA was unconvinced
- Supreme Court Justice has gone county to county in PA
- Sell to decision makers – President Judge in county/jurisdiction – Chief Justice – Congressman – State Senator – Governor – columnist, etc.
- Look at local Treatment/Specialty Courts – don't need to reinvent the wheel

Start a Veterans Court



Convincing Skeptics: Build Community Support



- Look at the numbers
- Treatment and specialty courts work
- Veterans Court is an offspring of drug treatment courts – many of the same principals remain
- 20 years of numbers show that drug treatment courts work
- First Vet Court 2008, appears that recidivism is less than 10% in many Veterans Courts
- Visit - bring them to a Veterans Court session or graduation

Build Community Support



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Convincing Skeptics: Build Community Support



- Defendants under greater scrutiny
- Defendants undergo more substance testing
- Defendants appear in court more often
- Judges/team get to know defendants
- Defendants have more treatment sessions
- Defendants meet with probation more often
- Defendants are rewarded and sectioned
- Not an easy path for defendants - harder

Build Community Support

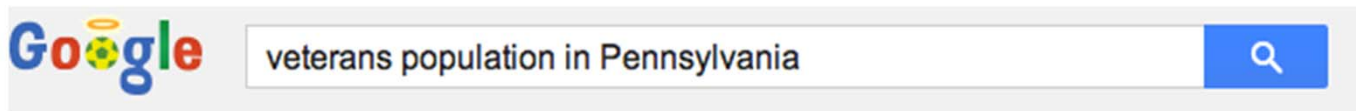


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Be the Champion Build Community Support



- Know the Vet population in your AO
http://www.va.gov/vetdataVeteran_Population.asp
- Google it: Veterans population state, county
- Use the media – “Why don’t we have one when it works in Buffalo, Tulsa?”
- Contact Justice for Vets for help



Pennsylvania QuickFacts from the US Census Bureau

quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/42000.html ▾ United States Census Bureau ▾

6 days ago - Frequently requested statistics for **Pennsylvania**. ... **Population**, percent change, April 1, 2010 to July 1 definition and source info, **Population**, percent change, April 1, ... **Veterans** definition and source info, **Veterans**, 2008-2012 ...

[Philadelphia - Pennsylvania QuickLinks](#) - [Pittsburgh - Pennsylvania County](#)

Build Community Support



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Convincing Skeptics: Costs



- Additional costs of Veterans Court generally goes to the Federal government and not the state or county

Costs of Veterans Courts



Veterans Court Partners



- Philadelphia Municipal Court Administration
- Philadelphia District Attorney
- Philadelphia Public Defender
- Philadelphia Probation
- Philadelphia VA Medical Center
- PDBHIDS (Philadelphia Dept. of Behavioral Health & Intellectual Disabilities)
- Judge
- Defendants
- NGOs



Veterans Court Partners



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Other Partners - Resources



- Philadelphia Veterans Multi Service Center
- VSOs
- Vet Centers
- Law School Clinics
- Bar Associations
- Senior Law Clinics
- Bankruptcy Clinics
- VIP



Veterans Court Partners



Unique Partners - Resources



- Yoga Instructor offered services to Veterans – Philadelphia
- Thank a Vet organization
- Team Red, White and Blue - PT
- Service Dog – York County



Veterans Court Partners



Veteran Mentors



- Vital to success
- Peer to peer is key
- Preserve Independence from Court / Probation
- Quality not quantity
- Train
- Background check & DD214



Veteran Mentors

Recruiting Mentors



- Veterans Organizations
 - American Legion, VFW, Purple Heart
- Specific Military Alum Groups (82nd Airborne Association, Marine League)
- IAVA – Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America
- College Campus Veteran Organizations
- Media – articles, radio, TV, Facebook/Internet

Recruiting Mentors



Probation



- Originally defendants were assigned to multiple probation officers
- Now a dedicated probation officer to Veterans Court has worked well for Philadelphia
- Rapport is tremendous with one PO
 - *with the right Probation Officer*



Probation

What Veterans Do You Accept?

- In Philadelphia, each defendant is assessed individually
 - Combat – Yes, but ...
 - Peacetime – Yes, but ...
 - VA Eligible – Yes, but ...
 - Non VA Eligible – Yes, but ...
 - Length of Service – Short time in – hard look
- Discharges
 - Honorable – Yes, but ...
 - General – Yes, but ...
 - Other Than Honorable – Hard Look
 - Bad Conduct Discharge – Hard Look X 2
 - Dishonorable – Hard Look X 10



What Veterans Do You Accept?



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What Crimes are Accepted in Veterans Court?



- Each case is looked at individually
- Defendant must volunteer to enter Vet Court
- Low level – misdemeanors - likely
- (Make sure that the Prosecutors talk to victims and police for their input)
- Mid level felonies - likely
- Crimes of violence - maybe
- Children are victims - no
- Sexual assaults - no
- Murder - no

What Crimes are Accepted?



Good People on Your Vet Court Team



- Dedicated professionals on your team are a requirement to be a successful Vet Court Team
- Have Veterans on your team. Veterans do understand Veterans – there is a special language and bond among them
- Non Veterans have served on Vet Court Teams and have been some of our best team members
- Meshing and working together is so important
- Must respect defendants

Your Vet Court Team



Be Prepared for Diversity Among Veteran Defendants



Diversity of Veteran Defendants

- Men, Women and Transgender
- Old and Young

★ *One served under WWII General Douglas MacArthur*

- All Ethnicities
- All Branches, Active, Reserves & National Guard
- 8 Tours in Combat to Basic Training
- Many Ranks / Education Levels

GEDs, West Point Graduate, First Black Woman ROTC Graduate from Ivy League



Opiates, PTSD, TBI and Depression



- Service-members are medicated by Military Doctors for pain and wounds and mental health
- Veterans are medicated by VA Doctors for pain and wounds and mental health
- Doctors in America OVERPRESCRIBE drugs
- Addicted through prescription
- Street drugs - HEROIN - replace / supplement prescription drugs
- Deadly combination

Medications & Invisible Wounds



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Coexisting Disorders



- Addiction plus TBI/PTSD/Depression
- Unusual to be successful without falling off the wagon
- Must be given multiple opportunities
- Our nation has created this class of Veteran addicts
- Deadly combination

Coexisting Disorders



Fake Veterans



- Beware of stolen valor from defendants, mentors and others
- There is a percentage of people who will lie about being a Veteran
- All service-members get DD 214s which is proof of service. DD214 should be required for entrance into Vet Court
- DD214s may be requested online – Google it!
- Some DD214s may be inaccurate and Veteran may have supplemental documentation

Fake Veterans



Field of Dreams – Build a Vet Court and They Will Come!



Build a Vet Court



Judge Patrick F. Dugan

Judge Patrick Dugan

215-683-7235

Patrick.dugan@courts.phila.gov

<http://www.courts.phila.gov/veteranscourt>



Subject Matter Expert



Bryan Morgan

Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired)

Mentor Coordinator

Shelby County Vet Court

Columbiana, Alabama

In June 2010, after 34 years of military service, Morgan retired as the Senior Colonel and JAG for the Alabama National Guard.

During his career, he has served as legal advisor to the Governor of Alabama, in the Chief Counsels office at the National Guard Bureau at the Pentagon, Assistant District Attorney in the 12th Judicial Circuit, and Executive Director of the Alabama Office of Prosecution Services and District Attorneys Association.

Morgan is a graduate of the Army and the Air Force War Colleges, the Army Airborne course, and the Justice for Vets National Mentor Bootcamp. He currently practices law in Prattville, Alabama assisting military Veterans.





Colonel (Ret) Bryan Morgan

Case Study: Veteran Mentor Program

Bryan Morgan

Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired)

Chief Manager, Veteran Mentor Program

18th Judicial Circuit

Columbiana, Alabama



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Veteran Mentor Role Description

Acts as a coach, guide, role model, advocate, and a support person for the individual Veteran participant with whom he/she is working.



The mentor is:

- Primary resource and referral provider
- Encourages, guides and supports the Veteran
- A good listener
- Offer suggestions and general guidance
- Encourages the Veteran to do the “footwork”
- Be available and ready to support
- Maintain close contact with the VTC Mentor Coordinator
- Be protective of sensitive information given by the Veteran

The mentor is not:

- A counselor
- A problem solver for the Veteran

Role Description



Veteran Mentor Duties and Responsibilities



- Attend scheduled court sessions of their Veteran participant
- Be supportive of the Veteran's treatment progress
- Steer the Veteran toward program compliance and success
- Assist the Veteran to identify ways to resolve personal and family problems that may interfere with success in the court process or treatment program
- Be knowledgeable and prepared to offer available community-based resources
- Coordinate with the Mentor Coordinator and Team Leader
- Be supportive of other mentors
- Be honest
- Take immediate action to encourage the Veteran to contact suicide resources if needed

Duties & Responsibilities



Veteran Team Leader Responsibilities



- Distribute cases to the mentors at each court session
- Abide by all duties and responsibilities of a mentor
- Act as the go between for the mentor and the Court Coordinator
- Works closely with the Mentor Coordinator to ensure an orderly process during the court session
- Assume the role of Mentor Coordinator in the absence of the Mentor Coordinator



Team Leader Responsibilities



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Veteran Mentor Coordinator Responsibilities



- Assume major responsibilities for recruiting qualified Veteran mentors
- Coordinate mentor orientation program
- Match and recommend particular mentors for eligible Veteran participants
- Provide mentors with information on suicide prevention resources and train mentors in understanding and importance of using these resources
- Attend all court sessions and carry out any other duties assigned by the VTC court coordinator or the Judge
- Appoint team leaders

Mentor Coordinator Responsibilities



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Questions & Answers

Asking questions

- Send questions via chat to: "Organizers Only"



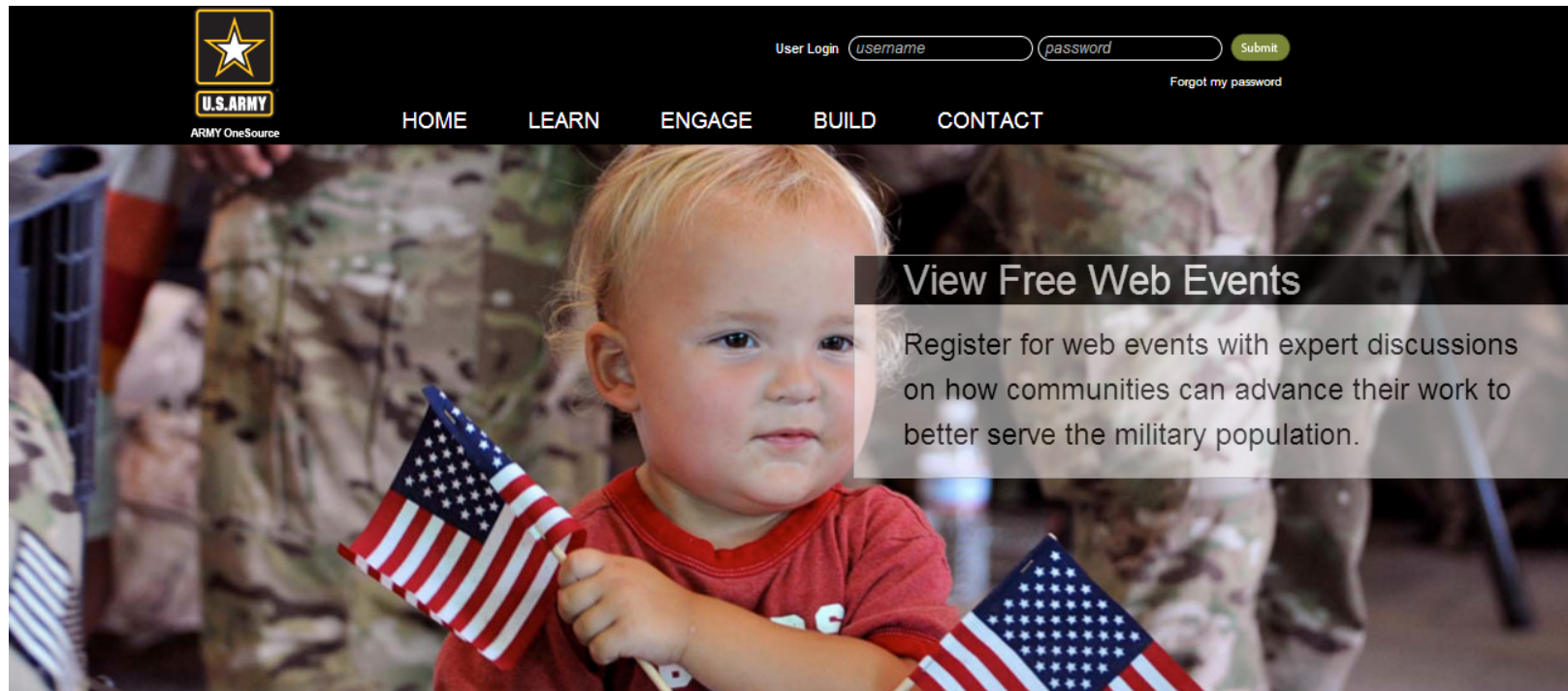
Questions and Answers



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evaluation you will
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