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Subject: FW: Topics in the News

From: SMVF TA Center [mailto:SMVFТАCenter@prainc.com]

Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2015 11:59 PM

To: Connie Mancari

Subject: Topics in the News

SAMHSA's Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Technical Assistance Center

Topics in the News

SMVF TA Center Webinar: Military Culture Training for Strengthening Access to SMVF Behavioral Health Services

September 22, 2015; 2:00-3:30 p.m. EDT

This webinar will include information about the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) new released "Understanding Military Culture" Community Provider Toolkit, the impact of the VA's Choice Program on community providers, and other military culture training resources. State examples from SAMHSA's Policy Academy teams will also be featured to highlight successful implementation of military culture training and collaboration with the VA to increase access to services.

[Learn more and register...](#)

VA Health Care Use Among Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans

About 55 percent of newly eligible Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, or Operation New Dawn veterans chose to use VA health care services between 2002 and 2010, according to researchers looking at patterns in VA health care use.

[Read more...](#)

2015 Veterans Civic Health Index

The goals of this report are to foster shared understanding between the military and civilian communities about the civic strengths and opportunities of the veteran population, provide a data-informed platform through which to eliminate misconceptions about veterans, and provide specific recommendations related to the report findings.

[Read the full report...](#)

Study: Troops Discharged for Misconduct at Greater Risk of Homelessness

Troops separated from military service because of misconduct are far more likely to become homeless than other veterans, a study has found. Researchers with the Veterans Affairs Salt Lake City Health Care System in Utah found that more than a quarter of veterans who were homeless at their first Veterans Affairs visit had been separated for misconduct, with a risk for homelessness nearly five times greater than that for troops with normal separations.

[Read more...](#)

[Read the full report \(subscription required\)...](#)

Unique Program Treats Military Families with Mental Health Issues

Soldiers returning home from deployment face many challenges, as do their families. How do they adjust to the separations and reunions? Three years ago, I became the Project Director for Military Families Are Resilient (MFAR), a program created at Didi Hirsch Mental Health Service in the Los Angeles area to help military families cope with the stresses associated with military life.

[Read more...](#)

I Served in the Active Military. Yes, I'm One!

If you are a woman who served in the active military service, it is important that you know that you are a Veteran. Women have served in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts in unprecedented numbers, making up eight percent of U.S. Veterans.

[Read more...](#)

The Dialogue - The Road to Recovery: Looking Back 10 Years After Hurricane Katrina

[Read the full newsletter...](#)

Remembering Hurricane Katrina a Decade Later

Forecasters said the hurricane would be bad, but no one expected a Katrina. Hurricane Katrina struck the American Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005, causing initial destruction from Texas to Florida. It wreaked such damage over such a large area that it changed the way the U.S. government responds to disasters.

[Read more...](#)

'I Will Wait' Tells Stories of Generations of Military Spouses

America sends its sons and daughters to war, and a new play titled "I Will Wait" looks at the effect of these deployments across the generations. The brainchild of Amy Uptgraft, the play connects the experiences of spouses from World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

[Read more...](#)

Yoga for Veterans: Relaxed Body, Calm Mind, Feelings of Peace

These are some of the benefits of yoga. Those who practice yoga on a regular basis often experience better sleep and less anxiety. There can also be physical improvements such as strengthening muscles and maintaining flexibility. Everyone can enjoy these benefits, but they are particularly helpful for people who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder like military veterans.

[Read more...](#)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

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