

Improving Outcomes: Working with Military Veterans in Correctional Settings

Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT)
Program for State Prisoners

Training and Technical Assistance Resource

This project was supported by grant No. 2019-J2-BX-K001 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the SMART Office, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Point of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not represent the official position or policies of the United States Department of Justice.



Housekeeping: FUNCTIONS

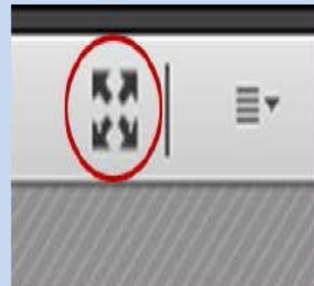
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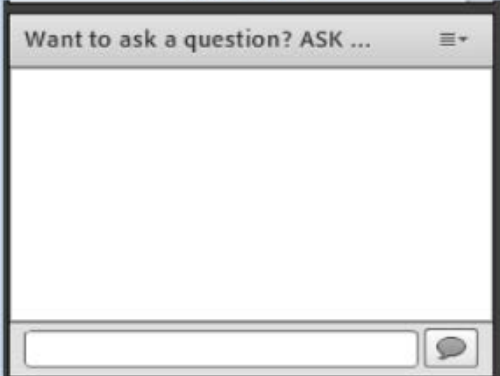
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Housekeeping: COMMUNICATION

Q&A and Technical Issues

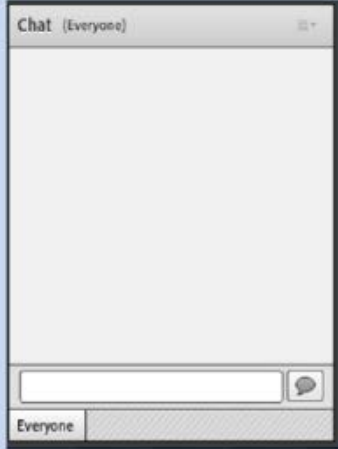
If you have questions for either the presenters or our Technical Support Staff, enter them in the Q&A box.

Our support staff will assist you with your technical issues, and our moderator will present as many questions as possible to the presenter.



Chat with us!

If you have general comments, please post them in the participant chat box.



A photograph of three men in an educational or vocational setting. Two men in the foreground are wearing orange inmate-style shirts. The man on the right is focused on writing in a notebook. The man on the left, wearing glasses, is looking towards the center. A third man in a light blue shirt is partially visible in the background on the left. The background features a whiteboard with some handwritten notes.

Veterans in Jails and Prisons

Presenters



Michelle Cleary, M.A.
Senior Program Associate
Advocates for Human Potential, Inc.



Peter J. Koutoujian
Sheriff
Middlesex County, MA



Poll # 1 & 2

What's your position/title?

- a. RSAT Program Staff
- b. Clinical Staff
- c. Medical Personnel
- d. Corrections Officer
- e. Grant Administrator
- f. Other Prison/Jail Personnel
- g. Other

One answer per person!



Have you served or are you serving in the US Military?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Learning Objectives

After completing this webinar, participants will be able to:

- Identify three common characteristics of justice involved Veterans
- Recognize at least three elements of military culture awareness
- Outline the benefits to the staff and incarcerated individuals of Veterans specific programming in correctional settings



Demographics

- Of the people who are in jail/prison, it is estimated that 7% served in the military
 - Approximately 77% were honorably discharged
 - The majority are older than non-Veterans
- May not self-report

Female Veterans

- Projected to represent 18% of the Veterans population in prison by 2020

Common Veteran-related Health Concerns

- Approximately 40% of Iraq/Afghanistan utilizing VHA services were diagnosed with:
 - Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
 - Traumatic brain injury
 - Chronic pain
- } = Greater likelihood of addiction

Veterans and Trauma

- NOT all post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- NOT just PTSD from military service
- 2015 study of over 1200 veterans who intersected with the justice system:
 - 95% reported a history of non-military trauma
 - 73% experienced trauma under the age of 18
 - 56% went through a traumatic event within the year of arrest
- Military Sexual Trauma

Trauma

“An essential component of being trauma-informed is to understand these behaviors not as character flaws or symptoms of mental illness, but as strategies or behavioral adaptations developed to cope with the physical and emotional impact of past trauma.”

(K. Stainbrook, et al. 2015)

Military Culture



- Rituals and Traditions
- Chain of Command - Leadership
- Branch Matters
- Sense of Purpose

Peer Supports



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Why Establish Veterans' Specific Programming

- Public safety
- Reduction of recidivism
- Better outcomes
- Possible tie between military service that contributed to their involvement in the justice system



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Poll # 3

How many Veterans are in your custody?

- a. Less than 10%
- b. 10-30%
- c. 30-50%
- d. I don't know





Leave No Man Behind: The Housing Unit for Military Veterans (HUMV)

Peter J. Koutoujian
Sheriff
Middlesex County, MA

HUMV Guiding Principles

- **Direct reflection of the military values that these veterans learned during their time in the service:**

RESPECT

HONOR

DUTY

INTEGRITY

- **Many of the men accepted to this treatment program come to it feeling broken and disheartened with fractured support systems.**
 - **Culture of camaraderie was key towards their past service and is key to their future rehabilitation.**





Veterans: A Population Overview

- **350,000 veterans in Massachusetts – 5% of state population**
- **Approximately 50 veterans in Middlesex Jail & House of Correction on average - 6% of our facility population**
- **Veteran Reentry Search Services is a critical tool for identifying veterans**
 - **136% increase in identified veterans compared to self-reporting**





HUMV Participants In Their Own Words

“One thing about this place is that we stick together as veterans. We know each other from the sense that we made that commitment to serve our nation, and we don’t allow the prison politics or the jail politics to come into the middle of what we’re doing here. What we do is more of a positive course of life that helps us better ourselves. We don’t allow none of the negativity to direct where we’re trying to take the unit...I feel real peaceful, knowing that with the group of gentlemen that I am here with that there is a shoulder to lean on. Once you make good friends here and also the good case workers, you know that there’s always a helping hand willing to lead you to success.”

~United States Navy Veteran





[Home](#) » Prisons and Jails with Dorms for Veterans

Prisons and Jails with Dorms for Veterans

Federal Prison

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Morgantown FCI

Morgantown, WV 26507

Coleman FCC-Low

Sumterville, FL 33521

State Prison

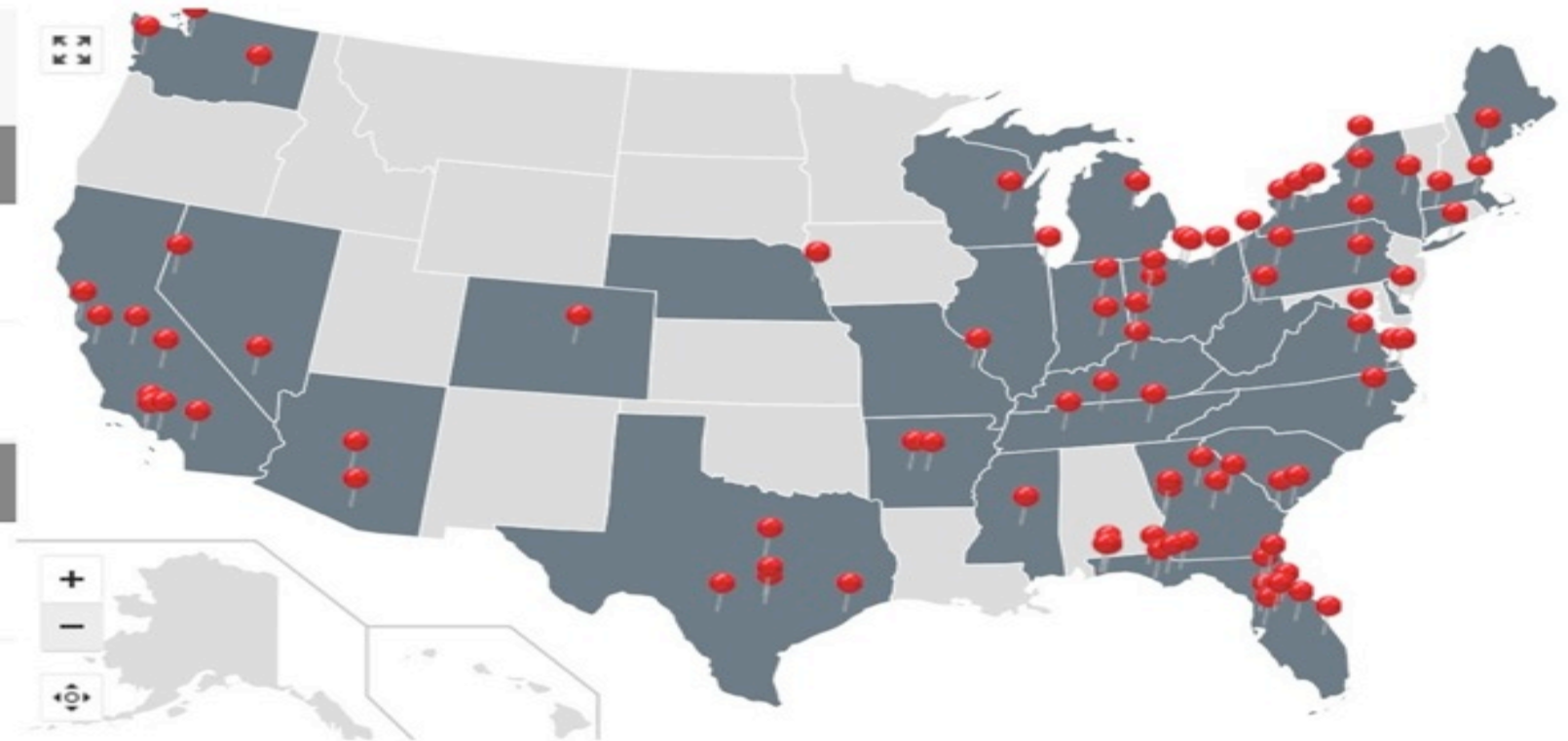
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Martin Correctional Institution

Indiantown, FL 34956

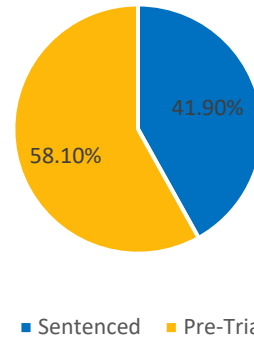
Oshkosh Correctional Institution

Oshkosh, WI 54901

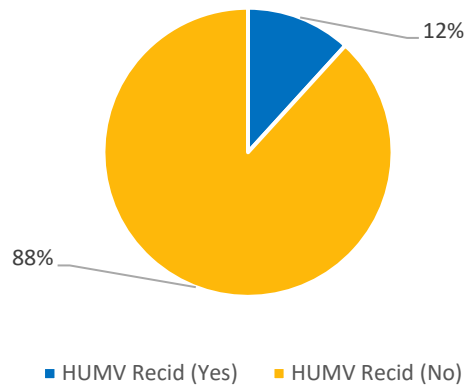


HUMV By The Numbers

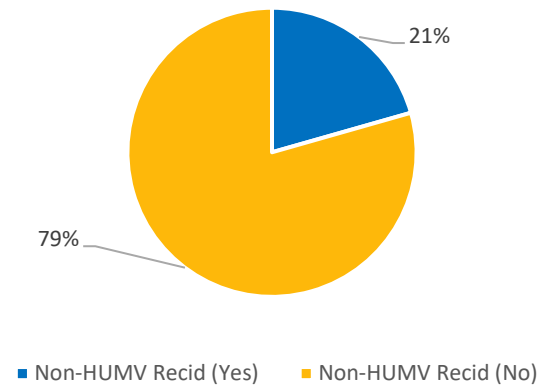
HUMV Vets (Sentenced and Pre-Trial Populations)



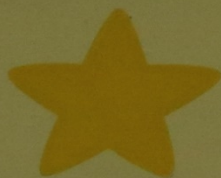
Recidivism Percentage of HUMV Vets



Recidivism of Non-HUMV Vets



NAVY





“Vision without data is a hallucination.”
-Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian

OFFICER'S STATION

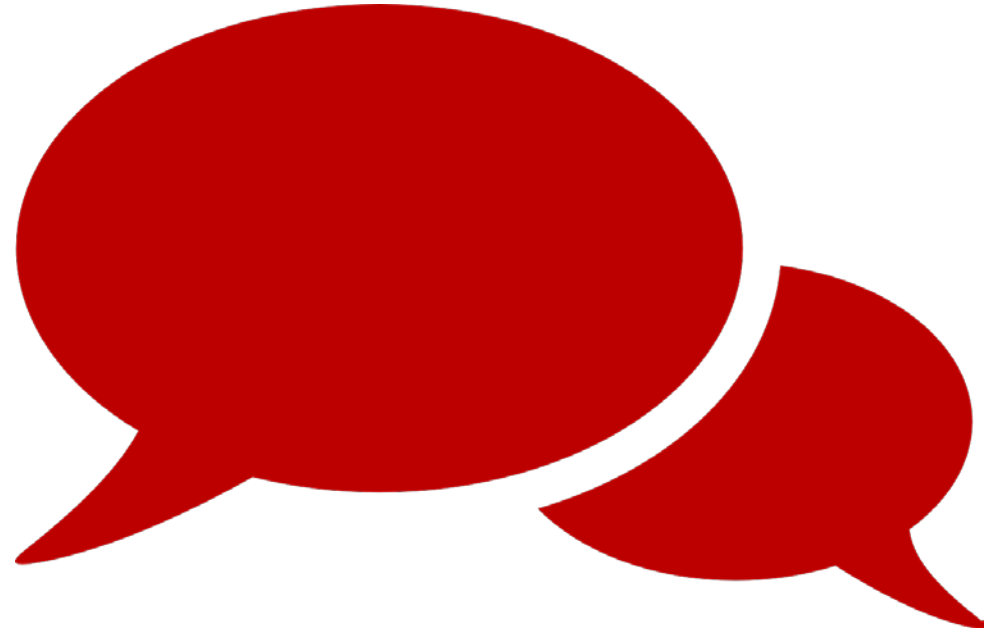


HOUSING UNIT for MILITARY VETS

Chat # 1

What is a Veterans service organization or Veterans advocacy group active in your county?

Type your answer in the chat box below!



References

- Barracks Behind Bars In Veteran-Specific Housing Units, Veterans Help Veterans Help Themselves
<https://info.nicic.gov/jiv/sites/info.nicic.gov/jiv/files/Barracks-Behind-Bars-508.pdf>
- Barracks Behind Bars II: In Veteran-Specific Housing Units, Veterans Help Veterans Help Themselves
<https://nicic.gov/barracks-behind-bars-ii-veteran-specific-housing-units-veterans-help-veterans-help-themselves>
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- Stainbrook, K., Penney, D., & Elwyn, L. (2015). The opportunities and challenges of multi-site evaluations: Lessons from the jail diversion and trauma recovery national cross-site evaluation. *Evaluation and Program Planning*, 50, 26-35. doi:10.1016/j.evalprogplan.2015.01.005

QUESTIONS

▶ Type your questions in the Q&A box on your screen.



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Barracks Behind Bars

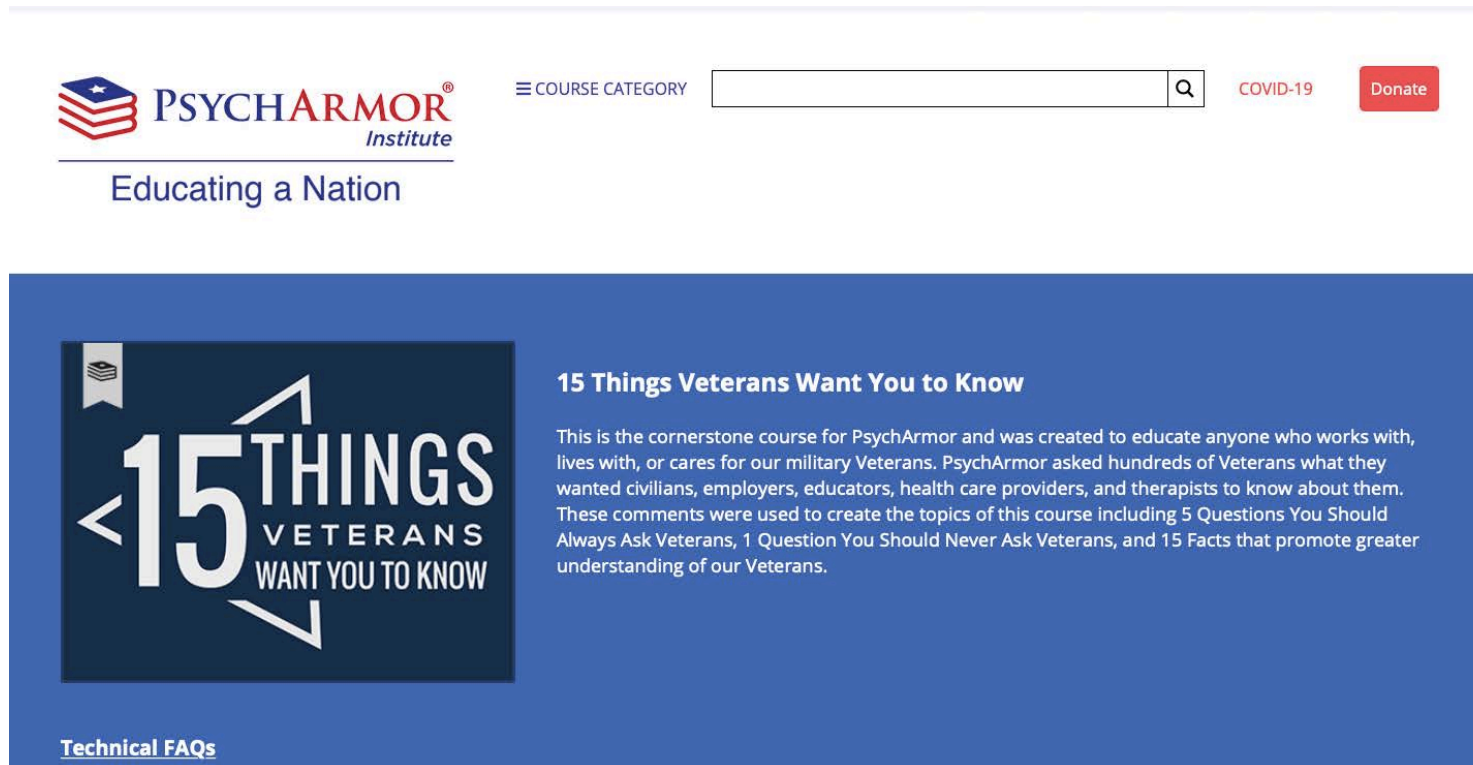
“By housing veterans together in an environment that inspires military culture, values, and a sense of brotherhood or sisterhood, these units are not only promoting safety improvements, but also restoration, healing, and growth in a way that may not have been possible via general population housing.”



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Resources

- PsychArmor Institute: <https://psycharmor.org/courses/15-things-veterans-want-you-to-know/>



The screenshot displays the PsychArmor Institute website. At the top left is the logo, which includes a stylized American flag icon and the text "PSYCHARMOR® Institute" with the tagline "Educating a Nation" below it. To the right of the logo is a navigation menu with a hamburger icon and the text "COURSE CATEGORY", followed by a search bar with a magnifying glass icon. Further right are links for "COVID-19" and a red "Donate" button. The main content area features a blue background with a dark blue box on the left containing the text "<15 THINGS VETERANS WANT YOU TO KNOW" in white. To the right of this box, the title "15 Things Veterans Want You to Know" is displayed in white, followed by a paragraph of text: "This is the cornerstone course for PsychArmor and was created to educate anyone who works with, lives with, or cares for our military Veterans. PsychArmor asked hundreds of Veterans what they wanted civilians, employers, educators, health care providers, and therapists to know about them. These comments were used to create the topics of this course including 5 Questions You Should Always Ask Veterans, 1 Question You Should Never Ask Veterans, and 15 Facts that promote greater understanding of our Veterans." At the bottom left of the blue area is a link for "Technical FAQs".

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15 Things Veterans Want You to Know

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[Technical FAQs](#)

Military Culture Resources

- Understanding Military Culture: <https://www.apaservices.org/practice/good-practice/military-culture.pdf>
- Uniformed Services University – Military Culture Course Modules: <https://deploymentpsych.org/military-culture-course-modules>

CONTACT



<http://www.rsat-tta.com/Home>



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Download certificate upon completion

August 12, 2020 RSAT webinar CEH quiz link:

<https://www.surveymoz.com/s3/5764000/August-12-2020-RSAT-Webinar-CEH>