

The background of the slide is a stylized American flag with a blue field of white stars on the left and red and white stripes on the right. The text is centered over this background.

Exploring Ways for Veterans to Access Mental Health Services in the VA

**NaTasha Allen
Outreach Coordinator
Indianapolis Vet Center**



Vet
Center

*Welcoming Home Combat
Veterans and Their Families*

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Getting Started

A Quick Survey

“Has anyone heard of a Vet Center?”

Vet Center History

- In 1979, Congress mandated the department of Veterans Affairs to establish outreach centers for Vietnam Veterans and their families.
- Service now extended to all war zone vets and sexual harassment/assault victims of any era.
- Goal is to provide a broad range of counseling, outreach and referral services, to help Veterans make a satisfying post-war readjustment to civilian life.





Mission



Currently there are over 300 Vet Centers nationwide whose mission is to provide a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to assist Veterans and family members overcome the readjustment problems associated with war and personal trauma.





Our Mission



as a Vet Center, is to serve Veterans and their families by providing a continuum of quality care that adds value for Veterans, families, and communities. Care includes: professional readjustment counseling, community education, outreach to special populations, brokering of services with community agencies, and providing a key access link between Veterans and other services within U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.



Our Mission: (cont'd)

- ***We are the people IN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WHO WELCOME HOME WAR VETERANS WITH HONOR BY PROVIDING QUALITY READJUSTMENT SERVICES IN A CARING MANNER, ASSISTING VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS TOWARD A SUCCESSFUL POSTWAR ADJUSTMENT IN OR NEAR THEIR COMMUNITIES.***
- ***No Cost and Confidential***

What Does the Vet Center Offer?

- A safe place to talk
- Confidentiality
- Counselors who have experienced combat themselves
- Flexibility of hours
- Individual counseling
- Group counseling
- Marital and family counseling
- Employment guidance
- Liaison with the VA
- Benefits Assistance
- Military Sexual Trauma counseling
- Bereavement counseling
- Drug and alcohol counseling
- An ability to be seen on a walk-in basis



Activated Reservists, National Guard members and Service Members from all the Military Branches are eligible who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations and have been discharged under honorable or general conditions.



Who We Serve

Eligibility:



- Combat Zone Veteran – “Boots On Ground” in theater.
- Military Sexual Trauma/Harassment Counseling
 - Veterans of both sexes, all eras.
- Bereavement – Parents, Spouses and Children of Armed Forces personnel who died in the service of their country. Family members of Reservists and National Guardsmen who die while on duty are included.

Combat Operations:

OEF: OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

Afghanistan combat zone. Includes the surrounding countries and all other GWOT nations except for OIF/OND. Combat Operations began on 7 October 2001 continuing through 2011.

OIF: OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

Iraqi combat zone beginning 19 March 2003 ending 31 Aug 2010.

OND: OPERATION NEW DAWN

Formerly OIF, beginning 1 Sept 2010 to 15 December 2011.

GWOT: GLOBAL WAR ON TERROISM

Broad term for numerous Global locations. Matching OEF/OIF/OND.

Indiana Vet Centers

Indianapolis Vet Center 8330 Naab Rd. Suite 103

Indianapolis, IN 46260

317-988-1600

Fort Wayne Vet Center 5800 Fairfield Ave. Suite 265

Ft. Wayne, IN 46807

260-460-1456

Evansville Vet Center 311 N. Weinbach Ave.

Evansville, IN 47711

812-473-5993

NorthWest Vet Center 107 E. 93rd Ave

Crown Point, IN 46307

219-736-5633

South Bend Vet Center 4727 Miami St.

South Bend, IN 46614

574-231-8579

What unique services does the Vet Center offers?

- ❖ Bereavement counseling
- ❖ Saturday hours & late week-day hours
- ❖ Outreach within the urban & rural communities - *reaching the Veteran where they are*
- ❖ Walk-in appointments
- ❖ Easy accessibility on bus route, with no parking restrictions

Groups Offered at Vet Center



Referral

- Vet Center Referral Form
- DD214
- Disability Information (if applicable)
- Other relevant information (i.e. medication list, treatment reports, etc.)



Mobile Vet Center



Outreach Motor Speedway



Mobile Vet Center

- Mobile Vet Center Driver:
- William (Bill) Moylan
- 317-988-1605

Indy Vet Center staff supporting our Veterans

June Watts, LMFT supporting our Veteran on the left. NaTasha Allen supporting our Veteran on the bottom right.



Indianapolis Vet Center

Staff Team:

Melanie Harris, ACSW - Team Leader

Tina Milam – Office Manager (PSA)

Counselors:

Keith Watts, LCSW

June Watts, LMFT

Terry Randall, LCSW

MVC Driver

William (Bill) Moylan

Outreach Coordinator:

NaTasha Allen, BSW, MPA

www.vetcenter.va.gov

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Questions & Answers?

Thank You 😊!

**Indianapolis Vet
Center Team**