



Homecoming after Deployment

With deployment comes change. Knowing what to expect and how to deal with changes can make homecoming more enjoyable and less stressful.

Expectations:

- ★ You may miss the excitement of the deployment for a while.
- ★ Spouses may have become more independent and learned new coping skills.
- ★ You may not want to talk about it when others keep asking.
- ★ You may wonder if you still fit into the family.



Tips:

- ★ Support good things your family has done.
- ★ Take time to listen and talk with loved ones.
- ★ Be patient with yourself and family members.
- ★ Be aware that your family may not be the same as before. Everyone may have changed.



For more information:

Department of Veterans Affairs –

<http://www.va.gov>

VA Suicide Prevention Hotline

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Department of Defense –

<http://www.dodtransportal.org>

VA Heartland Network Point of Contact Information:

Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital
Columbia, MO 573-814-6639 or 573-814-6433

John J. Pershing VA Medical Center
Poplar Bluff, MO
573-778-4631 or 573-778-4740

Kansas City VA Medical Center
Kansas City, MO 816-922-2033

Marion VA Medical Center
Marion, IL
618-997-5311 ext. 54034 or ext. 54066 or ext. 54037

Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center
Wichita, KS
316-685-2221 ext. 52011 or ext. 54556

St. Louis VA Medical Center
St. Louis, MO 314-289-7641

VA Eastern Kansas Health Care System
Leavenworth, KS 913-682-2000 ext. 52657
Topeka, KS 785-350-3111 ext. 52331

VA Heartland Network
Kansas City, MO 816-701-3000

VA Heartland Network Crisis Intervention Hotline
1-800-899-9377



**VA
Heartland
Network**



Seamless Transition PROGRAM



"To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and orphan."

President Abraham Lincoln





OEF/OIF Program

It is our duty and privilege to provide veterans with the best care available. The VA has set up a program designed to meet the needs of veterans returning from Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). Many of our veterans have suffered illness and injury related to the Global War on Terrorism. Our goal is to make sure these veterans receive the highest quality of care in a timely manner. Your VA Heartland Network will continue to look at the needs of OEF/OIF veterans and provide services to meet those needs. Please let us know how we can improve our service to you, the deserving veteran.

Available Health Care

Services:

- ★ Hospital, outpatient medical, nursing home and community-based residential care
- ★ Dental, pharmacy and prosthetic services
- ★ Mental health services
- ★ Sexual trauma counseling
- ★ Specialized health care for women veterans
- ★ Outreach programs for homeless veterans
- ★ Readjustment counseling
- ★ Alcohol and drug dependency treatment



As of January 2008, approximately 800,000 service members of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom have separated from active military duty.

Of the nearly 300,000 OEF and OIF veterans receiving VA health care, 51% have been members of the Reserve or National Guard.

The most common health problems of these veterans have been musculoskeletal ailments, mental health problems and nervous system/sense organs diseases.



Eligibility

The primary factor in determining basic eligibility for VA benefits is “veteran status.”

- ★ Active duty in the Armed Forces with a discharge or release from active service under conditions other than dishonorable conditions establishes veteran status.
- ★ Reservist or National Guard members can establish eligibility for VA health care benefits only if the President activated them for federal duty.
- ★ Reservists that are never called to active duty may qualify for some benefits through the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA).

Online Enrollment

To receive health care benefits, all veterans must enroll. You may enroll online at www.va.gov. Click on the “Health” icon. Then click “Returning Service Members,” then locate “To apply for health benefits online.” This will open the electronic application for health care benefits (Form 10-10EZ). You may pick up this application form at any VA Medical Center or clinic.

