

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Transportation (DOT), along with the Department of Defense (DoD), are combining forces to develop short- and long-term approaches to reduce motor vehicle crashes and their consequences among veterans, particularly those returning from the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Veterans' Safe Driving Initiative will involve both an information campaign and a strategic research plan.

VA and DOT are embarking on two parallel efforts:

1 They are launching a **Veterans' Safe Driving Public Health Information Campaign** to increase awareness and prevention of motor vehicle crash risk among veterans. Key target audiences for this information will be veterans, their families, VA health care and other staff, veteran service groups, State governments, and the business community, especially businesses related to automobiles and motorcycles. The information delivered to these groups will build upon the results of the DoD's work since 2003 to reduce service member deaths from motor vehicle accidents.

2 VA and DOT are developing a **Veterans' Traffic Safety Strategic Research Plan** to identify priority needs for expanded knowledge that will enable longer-term reductions in crash risks among veterans. DoD's experience and findings to date will be an important contribution to the VA/DOT plan. Experts in transportation safety, veterans' health and medical care, and public health have been convened to identify gaps in current knowledge and are proposing a strategic plan for addressing key research questions. A range of research directions will be considered, from epidemiology to psychology and biomechanics.

For Information on VA

Health Care

1-877-222-8387

Benefits

1-800-827-1000

or on the web at:

www.va.gov



— VETERANS' —
SAFE DRIVING
— INITIATIVE —
— — —

www.safedriving.va.gov

Home safe. Drive safe. Stay safe.

Images from iStockPhoto, VA resources and the Department of Defense.

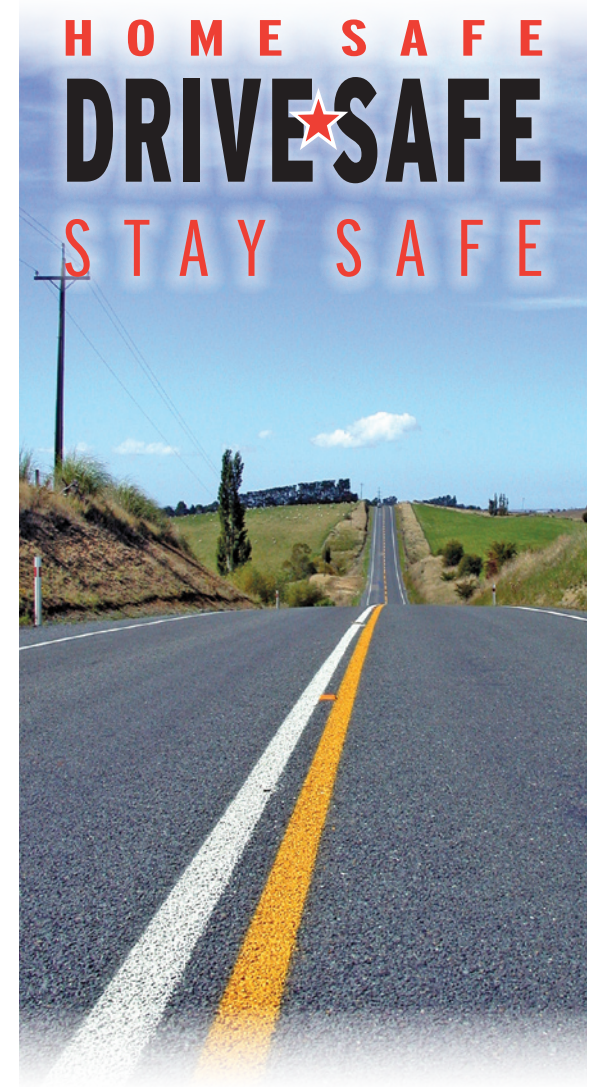
Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration (13)
Washington, DC
www.va.gov

Department of Transportation (DOT)
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Washington, DC
www.dot.gov

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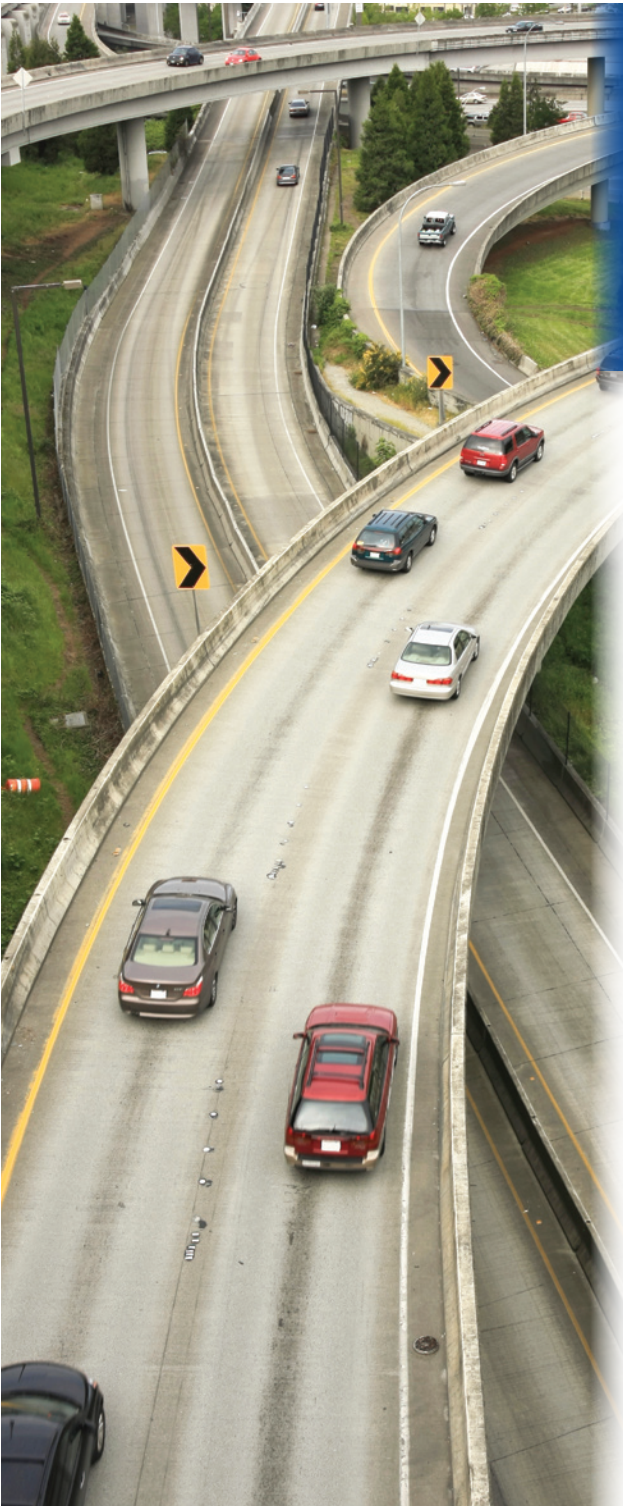
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— — —

HOME SAFE
DRIVE SAFE
STAY SAFE



Department of
Veterans Affairs





Returning Veterans:
Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death in veterans in the early years after returning from deployment.



Don't let that happen to you.

- Don't drink and drive.
- Don't ride with a drunk driver.
- Always wear your seat belt — driving, in the passenger seat, or in a back seat.
- If you ride a motorcycle, always wear a helmet and ride sober.
- Mile for mile, your risk of a fatal crash is about 35 times higher on your motorcycle than in your car.



You are home now.

Home safe. Drive safe. Stay safe.



www.safedriving.va.gov