



CITIZEN SOLDIER U.S. ARMY RESERVE



TO WAR AND BACK: A Comparison of the Experiences of Gulf War and OIF/OEF Army Reserve Veterans



U.S. ARMY RESERVE COMMAND



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THE PROCESS



WHAT HAS BEEN

WHAT IS

WHAT'S NEXT



THE ISSUES



- PREMOBILIZATION
- DEMOBILIZATION
- CARE AND FOLLOW-UP AFTER RELEASE FROM ACTIVE DUTY
- HEALTHCARE BENEFITS
- DISABILITY BENEFITS
- JOB/COMMUNITY RE-ENGAGEMENT
- EFFECT ON MILITARY CAREER



NUMBER OF RESERVE SOLDIERS



1990-91 GULF WAR

- Army Reserve Soldiers Mobilized – 139,207
- Deployed to Southwest Asia – 73,431

OIF/OEF

- Army Reserve Soldiers Mobilized –
- Deployed to Southwest Asia –



PREMOBILIZATION



- Desert Shield / Desert Storm (DS/DS) -- Not uniform or consistent
Little warning; “come as you are”; informal SRP processes
Often not in unit configurations because of delays in calling up the Reserves

- Early OIF/OEF -- More consistent with some uniformity
Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) at the Mobilization (Mob) Station
Followed the Consolidated Personnel Policy Guidance (PPG) (17 September 2002
Blood Sample Pre-Mobilization

- Late OIF/OEF – Uniform and consistent
Unit SRP
Mob station SRP
25 day “Release From Active Duty”



DEMOBILIZATION



- DS/DS
 - Demobilization process not uniform, consistent
 - Most often did not include a physical exam at demobilization site
 - No Yellow Ribbon or other formal follow-up program

- Early OIF/OEF
 - Post-Deployment Health Assessment (PDHA)
 - Blood Sample Post- Mobilization

- Late OIF/OEF –
 - Post-Deployment Health Re-Assessment (PDHRA)



How Demobilization Process Should Have Been Done



- Post-Mobilization Dental Exam
- Post-Mobilization Audiogram
- Suicide Prevention Program Training
- Collection of Blood Sample for Future Research



ONGOING INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE READINESS



- Medically Non-Deployable (MND) Module
For uniform and consistent profiling
- Medical Protection System (MEDPROS) Data Entry
- Battle Focus Readiness Review (BFFR)
- Electronic Medical Records – AHLTA
- Pre-Mob Rx – Certain conditions – Pilot Study
- Automated Neuropsychological Assessment Metrics (ANAM) – pre and post-deployment
- Yearly Periodic Health Assessment (PHA) – Replaces previous 5 year physical



HEALTHCARE BENEFITS



- DS/DS
 - VA / MTF care
- Early OIF/OEF:
 - a. Care under Medical Retention Processing (MRP) Orders
 - b. VA Care for 2 years for all medical conditions and for life for service-connected conditions
 - c. Care at a local Military Treatment Facility (MTF) on a space available basis
 - d. Care locally through the Military Medical Support Office
 - e. Care under Medical Holdover program



HEALTHCARE BENEFITS- CONTINUED



❑ Late OEF/OIF

- a. Care under MRP/MRP2 orders - – Warrior Transition Unit (WTU) and Community-based WTU established
- b. Tricare Reserve Select (TRS) – low cost health insurance – came into existence
- c. VA care for all medical conditions extended to 5 years
- d. Center for the Intrepid for rehabilitative care opened
- e. Polytrauma Centers for care of Soldiers with polytrauma established
- f. Defense Centers of Excellence (DCOE) for Psychological Health (PH) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) stood up
- g. Outreach Center for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury



HEALTHCARE BENEFITS- CONTINUED



- Army Reserve Warrior Family Assistance center established to assist Warriors and their families

- Military One Source

- Dental Care under the Army Selective Reserve (SELRES) Dental Readiness System – pays for exams and Class 111 treatment for all SELRES Soldiers



DISABILITY EVALUATION SYSTEM PROCESS



- DS/DS -
Medical Evaluation Board (MEB) and Physical Evaluation Board (PEB)
Process inconsistent

- Early OIF/OEF -
Physical Disability Evaluation System (PDES) Transformation Initiative

- Late OIF/OEF –
PDES Pilot Program
One physical; VA determines disability

- Future –
Legislative initiatives - Ongoing



JOB/COMMUNITY RE-ENGAGEMENT



- Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve
- Employer Partnership Initiative (Conway Trucking company, INOVA, Wal*Mart, local Sheriffs' departments, etc.)
- Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program



IMPACT OF DISCLOSED ILLNESS/INJURY ON MILITARY CAREER



- Soldier treated until optimal medical benefit is attained

- New profile given

- If the SM meets medical retention standards, he/she is returned to active status

- If the SM does not meet medical retention standards, then he/she is processed through the PDES



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QUESTIONS??