Veterans

Military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan are taking its toll on veterans and their families. Veterans suffer physical injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder, and traumatic brain injury. Substance abuse is also a concern.

- The number of veterans diagnosed with mental illness and substance use disorders increased 38 percent between 2004 and 2008.
- Almost 30% of the Army’s suicide deaths from 2003 to 2009 involved the use of drugs or alcohol.
- Alcohol abuse is the most prevalent problem. Twenty-seven percent of soldiers returning from Iraq met criteria for alcohol abuse.

(RAND) (Substance Abuse among the Military, Veterans, and their Families) (Army Health Promotion, Risk Reduction and Suicide Prevention Report)

The Department of Veterans Affairs has many resources to help veterans and their loved ones find support, get treatment, and recover:

- Veterans crisis line: (800) 273-8255
- Substance Use Treatment Programs

More Information

- Manatee County Veterans Services
- Florida DCF Veterans Resources
- Strengthening Military Families and Veterans
- My Reboot Camp: Serving Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan