



COLLEGE OF NURSING  
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# Development of an Evidence-Based Online Veteran Health Course

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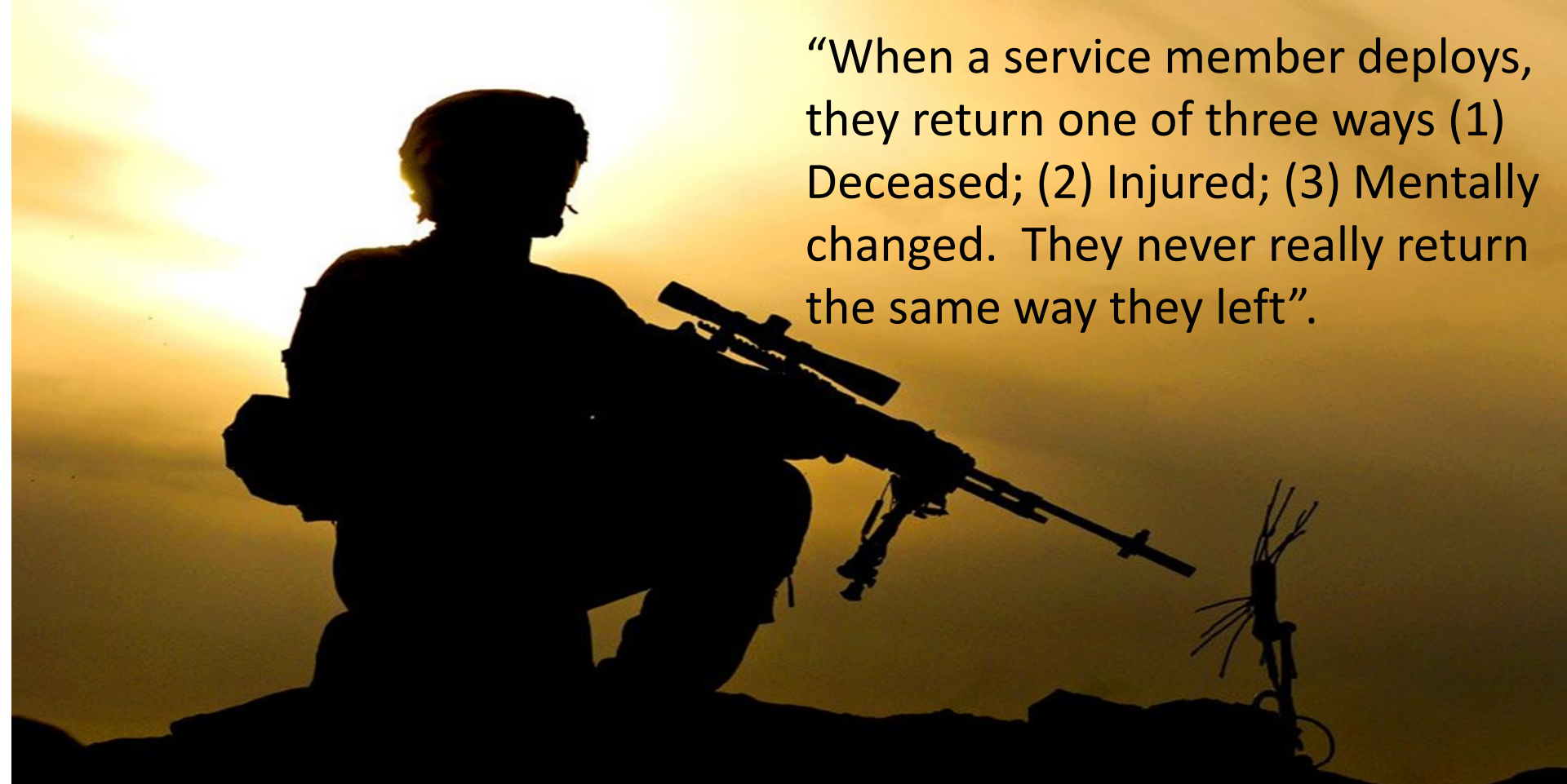
# Disclaimer

The views expressed in this presentation are those of the authors and do not reflect the views, official policy, or position of the University of South Florida, Johns Hopkins University, United States Air Force, Department of Defense, or the U.S. Government.

# Background

- Longest war in history
- Largest troop reintegration since Vietnam
- To date 2.6 M veterans served in OEF/OIF/OND
- Invisible and visible wounds of war
- 26M veterans in the country
- Healthcare providers in VA and civilian sector ill prepared to meet challenge to care veteran population

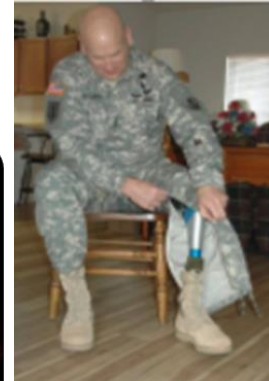
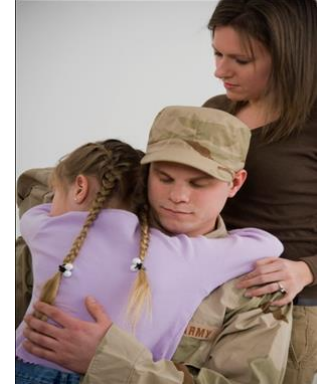


A silhouette of a soldier in full combat gear, including a helmet and a rifle with a scope, is shown against a bright, hazy sunset or sunrise. The soldier is positioned on the left side of the frame, looking towards the right. The background is a gradient of warm colors from yellow to orange. In the bottom right corner, there is a small silhouette of a tripod-mounted device, possibly a camera or a sensor.

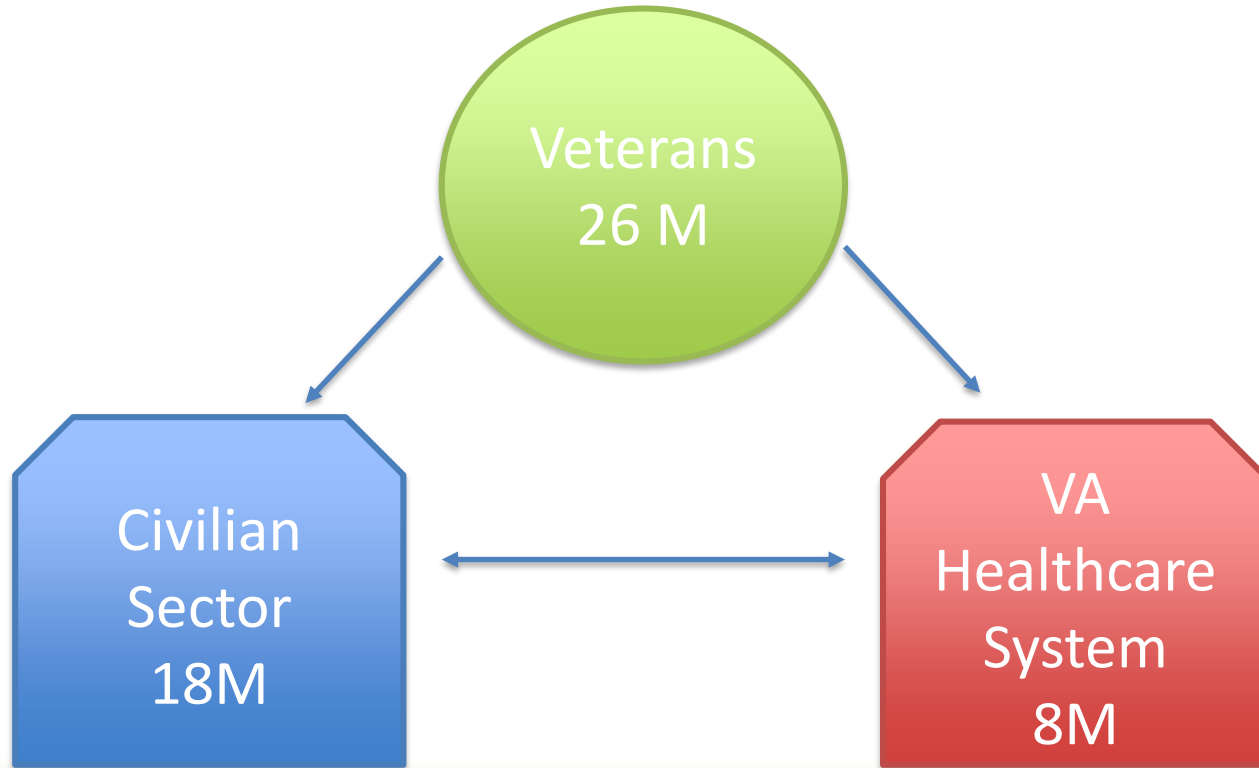
“When a service member deploys, they return one of three ways (1) Deceased; (2) Injured; (3) Mentally changed. They never really return the same way they left”.

# Issues Facing Today's Active Duty Military and Veterans

- Polytrauma and Traumatic Brain Injury
- Unemployment/Underemployment
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Military Sexual Trauma
- Homelessness
- Military Families
- Divorce
- Suicide
- Homicide



# Significance



# The Challenge

- 18 Million veterans receiving care in the civilian sector
  - Most veterans do not self identify
    - Military status unknown to healthcare providers
    - Many women veterans do not identify themselves as veterans and do not know they are eligible for VA services
  - Lack of knowledge regarding military and military culture
  - Lack of knowledge regarding services available to veterans in our community
  - Effects of military service impact:
    - Mental health
    - Physical health

# The Challenge

- Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act 2014
  - Veterans can receive care outside VA if:
    - They must wait more than 30 days for service
    - Live greater than 40 miles from a VA
    - Have excessive travel burdens
  - Nursing education programs are now mandated to incorporate education on delivering culturally competent care for the veteran population
  - License and Certification requirements?



# Integrating EBP

- Course development by faculty with military/veteran and VA experience
- Evolving development of undergraduate nursing competencies influenced by faculty expertise and Veterans Affairs Nursing Academy (VANA) and VA Nursing Academic Partnership (VANAP)
  - Military and Veteran Culture,
  - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder,
  - Amputation and Assistive Devices,
  - Environmental/Chemical Exposures,
  - Substance Use Disorder,
  - Military Sexual Trauma,
  - Traumatic Brain Injury, Suicide,
  - Homelessness,
  - Serious Illness Especially at the End of Life.

Moss, J. A., Moore, R. L., & Selleck, C. S. (2015). Veteran competencies for undergraduate nursing education. *Advances in Nursing Science*, 38(4), 306-316.

# Introduction to Military and Veteran Health Course

- Interactive online course design
- 8 Modules integrating competencies
- Initially targeted for BSN students
- Faculty with Military/Veteran or VA experience



# Answering the Call

Module	Module Title	Module Content	Assignment
1	Defining the Veteran	Introduction to Military and Veteran Health  Defining a veteran  Military Cultural Competence	Veteran Interview Discussion Board
2	Caring for the Military Population	Veteran Specific Health Concerns  Department of Defense and VA healthcare systems  Battlefield Medicine and Military Evacuation System	Veteran Service Organizations Discussion Board  Military Culture Interactive Webinar

# Answering the Call

Module	Module Title	Module Content	Assignment
3	The Military Family and the Impact of Deployment	Military Family Deployment Cycle Caring for Military Children	Military Family Case Study Military Family and Deployment Quiz
4	Physical Wounds of Military Service	Physical wounds of war Polytrauma and TBI Impact of blast injuries Rehabilitation process for veterans experiencing physical injuries.	Polytrauma Web Quest Polytrauma Quiz

# Answering the Call

Module	Module Title	Module Description	Assignment
5	Psychological Wounds of Military Service	Psychological “Invisible” wounds of war  Suicide, PTSD  Resilience  Emerging Therapies for PTSD	Development of a Patient and Family Psychological Health Educational Pamphlet  Psychological Wounds Quiz
6	Unique Needs of Women Veterans	History of women in the military  Women veterans healthcare needs  Impact of Military Service on Marriage/Divorce	Women’s Health Issue Reflection Paper

# Answering the Call

Module	Module Title	Module Description	Assignments
7	Military Sexual Trauma	Military Sexual Assault  Impact of MST on physical and psychological health	Military Sexual Trauma Documentary Discussion Board  MST Quiz
8	No One Returns from War Unchanged	Veteran Advocacy  “Have You Ever Served?”  VA Military Health History Pocket Card for Clinicians	Creation of a Veteran Education Power Point Presentation  End of Course Reflection

# Veteran Advocate

- Military service involves environmental health exposures, assessments, and potential health outcomes for the service member and family
- Educate yourself
- Ask the question
- Listen
- Incorporate health concerns/issues into your H and P
- Physical
- Mental
- Document
- Referral
- Support

# Questions??

*Creating the nursing leaders of tomorrow and the research that improves health for our military and their families*

