Civilian-Soldier-Veteran

Bridging the Divide
Warning: This presentation may contain military language, that you may confuse with profanity.
Don’t be alarmed, they are just words with a new frame of reference.
Are you providing Veteran-Informed Services?

1. Culture
   • Military & Veteran
     • Training
     • Experiences
     • History

2. Trauma
   • Combat Trauma
   • Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
   • Military Sexual Trauma (MST)
   • Service Hazards

3. Resources
   • Military and Contract Agencies
   • Veterans Administration (VA)
   • State Department of Veterans Affairs
   • County
   • Private agencies and Veteran Service Organizations
Bottom Four Questions

• Did you kill anyone?
• Do you have the PTSD?
• Was it hot in Iraq?
• Have you ever been to the front?
How do you interact with Veterans?

• How do you ID a Veteran?
• What do you ask them?
• What may be triggers for combat veterans?
• Who do you consult with?
• Where do you send them for help?
• What tools do you have?
• What tools can you develop?
Top Four Questions

• Did you serve in the US Military?
• What service branch were you in?
• What did you do in the military?
• How can I connect you to services?
Military Culture?

- **Culture** is the way of life for a society. As such, it includes codes of:
  - Manners, dress, language, religion, rituals, norms of behavior such as law and morality, and systems of belief as well as the arts and gastronomy.

- **Cultural Competence** refers to an ability to interact effectively with people of different cultures.

- Developing cultural competence results in an ability to understand, communicate with, and effectively interact with people across cultures.
Culture = History + Training + Experiences
Explicit vs. Implicit

• Uniform
• Ranks
• Laws
• Services

• Customs
• Relatively unchanging set of worldviews
• Values incorporated into identity
• Elements contribute to resilience, but also make one vulnerable.
There is no unified Military Culture

- Numerous Sub-cultures
- Collectivistic vs. Individualistic
- Why you join
- What is your role
- Combat vs. Support
- Deployed
- Which Generation?
Army Navy Marines Air Force Coast Guard

• Army – Aren’t Ready for Marines Yet
  Air Force Rejected Me Yesterday
• Navy – Never Again Volunteer Yourself
• Marines – Muscles Are Required, Intelligence Not Essential
• Air Force – Chair Force, Zoomie
• Coast Guard – Shallow Navy or Navy Lite
Who are we?

- Squid – Sailor
- Jar Head - Marine
- Grunt - Soldier
- Zoomie - Airman
- Coastie – Coastguard person
US Military - Wars and Operations

- US Army
  - 14 June 1775
- US Navy
  - 13 October 1775
- US Marine Corp
  - 10 November 1775
- US Air Force
  - 8 September 1947
- US Coast Guard
  - 4 August 1790
- US National Guard
  - Army Guard
  - Air Guard

- World War II
- Korean War
- Vietnam War
- Lebanon
- Urgent Fury
- Operation Just Cause
- Desert Shield and Storm
- Restore Hope
- Allied Force
- Enduring Freedom
- Iraqi Freedom
- Operation New Dawn
- Operation Inherent Resolve
- Operation Freedom Sentinel
I, Scott Swaim, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God.

Oath initiated 14 June 1775
Why is this person yelling at me?

• **Uniforms**- BDU-ACU-BAG
• **24 hour time** – O Dark 30
• **Language** - FUBAR
• **Laws** - UCMJ
• **Medical** – Sick Call to GG shots
• **Food**- DFAC to MRE
• **Rank Structure**- Zero to NCO
• **Dream Sheet**- I’m going where?!
• PCS/TDY/LES/OIF/OEF/FIDO/Short/IED/SNAFU
REALIZATION

It was at that point when Timmy realized that wasn't the bus to summer camp...
Sir/Ma’am,
New Cadet Doe reports to the Cadet in the Red Sash for the first time as ordered.
Ranks and Titles and Class

• There are three general categories of rank/rate:
  • Enlisted personnel (E1-E9) and Non-Commissioned Officers
  • Warrant Officers (WO1-CW5)
  • Commissioned Officers (O1-O9).

• All commissioned officers "out-rank" all warrant officers and enlisted members. All warrant officers "outrank" all enlisted members.

• There are some operational anomalies:
  
  A brand new commissioned officer in the grade of O-1, would "out-rank" an E-9, Army Sergeant Major, (however, any 2nd lieutenant (Butter Bar) stupid enough to unnecessarily "pull rank" on an E-9 would quickly find him/herself having a talk with his/her own boss).
THE FOBBIT
Milspec 101

- DOD - OEF – Provide Comfort – OIF – TRASH - IED
- TDY – Bag – 203 – MOS – Head – Speaker Monkey
- DOS – Cover- Short – 214 – GWOT – TOC Roach - AMF
- CIB – JDAM – B-2 – F-15 – Salad Suit – COP - MRAP
- Fobbit – Buddha – Fred – Grunt – DPP – Bravo Foxtrot
- Digi World – Butter Bar – REMF – SH – ISAF - FNG
Warrior Ethos - The Honor Code

• “Some say that self-preservation is the strongest instinct of all, not only in humans but in all animal life. Fear of death. The imperative to survive. Nature has implanted this in all living creatures.

• The Warrior Ethos evolved to counter the instinct of self-preservation. Against this natural impulse to flee from danger”
Warrior Ethos

WARRIOR ETHOS

I WILL ALWAYS PLACE THE MISSION FIRST
I WILL NEVER ACCEPT DEFEAT
I WILL NEVER QUIT
I WILL NEVER LEAVE A FALLEN COMRADE

U.S. ARMY
Warrior Ethos – Before During After

- Sense of purpose
- Identity
- Morality
- Belonging
- Honor
- Sacrifice

- Prevent asking for help
- How does the Warrior become the Veteran
- Suffer in Silence
- Pride in “Embracing the Suck”
Experience
In the last 3,421 years of recorded history.....only 268 years have not seen war!

Why do we forget so quickly?
ATTITUDE

A Sense of Humor Can Help Make Even the Toughest Job Easier
Mottos of Identity – Official and Not so

• “That others may Live”
• “One Shot, One Kill”
• “Don’t run, you’ll only die tired”
• “Anytime, anywhere” for per diem
• “Semper Fidelis”
• “Uno ab alto” Air Force Identity Crisis
• “In God we trust – All others we monitor”
• “The only easy day, was yesterday”
• “Peace is our mission, Killing is just a hobby”
Veteran Court Culture

• Flags
• Coins
• Patches
• Presentation
• Military History
• Mentors
• Veterans Experience
• Educate yourself
Things to Consider About Veterans

• Think about generational differences
  • WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Cold War, Gulf War, Iraq, and Afghanistan (Sand Box Vets)

• Veterans are not terrorists

• You do not have to comprehend what they have been through, but at least know the difference between a squid and a grunt

• If you don’t know what they are saying about their service in the military, ask them!

• We do not trust easily!

• If you don’t get it, get the Veteran to someone who does.
WASHINGTON AVENUE

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For more information

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