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**Texas Veterans Commission**

# **P A M P L E T**

**No. 1, January/February 2008**



# **VA VET CENTERS**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN



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# FOREWORD

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Vet Centers provide readjustment counseling and outreach services to all veterans who served in any combat zone. Services are also available for their family members for military related issues. Veterans have earned these benefits through their service and all are provided at no cost to the veteran or family.

The Department of Veterans Affairs Vet Center program operates a system of 207 community based counseling centers. The Vet Centers are staffed by small multi-disciplinary teams of dedicated providers, many of which are combat veterans themselves. Vet Center staff are available toll free during normal business hours at 1-800-905-4675 (Eastern) and 1-866-496-8838 (Pacific). A listing of the Vet Centers in Texas is provided in this Pamphlet on Pages 5 and 6.

Vet Centers understand and appreciate Veterans' war experiences while assisting them and their family members toward a successful post-war adjustment in or near their community by providing quality readjustment counseling in a caring manner.

The source for this Pamphlet is the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

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# US Department of Veterans Affairs

## *Vet Centers*

### *VA Vet Center History*

The Vet Center Program was established by Congress in 1979 out of the recognition that a significant number of Vietnam era vets were still experiencing readjustment problems. Vet Centers are community based and part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

In April 1991, in response to the Persian Gulf War, Congress extended the eligibility to veterans who served during other periods of armed hostilities after the Vietnam era. Those other periods are identified as Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf, Somalia, and Kosovo/Bosnia.

In October 1996, Congress extended the eligibility to include WWII and Korean Combat Veterans. The goal of the Vet Center program is to provide a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to eligible veterans in order to help them make a satisfying post-war readjustment to civilian life.

On April 1, 2003 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs extended eligibility for Vet Center services to veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and on June 25, 2003 Vet Center eligibility was extended to veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and subsequent operations within the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT).

The family members of all veterans listed above are eligible for Vet Center services as well. On August 5, 2003 VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi authorized Vet Centers

to furnish bereavement counseling services to surviving parents, spouses, children and siblings of service members who die of any cause while on active duty, to include federally activated Reserve and National Guard personnel.

### ***Eligibility: War Zone Veteran***

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**World War II** - Three eligible categories - European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal (7 December 1941 to 8 November 1945); Asiatic - Pacific Campaign Medal (7 December 1941 to 2 March 1946); or American Campaign Medal (7 December 1941 to 2 March 1946)

**Korean War** - 27 June 1950 to 27 July 1954 (eligible for the Korean Service Medal)

**American Merchant Marines** - In oceangoing service during the period of armed conflict, 7 December 1941 to 15 August 1945

**Vietnam War** - 28 February 1961 to 7 May 1975

**Lebanon** - 25 August 1982 to 26 February 1984

**Grenada** - 23 October 1983 to 21 November 1983

**Panama** - 20 December 1989 to 31 January 1990

**Persian Gulf** - 2 August 1990 to -

**Somalia** - 17 September 1992 to -

***Operation Joint Endeavor, Operation Joint Guard & Operation Joint Force:*** Veterans who participated in one

or more of the three successive operations in the former Yugoslavia (Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia, aboard U.S. Naval vessels operating in the Adriatic Sea, or air spaces above those areas).

***Global War on Terrorism:*** Veterans who serve or have served in military expeditions to combat terrorism on or after September 11, 2001 and before a terminal date yet to be established. Includes Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

## **Bereavement Counseling**

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### ***What is Bereavement Counseling?***

Bereavement counseling is assistance and support to people with emotional and psychological stress after the death of a loved one. Bereavement counseling includes a broad range of transition services, including outreach, counseling, and referral services to family members.

### ***Does VA Have Bereavement Counseling for Surviving Family Members?***

The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) offers bereavement counseling to parents, spouses and children of Armed Forces personnel who died in the service of their country. Also eligible are family members of the Reserves and the National Guard who die while on duty.

### ***Where Is Counseling Offered?***

VA's bereavement counseling is provided at community-based Vet Centers located near the families. There is no cost for VA bereavement counseling.

### ***How Are Services Obtained?***

Services are obtained by contacting the National Readjustment Counseling Service at 202-273-9116 or via electronic mail at [vet.center@va.gov](mailto:vet.center@va.gov) both of which are specific to this specialized service. RCS staff will assist families in contacting the nearest Vet Center. Often counseling can be made available in the family's home or where the family feels most comfortable.

## **Military Sexual Trauma Counseling**

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### ***What is military sexual trauma counseling?***

Military sexual trauma counseling may include individual or group counseling, marital and family counseling, referral for benefits assistance, liaison with community agencies or substance abuse information and referral to help you deal with the emotions of military sexual trauma and regain confidence in your everyday life.

### ***Who is eligible for military sexual trauma counseling?***

Any veteran who was sexually traumatized while serving in the military is eligible to receive counseling regardless of gender or era of service.

### ***Where are services available?***

Medical services are available at your local VA Medical Center and can be accessed by contacting the Military Sexual Trauma Coordinator (or Women Veterans Program Manager). Assessment and referral for sexual trauma counseling are available at all Vet Centers. On site counseling is available at selected Vet Centers across the country. Check with your local Vet Center for more information.

## ***VA Vet Centers in Texas***

There are 15 Vet Centers located in Texas. Normal working hours are 8:00am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday. In an effort to better serve the veteran and family members, upon request Vet Centers will provide services after normal work hours and/or on weekends.

### **3B South Central Regional Office**

4500 S. Lancaster Rd., Building 69  
Dallas, TX 75216

Phone: (214)-857-1254; Fax: (214)-767-0003

### **Amarillo Vet Center**

3414 Olsen Blvd., Suite E  
Amarillo, TX 79109

Phone: (806)-354-9779; Fax: (806)-351-1104

### **Austin Vet Center**

1110 West William Cannon Dr., Suite 301  
Austin, TX 78745

Phone: (512)-416-1314; Fax: (512)-416-7019

### **Corpus Christi Vet Center**

4646 Corona, Suite 250  
Corpus Christi, TX 78411

Phone: (361)-854-9961; Fax: (361)-854-4730

### **Dallas Vet Center**

10501 N. Central, Suite 213  
Dallas, TX 75231

Phone: (214)-361-5896; Fax: (214)-655-2249

### **El Paso Vet Center**

1155 Westmoreland, Suite 121  
El Paso, TX 79925

Phone: (915)-772-0013; Fax: (915)-772-3983

### **Ft. Worth Vet Center**

1305 W. Magnolia St., Suite B  
Ft. Worth, TX 76104

Phone: (817)-921-9095; Fax: (817)-921-9438



**Killeen Heights Vet Center**

302 Millers Crossing, Suite #4

Harker Heights, TX 76548

Phone: 254-953-7100; Fax: 254-953-7120

**Houston Vet Center**

503 Westheimer

Houston, TX 77006

Phone: (713)-523-0884; Fax: (713)-523-4513

**Houston Vet Center**

*(Veterans Resource Center)*

701 N. Post Oak Road, Suite 102

Houston, TX 77024

Phone: (713)-682-2288; Fax: (713)-682-7818

**Laredo Vet Center**

6020 McPherson Road, Suite 1A

Laredo, TX 78041

Phone: (956)-723-4680; Fax: (956)-723-9144

**Lubbock Vet Center**

3208 34th St.

Lubbock, TX 79410

Phone: (806)-792-9782; Fax: (806)-792-9785

**McAllen Vet Center**

801 Nolana Loop, Suite 140

McAllen, TX 78504

Phone: (956)-631-2147; Fax: (956)-631-2430

**Midland Vet Center**

3404 W. Illinois, Suite 1

Midland, TX 79703

Phone: (432)-697-8222; Fax: (432)-697-0561

**San Antonio Vet Center**

231 W. Cypress St., Suite 100

San Antonio, TX 78212

Phone: (210)-472-4025; Fax: (210)-472-4032

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*Texas Veterans Commission  
Headquarters  
P.O. Box 12277  
Austin, Texas 78711-2277*

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**VETERANS' HOTLINE: 1-800-252-VETS (8387)****

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