

# VA, DOD Study a Major Breakthrough for Understanding PTSD

WASHINGTON — Researchers from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Defense (DOD) recently released findings of a new study called Prospective Post-Traumatic Stress disorder Symptom Trajectories in Active Duty and Separated Military Personnel, which examines Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms in Veterans, compared with active-duty populations.

This is the first known study comparing PTSD symptom trajectories of current service members with those of Veterans, and is the product of a collaborative effort from VA and DOD researchers analyzing data from the Millennium Cohort Study (MCS), the largest prospective health study of military service members.

According to VA's National Center for PTSD, the PTSD rate among Vietnam Veterans was 30.9 percent for men and 26.9 percent for women. For Gulf War Veterans, the PTSD rate was 12.1 percent. Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom Veterans had a PTSD rate of 13.8 percent.

"Knowing there are similarities in how PTSD affects service members and Veterans makes it easier to pinpoint which treatments are the best to control the condition," said

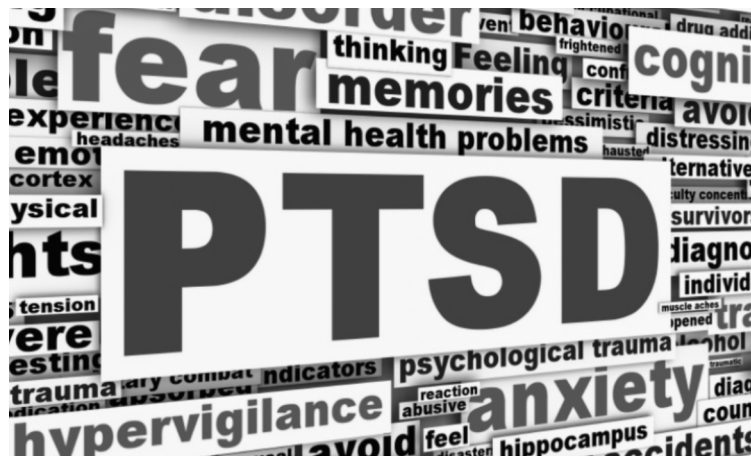
Dr. Edward Boyko, an epidemiologist and internist at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System in Washington state, and VA's lead researcher on the Millennium Cohort Study.

Officials involved with the project said they are hoping the collaboration will improve the understanding of Veterans' health needs, relative to their experiences in service.

"The data that MCS researchers have been collecting since 2001 is incredibly valuable for both the DOD and VA," said Dr. Dennis Faix, director of the Millennium Cohort Study and preventive medicine physician "Going forward, working with VA will allow both agencies to make sure we are getting the best information to develop a comprehensive understanding of the continuum of health in current and former service members."

The results of the joint VA DOD study will appear in the Journal of Psychiatric Research's June 2017 issue. It is the first of many joint future publications expected to result from the collaboration between VA and MCS.

You can learn more about the study here: <http://millenniumcohort.org/>.



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**For more information about the VA Medical Foster Home program, contact:  
Loni Larson at 701-232-3241, ext 9-4394 or [Loni.Larson@va.gov](mailto:Loni.Larson@va.gov).**

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## Veterans Memorial Park Committee

Andy Nomland Chapter 2 Grand Forks, ND recently presented a check for \$30,000 and also presented a check for \$5,000 on behalf of the Any Nomland, Unit 2 Auxiliary to the Veterans Memorial Park Committee during a regular meeting. The Veterans Memorial Park is being built in Grand Forks to help us honor every Veteran and Military Member for their service and the sacrifices they and their families have made to protect our freedoms. Pictured Left to Right: Bill Boner, Chapter 2 Commander, Bobby Beauchamp, Chapter 2 Sr Vice Commander/Treasurer Veterans Memorial Park and Jim Groven, Chapter 2, Adjutant/Treasurer.



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of each month

# Military Funeral Honors - A Letter of Gratitude

Dear Commander Hall, DAV of ND

I want to extend our appreciation and gratitude to the Disabled American Veterans for the continued support of ensuring all eligible veterans in North Dakota, regardless of service, receive the final honors they deserve. It is through these unending efforts that we have a strong working relationship which allows us the ability to provide jointly operated Military Funeral Honors.

The Authorized Partnership Provider Program provides an opportunity for the North Dakota Army National Guard to maintain partnerships and compensate Veteran Service Organizations who augment the uniform members of a Military Funeral Honors detail for the Army, Army Reserve, Army National Guard and Army Air Corp/Army Air Force funerals. As of 1 October 2016 the North Dakota Army National Guard can no longer compensate Veteran Service Organizations who participate in any way with Air Force, Marine, Navy or Coast Guard Funeral Honors.

There are generally two types of Funeral Honors rendered by the North Dakota Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors section: Veteran Honors (Two-Man Detail) and a Full Honors (Nine-Man Detail). Two Uniform members are required for both the details. By regulation the Veteran Honors detail is required to provide the flag fold and presentation as well as the playing of TAPS. A member of the Veteran Service Organizations may be asked to play TAPS. The Full Honors detail is required to provide pall bearers, rifle volley, flag fold and presentation and playing of TAPS. Members of the Veteran Service Organizations may provide 7 of the 9 personnel for the Full Honors Detail.

Typically the North Dakota Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors section provides uniformed members to cover all the required elements of the Veteran and Full Honors. Veteran Service Organizations are generally requested by the families or funeral homes to provide additional elements of honor which include a rifle volley for Veteran Honors and a Color Guard for Full Honors. In the past the North Dakota Army National Guard has been able to pay a \$50 stipend for these additional elements of honor, however our regulations have changed over time and as of 1 April 2017 we are no longer authorized to provide a stipend for these additional elements of honor. Veteran Service Organizations are still welcome and encouraged to provide the additional elements of honor but the North Dakota Army National Guard cannot provide compensation.

There is another change to the Authorized Partnership Provider Program which affects Veteran Service Organizations. As I mentioned we can pay a \$50 stipend when the Veteran Service Organizations are requested by the North Dakota Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors for the Playing of TAPS. The North Dakota Army National Guard can also pay a \$50 stipend per Veteran Service Organization members

who are requested by the National Guard to perform the required elements of honor for Veteran and Full Honors.

As an example, if due to weather the North Dakota Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors section could not make it to a location to provide Veteran Honors and requested assistance from a Veteran Service Organization the Veteran Service Organization could receive up to a \$150 stipend. This is because two members are required for the flag fold and presentation and there is always the option for a contracted bugler to pay TAPS. As another example, if the North Dakota Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors section requested assistance from members of the Veteran Service Organization for Full Honors, the Veteran Service Organization could receive up to \$350 in a stipend. This is because the North Dakota Army National Guard is only required to provide two uniform members for Full Honors. The other seven members can come from a Veteran Service Organization.

The North Dakota Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors section will call the Veteran Service Organizations to officially request assistance with the required elements of honor. The North Dakota Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors section members present at the time of honor will get the first and last names for the Veteran Service Organization members who assisted with the required elements of honor. The National Guard will then submit an Optional Form 1164 on behalf of the Veteran Service Organization for the stipend amount.

The Authorized Partnership Provider Program requires Veteran Service Organizations have a Data Universal Numbering System number (DUNS#) and be registered with the Government Contracting Registration (known as CCR) in order to receive compensation. The North Dakota Army National Guard will make and attempt to provide compensation to the local Veteran Service Organization who assisted with the mission, but if the local organization does not have a DUNS# or CCR registration the funds will then be sent to the State level of your organization.

In closing, the North Dakota Army National Guard appreciates the Disabled American Veterans commitment to ensuring veterans and service members receive a final tribute that is fitting of a grateful nation. If there are any questions in regards to this letter please feel free to contact the undersigned at 701-333-3179, or via email at [cody.j.volk.mil@mail.mil](mailto:cody.j.volk.mil@mail.mil).

Sincerely,  
 Cody J. Volk  
 Lieutenant Colonel, US Army  
 Department of Human Resource Officer  
 North Dakota Army National Guard



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