

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Serving Those Who Served: Mental Health Needs of Veterans, Service Members & their Families”

The Connecticut Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Network will be hosting ***Serving Those Who Served*** continuing education for civilian primary care and mental health care providers, and others such as clergy members and emergency first responders. Training includes military culture, assessing mental health issues specific to combat veterans, and making appropriate referrals.

Every day veterans, service members and their families make sacrifices on and off the battlefield to protect our nation’s freedom. More service members than ever before are returning home with the visible and invisible wounds of war, which range from traumatic brain injury (TBI), post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI), depression and suicide. Military families struggle as well. Children may suffer from anxiety due to fears that their loved one will be hurt or injured during deployment. Others may develop behavioral or physical problems stemming from their parent’s long-term absence.

Since September 11, 2001, 6,784 active duty military and 5,774 reservists from Connecticut have been deployed to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Learning Objectives (CEUs are available)

1. Describe and explain military culture as an outreach strategy to engage combat veterans and their families in clinical settings
2. Translate current knowledge of psychological and physiological trauma in a combat/military context
3. Create and maintain a therapeutic alliance with combat veterans and their families from assessment through treatment
4. Identify existing programs available for veterans and family members through the Veterans Affairs and local Vet Centers

“Serving Those Who Served: Addressing Mental Health Needs of Veterans, Service Members and their Families” is a partnership among the CT AHEC Network, National AHEC Organization and the Citizen Soldier Support Program to ensure that our veterans, service members and their families receive the health care and mental health services they deserve.

To schedule a ***Serving Those Who Served*** training contact:
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About the Connecticut AHEC Network

The mission of the Connecticut Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program is to enhance access to quality health care, particularly primary and preventive care, by improving the supply and distribution of health care professionals through facilitating community and academic/ educational partnerships. The AHEC Program is based at the University of Connecticut Health Center and is implemented through four regional centers located in the Willimantic, Hartford, Waterbury and Bridgeport areas.