

OPERATION IMMERSION

A military immersion training for behavioral health providers



Who: This training is for behavioral health professionals and other professional sectors seeking to expand their understanding of military culture and the challenges and impact of deployment and combat on soldiers and their families.

When: November 5th and 6th, 2009

Where: Tennessee National Guard Training Center
B Street
Smyrna, TN

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What: Stigma continues to be a barrier to soldiers seeking assistance for mental health or substance abuse issues. Worries about career impact and a belief that professionals outside the military do not understand the experience of being a soldier keep soldiers from accessing critical behavioral health care.

To remove barriers and ease soldier apprehension to accessing treatment, the **Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities** has partnered with the **Tennessee National Guard** and the **Tennessee Veteran's Task Force** to present a comprehensive **1 1/2 day** training in military culture and issues unique to soldiers and their families who have served in the combat theatre and experienced long deployments.

This training will immerse attendee in aspects of military culture and the deployment experience. Attendees can spend the night in barracks, go through a modified early morning Physical Training ("PT"), chores and inspection, tour a C-130 and Black Hawk Helicopter, and eat a Meal Ready to Eat (MRE), as well as meet and network with members and families of the Tennessee National Guard.

Attendees will hear briefings from Tennessee National Guard Officers and expert professionals on Suicide Prevention, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, P-FLASH -a front line mental health training program, Serious Physical Injury, and Substance Abuse Disorders and aspects regarding the same that are unique to soldiers and their families.

Four Tennessee National Guardsmen will share their personal stories of deployment.

How: **This training is free;** attendees are responsible for the cost of their meals only. Attendees may register online at: <http://operationimmersion.eventbrite.com/>

Total training space is limited to 100 participants. Barracks space is limited to forty (40) females and forty (40) males housed separately. Barracks are bunk beds, with limited amenities. Military linens provided to include pillows. Toilets are private, but showers are open bay. **Attendees may wish to bring a swimsuit and shower shoes. There is no cost to stay in the barracks.**

Alternate overnight accommodations are available in the Smyrna area at the attendee's expense. See event registration website for a list of hotels.

Thursday night cookout and Friday, breakfast and lunch are served in the Chow Hall at the Training Center. Cost of for all three meals is approximately \$15, cash only.

Dress is casual, comfortable and should be weather appropriate.

OPERATION IMMERSION: Schedule of Events

Thursday, November 5th:

- 14:00** Optional Tour of the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center, Traumatic Brain Injury Program
- 15:00** **If you are staying in the barracks:**
Arrive and meet at **Building 570**
You may park outside of the billets
- If you are attending the Thursday Afternoon events, but not spending the night in the barracks:**
Arrive and meet at **Building 500**
You may park in the lots adjacent to the building.
- 15:30** Tour of TNG Quick Terrorist Response/Civil Support Team
- 17:00** **Registration**
Cook Out
Facilitated Networking with Service Members and Their Families
- 22:30** Lights out

Friday, November 6th:

- 05:00** Rise and Shine
- 05:15** Physical Training
- 05:45** AM Care (shower, get ready)
Chores and Inspection
- 06:30** Flag Ceremony
- 07:00** Breakfast-Chow Hall
- 07:30** **Registration Table Open**
- 08:00** **Tour** Black Hawk Medical Evacuation Chopper
- 08:30** **Tour** of C-130 Aircraft
- 08:45** Resource Hall Open*
- 08:45** **Break**
- 09:00** Welcome and Opening Remarks, Building 500

Brigadier General Haston, Assistant Adjutant General

Assistant Commissioner Bruce D. Emery, M.Ed., MSW
Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services
Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities
- 09:30-10:30** **PTSD and Suicide Prevention, Issues Unique to Soldiers**

Dr. (Lt. Col.) Lawrence Edwards, Tennessee Air National Guard
- 10:30-11:00** **Mental Health Training on the Frontlines-P-FLASH ©**

Colonel Jacqueline Nave, Commander, 118th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

* The resource hall will include organization and agencies who provide services to soldiers and their families

OPERATION IMMERSION: Schedule of Events

Friday, November 6th continued:

11:00-11:30 Family Readiness, Tennessee National Guard Family Programs

Captain Mark Phillips
Chaplain, Family Programs

11:30-12:30 Lunch

12:30-13:30 Personal Stories of Deployment

SGT James Rodriguez, Clarksville, TN
1SG Danny Kelley, Chattanooga, Tn
SGT Melissa Tuggle
SSG YatesMattoy, Sweetwater, TN

13:30-14:00 Traumatic Brain Injury and Returning Soldiers

Janet Morris
Director
Traumatic Brain Injury Program
Tennessee Rehabilitation Center

14:05-14:30 Understanding Benefits, System of Care for Soldiers and Their Families

Marvin Wells
Tennessee National Guard

Tonia Hardyway
OIF/OEF Program Manager
Tennessee Valley Healthcare System

Pamela Y Goodin
Transition Patient Advocate
Tennessee Valley Healthcare System

14:35-14:45 Break

14:45-15:15 Substance Abuse Disorders and the Returning Soldier: Prevention, Treatment and Recovery

Bruce D. Emery, MSW. M.Ed
Assistant Commissioner
Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services

15:15-15:45 Prevention, Treatment and Outreach-Tennessee National Guard Substance Abuse Programs

SGM Deborah Rose-Spangler
SGT Candice Frazier
Counterdrug Task Force
Tennessee National Guard

15:45-16:00 Closing Remarks
