



# Veteran Stereotypes/Myths



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## Overview

- **Mental Health**
- **Employment**
- **Reintegration into the Community**
- **The Veteran Perspective**
- **Questions**





## Mental Health

- **Myth: Veterans suffer disproportionately from PTS**
- **Fact: While veterans do experience PTS, their susceptibility to PTS is no greater than the average person**
- **Myth: Due to combat induced PTS, veterans are a liability and can break at any moment**
- **Fact: There is no data that confidently links PTS with a propensity for violence**



## Mental Health

- **Myth: Veterans get TBI in combat and are permanently damaged**
- **Fact: More than 1.7 million mild TBIs occur in the civilian community; most patients with mild TBI experience no long-term effects**
- **Myth: Veteran behavioral health challenges are specific to this generation**
- **Fact: Today's veterans are no more vulnerable to behavioral health challenges than previous generations; and have access to better diagnostic and treatment resources**



## Employment

- **Myth: Most Veterans are not well educated**
- **Fact: The current generation of veterans exceeds, on average, national norms in education and intelligence; more veterans seek some post-secondary education than do their non-veteran peers**
- **Myth: Veterans do not possess relevant civilian job skills**
- **Fact: Military experience imparts key vocational tasks, skills and characteristics on service members that are highly valued and required for success in business and industry**



## Employment

- **Myth: Veterans are no more productive than any other candidate**
- **Fact: Veterans, on average, perform as well or better than their non-veteran peers**
- **Myth: Veterans are conditioned to follow orders and lack initiative**
- **Fact: Service members are trained and expected to act on their own initiative consistent with their commander' intent; this empowerment breeds an independence, maturity, and confidence in decision-making that should appeal to any prospective employer**



## Reintegration

- **Myth: Veterans and their families are insular and won't contribute in the community**
- **Fact: The majority of service members and their families live in civilian communities and participate in civic activities**
- **Myth: Veterans can navigate their way through any challenge**
- **Fact: Despite their significant potential, many veterans struggle to reintegrate for a number of reasons but fellow citizens can speed our veterans' successful reintegration through simple coaching and mentoring that assists veterans in reintegration challenges**



## The Veteran Perspective

- **Myth: Civilians do not want to help**
- **Fact: The vast majority of people appreciate veterans and want to help however, many do not know how to reach veterans or simply do not know how to help**
- **Myth: Civilians are not worthy of the sacrifice made by our (veterans) brother and sisters in arms**
- **Fact: Service is not defined by military service alone**



## The Veteran Perspective

- **Myth: Veterans should expect the same level of responsibility and compensation as they enjoyed when they left the service**
- **Fact: Veterans should expect to prove themselves in the civilian workforce and compete with civilian counterparts on their own merit**



## Review

- **PTS and TBI are not specific to veterans**
- **Veterans often seek higher education and gain valuable skills and characteristics in the military**
- **Veterans are already part of the community**
- **Civilians can help with a handshake and meaningful dialogue with the veterans**





## Questions?



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