

About the study

This is a study for Post 9/11 Veterans who have separated from the military within the past five years, are not currently on Title 10 active duty orders, and who have also been diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury (TBI) or a mental health condition.

The study aims to improve the post-deployment experiences of Veterans with cognitive or mental health conditions that appear “invisible” to others but may make their reintegration experiences more difficult.

You and a person you identify as your “care partner” will be asked to share your experiences and complete surveys over the course of 2 years to help us understand your experiences over time and develop a program aimed to provide you with better resources.

We hope you will consider this study so that we can help improve the post-deployment experiences of Veterans.

If you would like to participate or have questions please call:

**Annie Do
Research Assistant
317-988-3143**

**Diana Natividad
Project Manager
317-988-3114**

If you have other questions about the study, please call:

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From Military to Community Life: Reintegrating Veterans with Invisible Injuries



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From Military to Community Life: Reintegrating Veterans with Invisible Injuries

How will I benefit?

Participants in this study will be able to share their stories and potentially help to inform the development of a program aimed at helping current and future Veterans with their reintegration process.

Who is eligible to participate?

- Veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, or Operation New Dawn or other conflict after Sept 11, 2001.
- Veterans who separated from the military within the previous 5 years and are not currently on Title 10 active duty orders
- Veterans with a confirmed diagnosis of a traumatic brain injury or mental health condition. This will require passing a brief screener. If you are not receiving VHA care, we will ask you to sign a release of information and send it to your provider.

What if I am eligible?

If you are eligible and want to participate:

- After we explain the study processes and answer your questions, you will be asked to sign a consent and HIPAA form. Then, you will complete your first assessment (baseline), which includes an audio recorded interview and a series of surveys. This takes approximately 60-90 minutes.
- During the study, you will complete 4 more assessments similar to the baseline either in-person, over the phone, or by video call for a total of 5 assessments.
- We will also ask you to identify and provide contact information for a care partner who will be willing to participate in 3 assessments as well. A **care partner** is someone who supports you with family/social life, school, work, rehabilitation, etc., This person may be a spouse/partner, family member, friend, or neighbor.
- If you are unable to identify a care partner, you are still eligible to participate.

Compensation

- **Veterans** will be compensated with a \$25 gift card for each assessment completed (baseline, 6, 12, 18, and 24 months). If you complete all 5 assessments, you will receive a \$25 bonus gift card.
- **Care partners** will be compensated with a \$25 gift card for each assessment completed (baseline, 12, and 24 months). If all 3 are completed, your care partner will receive a \$25 bonus gift card.

What if I don't want to participate?

- You **do not** have to participate in this study. Your participation is entirely **voluntary**.
- Your decision will **not** affect your VA healthcare benefits.
- If you decide to participate in any research study, you always have the right to change your mind and stop participating at any time.