



SAFEProject's **VETERANS** **RESOURCE GUIDE** SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



For Veterans, Active Duty, and Military Families

About SAFE Project

SAFE Project understands both the sacrifices and rewards of military service. Adm. James A. “Sandy” Winnefeld and his wife Mary are the Co-Founders and Co-Chairs of SAFE Project, a national nonprofit committed to overcoming substance dependence in the United States.

Adm. Winnefeld served for 37 years in the United States Navy, retiring in 2015 after serving as the ninth Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the United States’ number two ranking military officer. As a military spouse and mother, co-founder Mary Winnefeld has been actively involved in the health and welfare of military and veteran families, as well as the policies that affect their lives. Mrs. Winnefeld is the recipient of both the Department of Defense and Department of the Navy Meritorious Public Service Award.

The Winnefelds founded the organization in 2017 following the loss of their 19-year-old son, Jonathan, to an accidental opioid overdose. Learn more at <https://www.safeproject.us>

About Wounded Warrior Project

Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) focuses on veterans and service members who incurred a physical or mental injury, illness, or wound while serving in the military on or after September 11, 2001.

Veterans and service members are a part of a community that understands your unique needs. Services and programs they offer are free because WWP believes there’s no dollar value to finding recovery and no limit to what you can achieve.

<https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org>

WELCOME TO SAN ANTONIO!



If you've served in the military or know someone who has, you'll understand why SAFE Veterans initiative is close to our hearts. A veteran is twice as likely to die from an accidental overdose than any other member of society, and for veterans and their families, the transition to civilian life can be particularly difficult, often losing the sense of purpose, camaraderie, and identity central to their military experience. Military culture also values self-reliance, which can lead to the perception that "getting help" is a weakness.

The need: Few prevention programs address this concern and provide the service member or their family with tools to prevent or recognize substance dependence or mental health challenges.

To address this gap, SAFE Veterans developed and expanded several programs to connect veterans, active duty service members, and their families to the resources they need to face these challenges.

We hope you find this new Veteran Wellness program helpful as it helps you build resilience.

Thank you,

Bill Pinamont, MSW USN (Ret)
Senior Director, SAFE Veterans



WELCOME TO SAN ANTONIO!



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INTRODUCTION TO SAN ANTONIO!



San Antonio's character is a colorful blend of Mexican and Texan culture. It is 150 miles (240 km) from the Mexican border at Laredo, on one of the most-traveled routes to Mexico. Much of its population (about three-fifths) is of Hispanic (mainly Mexican) descent, and many are Spanish-speaking or bilingual. It preserves much of its historical atmosphere and embraces its cultural diversity. Remains of 18th-century Spanish structures dot the city, contrasting with modern office buildings.

San Antonio's roots were largely military, and the city continues to have a large military presence. Today, San Antonio is officially known as "Military City, USA" with one of the nation's largest active and retired military populations.

Military installations largely account for San Antonio's rapid growth after 1940. Today, Joint Base San Antonio is comprised of four major military installations: Lackland AFB, Randolph AFB, Fort Sam Houston AFB, and Camp Bullis.

- <http://www.jbsa.mil/>

Lackland, in the southwestern part of the city, is a training base for recruits. Randolph, in a suburban area to the northeast, is headquarters of the Air Education and Training Command. Fort Sam Houston (1879), inside the city, is the headquarters of the U.S. Fifth Army and is the site of a national cemetery and the Academy of Health Sciences, the Army's basic school for medical personnel. There are about 85,000 military personnel in San Antonio and veterans make up 65 percent of the population.

San Antonio boasts 35 medical facilities and the Veteran's Healthcare in this area is anchored by the South Texas Veterans Health Care System hospitals and clinics. The South Texas Veterans Health Care System (STVHCS) is comprised of the Audie L. Murphy Memorial VA Hospital, the Kerrville VA Hospital and the Satellite Clinic Division. The STVHCS is a 268-bed facility providing primary, secondary, and tertiary health care in medicine, surgery, psychiatry, and rehabilitation medicine. It also supports a 90-bed Community Living Center, a 30-bed Spinal Cord Injury Center, an eight-bed Bone Marrow Transplant Unit, and a Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center. Affiliated with the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, the system has an active ambulatory care program with satellite outpatient clinics in San Antonio and in Victoria.

INTRODUCTION TO SAN ANTONIO!



Community-Based Clinics are located in Alice, Beeville, Brownsville, Eagle Pass, Kingsville, New Braunfels, San Marcos, Seguin, and Uvalde. The special needs of the Vietnam-era Veterans are met with Veteran Outreach Centers located in San Antonio. The system dedicates 28,000 square feet to medical research. There are more than 150 research investigators conducting over 500 research activities in areas such as aging, renal disease, diabetes, HIV/AIDs, and cancer treatment and therapy. The system has an NIH-funded General Clinical Research Center, the Veterans Evidence-Based Research Dissemination Implementation Center (VERDICT), and is a Cochrane Centre site.

- <https://www.southtexas.va.gov/>
- <https://www.vacationsmadeeasy.com/SanAntonioTX/articles/SanAntonioCityFactsHistoryandPopulation.cfm>
- <https://www.britannica.com/place/San-Antonio-Texas>

DEMOGRAPHICS/STATE OF MILITARY INVOLVEMENT



MILITARY LIFESTYLE: GARRISON, DEPLOYMENT, TRAINING, AND TRANSITION

The following provides an in-depth delineation of the status of an active duty service member and identifies benefits, even in remote duty assignments. This information is needed when determining health benefits and the services available specifically if substance use becomes an issue.

An active duty service member is a person who is:

- currently serving in the active military
- eligible for services and treatments afforded by active duty on and off post
- <https://tricare.mil/FindDoctor/Active-Duty>

VETERAN LIFESTYLE: COMBAT, DISABLED, SEPARATED, AND RETIRED

The following provides an in-depth delineation between the status of veterans and also identifies benefits. This information is needed when determining health benefits and the services available specifically if substance use becomes an issue.

A “veteran” is a person who:

- served in the active military, naval, or air service and
- discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable
- https://www.benefits.va.gov/WARMS/docs/admin21/m21_1/mr/part3/subptii/M21-1MR111_ii_6.doc

MILITARY DEPENDENTS

The term “military families” often refers to the spouses, children, and adult dependents of active duty, National Guard, and Reserve Component service members. According to the most recent U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) Demographics Report, there are ~2.6 million military family members and almost 39% of military personnel have minor children (under 20 or 22 and full-time student).

Breakdown of all military demographics from 2018:

<https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/2018-demographics-report.pdf>



DEMOGRAPHICS/STATE OF MILITARY INVOLVEMENT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS

The VA was formally established in 1930 and became the cabinet-level Department of Veterans Affairs in 1989. The agency is led by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with the advice and consent of the Senate.

The VA website gives veterans access and a way to manage their benefits and healthcare. It also provides access to careers/employment, housing assistance, life insurance, education and training, health care, pension, records, and disability compensation claims. It has links to find a facility, talk to veteran crisis responders, and the ability to manage a personal account. <https://www.va.gov/>

VA Main Information line: 800-698-2411



LOCAL RESOURCES

RESILIENCE PROGRAMS:

- i. **Veterans:** The following programs are geared toward creating resilience in veterans. They include rhythmic movement and drumming, storytelling, and using EMDR Therapy. Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (*EMDR*) is a psychotherapy treatment that was originally designed to alleviate the distress associated with traumatic memories.
 - <https://project-resiliency.org/programs/warrior-resiliency/>
 - a. VA Resiliency and Reintegration: Introduction into the transition back into the civilian workforce. https://www.va.gov/vetsinworkplace/training/EAP/lesson02/02_001.html
 - b. Transition from Military to Civilian Life: <https://www.va.gov/vetsinworkplace/training/EAP/resources/resources.htm>
 - c. eBenefits is the gateway to Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense: <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage>
- ii. **Active Duty:** The following programs are geared toward creating resiliency in active duty service members. They include military-led and civilian-led programs for resiliency development training and individual resiliency maintenance. Resiliency programs vary by branch and are driven by availability of facilitators and trained program personnel. Resiliency for active duty service members is managed by certified performance experts and select wellness contractors. All programs are aimed at assisting service members with processing and recovery from potentially distressing or traumatic events and memories.
 - <https://readyandresilient.army.mil>
 - <https://focusproject.org/about>

SAFE PROJECT VETERANS WELLNESS:

SAFE Project is creating, through funding and support from Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) and Walmart, a Veteran Wellness Program.

- <https://www.safeproject.us/veterans-wellness/>



NATIONAL RESOURCES

WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT:

Wounded Warrior Project is a charity and veterans service organization that offers a variety of programs, services and events for wounded veterans of the military actions following September 11, 2001.

- <https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/>
- Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/wwp/>
- 877.TEAM.WWP (832.6997)
- 4899 Belfort Road Suite 300 Jacksonville, FL 32256

MILITARY.COM:

Military.com connects service members, military families, and veterans to all the benefits of service: government benefits, scholarships, discounts, lifelong friends, mentors, great stories of military life or missions, and much more.

- <https://www.military.com>

MILITARY ONE SOURCE:

Active duty military resource website, offering 24/7 support for service members, spouses, their family and survivors on taxes, moving, benefits, MWR and more.

- CONUS: 800-342-9647
- OCONUS: 800-342-9647 or 703-253-7599
- <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/>

NATIONAL RESOURCE DIRECTORY:

The National Resource Directory is a searchable database of resources vetted for the use of service members, veterans, family members, and caregivers. It provides an online partnership for wounded, ill and injured service members, their families and those who support them.

- <https://nrd.gov/>

VETERANS HOUSING PROGRAMS:

- National VA Homeless Hotline:** 24 hour - 877-424-3838. Veterans who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless can call or visit their local VA Medical Center or Community Resource and Referral Center where VA staff are ready to help. Veterans and their families may also call 1-877-4AID-VET (1-877-424-3838) to access VA services.



NATIONAL RESOURCES

ii. Veterans Inc.: The Veterans Inc. Supportive Services for Veterans and Veteran Families Program helps individuals and families who are homeless or at-risk. Veterans Inc. provides direct services and financial assistance to help search for housing, assist with initial rent costs, and pay for certain bills related to back rent or utilities

- <http://www.veteransinc.org/services/supportive-services-for-veteran-families/>

iii. Homes For Our Troops (HFOT): Builds specially adapted custom homes for severely injured post-9/11 Veterans so they may live in a safe and barrier-free environment.

- <https://www.hfotusa.org/>
- 866-7-TROOPS (866-787-6677)
- Homes For Our Troops, 6 Main St., Taunton, MA 02780
- <https://www.facebook.com/homesforourtroops>

iv. Habitat for Humanity: Veterans Build Program focuses on five areas: Building, Employment, Volunteer Engagement, Education, and Honor.

- <https://www.habitat.org/volunteer/near-you/veterans-build>

CENTER FOR A NEW AMERICAN SECURITY:

Provides a searchable tool that allows users to filter state-level veteran benefits by type of benefit, beneficiary, and state to identify benefits for which they may be eligible, providing a unique and invaluable reference.

- <https://www.cnas.org/publications/reports/state-veteran-benefit-finder>

NATIONAL VETERANS FOUNDATION:

The mission is to serve the crisis management, information, and referral needs of all U.S. veterans and their families through the management and operation of the nation's first vet-to-vet toll-free helpline. 888.777.4443

- <https://nvf.org/veteran-resources/>
- <https://nvf.org/>



NATIONAL RESOURCES

AFTER ACTION NETWORK (AAN):

Non-profit community engagement platform for veterans. The mission is to connect veterans with fun activities, classes, workshops, or other opportunities in your local community.

- <https://www.afteractionnetwork.org/>

CODE OF SUPPORT'S PATRIOTLINK PLATFORM:

Free online resource database that includes thousands of programs tailored to the military and Veteran community. Through PATRIOTlink, users can search vetted, direct, cost-free services specific to their needs. PATRIOTlink was recently redesigned to make it even easier to use. Now, users can complete searches by entering less information and they can view events and job opportunities in their area through a news feed feature.

- <https://www.patriotlink.org/>

FAMILY (DEPENDENT) SUPPORT

- Blue Star Families:** Strengthens currently serving military families and veteran military families by connecting them with benefits and services in their community.

- <https://bluestarfam.org>

- The Military Wife and Mom Blog:** Established in 2014 by a Marine spouse. Her site offers tools and tips to enhance the military spouse lifestyle. The following article on reliant military spouses focuses on “10 Things Strong Military Spouses Do Differently”.

- <https://themilitarywifeandmom.com/10-things-resilient-military-spouses-do-differently/>

- National Military Spouse Network:** The pre-eminent networking, mentoring, and professional development organization committed to the education, empowerment, and advancement of military spouses. NMSN creates a community of military spouse professionals, businesses, academics, and media to share expertise and craft innovative solutions on both balancing a viable career with the military lifestyle and laying the foundation for a successful career post-military life.

- <https://www.nationalmilitaryspousenetwork.org/public/About-NMSN.cfm>



NATIONAL RESOURCES

- iv. Military One Source Military Spouse Transition Program (MySTeP):** Made for military spouses to support and encourage spouses throughout the service member's time in the military. MySTeP helps plan, prepare and be ready for life as the family transitions out of the military. The information, tools, and programs highlighted in MySTeP will connect military spouses with the right resources at the right time to help successfully navigate military life at every stage of the service member's career.
- <https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/mystep>
- v. Military Spouse Technology Academy (MSTA):** Provides an intensive 22-week onsite training program designed to empower military spouses within-demand digital skills leading to well-paying and meaningful careers. Military spouses are an integral supporting force for members of the military. Through MSTA, Microsoft seeks to deepen its commitment to this community and to help military spouses build the skills necessary to succeed in the technology sector.
- <https://military.microsoft.com/programs/msta/>
- vi. Department of Labor Military Spouse Interstate License Recognition Options:** Military spouses serving in professions with occupational license requirements face special challenges. They experience gaps in employment and costly interruptions in their career trajectory due to frequent relocations. It is the policy of the U.S. Department of Labor to reduce employment barriers and enhance career opportunities for military spouses. Many states support military spouse license recognition options by allowing for expedited applications, temporary licenses, or complete license recognition. Use the Military Spouse Interstate License Recognition Options map to find out the rights of a military spouse.
- <https://www.veterans.gov/milspouses/>
- vii. Department of Defense Spouse Education and Career Opportunities (SECO) Program:** Provides education and career guidance to military spouses worldwide and offers comprehensive resources and tools for all stages of your career progression.
- <https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/>



NATIONAL RESOURCES

- viii. Department of Defense Military Spouse Employment Partnership:** The Department of Defense Military Spouse Employment Partnership (MSEP) connects military spouses with hundreds of partner employers who have committed to recruit, hire, promote and retain military spouses.
- <https://msejobs.militaryonesource.mil/msep/>
- ix. Department of Labor Military Spouse Resources:** <https://www.careeronestop.org/Veterans/BenefitsAndAssistance/for-military-spouses.aspx>
- x. US Government Military Spouse Preference Hiring Authority:** Federal agencies can use the military spouse non-competitive hiring process to fill positions on either a temporary or permanent basis.
- <https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/unique-hiring-paths/military-spouses/>
- xi. Reimbursement of Spouse Relicensing:** <https://www.veterans.gov/milspouses/>
- xii. VA Military Spouse Recruitment:** <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/71032/va-actively-recruits-military-spouses-careers-serving-veterans/>
- xiii. LinkedIn Premium Upgrade:** Military spouses with a Department of Defense Spouse Education and Career Opportunities (SECO) account can access a free upgrade to LinkedIn Premium to assist with job searches, networking, and more.
- <https://socialimpact.linkedin.com/programs/veterans>

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- i. CASY:** Brings military and veteran job seekers together with employers who are looking to hire.
- <http://www.casy.us/>
- ii. Military Times Job Board:** Aims to connect veterans with thousands of job opportunities with employers seeking to hire people with military experience.
- <https://jobboard.militarytimes.com/>
- iii. Hiring our Heroes:** The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Hiring Our Heroes (HOH) initiative launched in March 2011 as a nationwide effort to connect veterans, service members, and military spouses with meaningful employment



NATIONAL RESOURCES

opportunities. Working with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's vast network of state and local chambers and strategic partners from the public, private, and non-profit sectors, the goal is to create a movement across America in hundreds of communities where veterans and military families return every day.

- <https://www.hiringourheroes.org/>

iv. Military Veterans in Journalism: Military Veterans in Journalism is a professional association that builds community for vets, supports their career growth, and advocates for diversifying newsrooms through hiring and promoting more vets.

- <https://www.mvj.network/>

v. Wells Fargo: Wells Fargo is committed to employing 20,000 veteran team members. They are working to turn military experience into a civilian career.

- <https://www.wellsfargo.com/military/veterans>

vi. Citi: Citi has built a strong record in leading the effort to support military personnel and their families and especially to hire veterans in key positions throughout the company.

- <https://www.citigroup.com/citi/citizen/community/citisalutes/working-jobs.html>

vii. Vets2Set: Acts as an open door for veterans, helping them jumpstart a career in the commercial production business.

- <https://www.vets2set.org/>

OPERATION HOMEFRONT:

This 15-year non-profit offers RELIEF (through critical financial assistance and transitional housing programs), RESILIENCY (through permanent housing and caregiver support services), and RECURRING FAMILY SUPPORT programs and services for military families.

- 1355 Central Parkway S, Ste. 100 San Antonio, TX 78232
- Phone: (210) 659-7756
- <https://www.operationhomefront.org/>



NATIONAL RESOURCES

SUPPORT GROUPS

- i. **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Helpline:** 1-800-662-HELP (4357) free, confidential, 24/7, 365-day-a-year treatment referral and information service (in English and Spanish) for individuals and families facing mental and/or substance use disorders.
- ii. **Brss Tacs:** In 2011, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) launched the Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy (BRSS TACS). The effort, led by the Center for Social Innovation (C4) and its partners, is dedicated to promoting the wide-scale adoption of recovery-oriented supports, services, and systems for people in recovery from substance use and/or mental health conditions.
 - <https://www.samhsa.gov/brss-tacs/recovery-support-tools/parents-families>
- iii. **VA Caregiver Support Program:** Family care givers, you play an important role in caring for the Veteran at home and in the community. VA has two programs for caregivers: The Program of General Caregiver Support Services (eligible Veterans all eras) and the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (eligible post-9/11 Veterans).
 - www.caregiver.va.gov
- iv. **National Alliance on Mental Wellness (NAMI) Veterans and Active Duty:** NAMI provides advocacy, education, support, and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental illness can build better lives. The NAMI Veterans and Active Duty page focuses on questions that military personnel often ask, concerning treatment resources, disclosure, and staying healthy during the transition to civilian life.
 - The NAMI Helpline can be reached Monday through Friday, 10 am–6 pm, ET. 1-800-950-NAMI (6264) or info@nami.org
 - <https://www.nami.org/Your-Journey/Veterans-Active-Duty>
- v. **Online Support Groups (Social Platforms):** Military Spouse Mental Health Support Group on Facebook is geared towards providing mental health support for a spouse with mental health challenges or needs help supporting others.
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/341538876521018>



NATIONAL RESOURCES

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY SPECIFIC RESOURCES

- i. **Military Family Life Consultants (MFLC):** Licensed counselors and social workers who provide non-medical counseling services to military service members and their families. They can provide short term therapy and do not keep records. They have mandatory reporting obligations and are required to report situations where individuals could be a danger to themselves or to others, situations involving domestic violence or violence against another person, child abuse or neglect, and any present or future illegal activity. Link provided to find your local installation and the search for Military and Family Support Center:

- <https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/>

- ii. **Chaplain:** Chaplains are the military's religious leaders with many different roles, specifically, for providing confidential counseling. Although the conversations are absolutely confidential, they are not licensed clinical therapists and their experience may vary. Find your local installation chaplain by clicking the link below and searching "Chapels."

- <https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/>

- iii. **Base Specific Care (Army, Navy/Marines, Air Force/Space Force organizations for direct care and intervention):**

- Air Force Key Spouse Program:
<https://www.afpc.af.mil/Airman-and-Family/Key-Spouse-Program>
- Navy Ombudsman Program:
https://www.cnic.navy.mil/ffr/family_readiness/fleet_and_family_support_program/work-and-family-life/ombudsman_program.html
- Army Soldier, Family, and Spouse Services:
<https://goordnance.army.mil/od-cadet-branching/family.html>
- Behavioral Health Agencies (related to areas surrounding duty stations):
<https://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/Mental>

MILITARY CRISIS LINE:

Crisis intervention for those in a high-risk situation that need immediate help. Call 800-273-8255, then press 1, or access online chat by texting 838255.

- <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>



NATIONAL RESOURCES

SOUND OFF: A WAY TO RECEIVE MENTAL HELP WITHOUT ANY TRACKING INFORMATION:

- Everything is anonymous.
- 800-227-4460, 4040
- Broadway, Suite 501 San Antonio, TX, 78209
- <https://sound-off.com/>

BUGLES ACROSS AMERICA:

Founded in 2000 by Tom Day when congress passed legislation stating that deceased veterans have a right to at least two uniformed military people to fold the flag and play Taps on a CD player. Bugles Across America takes this a step further. In recognition of the service these veterans have provided to their country, the agency felt that veterans each deserve a live rendition of Taps by a real bugler.

- Bugles Across America NFP, c/o Tom Day, Founder
- 1824 S. Cuyler Ave., Berwyn, Illinois 60402-2052
- Phone 708-484-9029
- Fax 708-484-9896
- <https://www.buglesacrossamerica.org/>

AFTER ACTION NETWORK:

Programs promoting self-development and learning for veterans and non-veterans alike.

- <https://afteractionnetwork.org>

UNITED WAY:

United Way coordinates existing services and provides additional resources to make it easier for veterans, active duty service members, and their families to get the help they need when they need it.

- Dial 2-1-1 or go to <https://unitedwaysatx.org/>



NATIONAL RESOURCES

NATIONAL VETERANS FOUNDATION LIFELINE FOR VETS:

Handles the crisis management, information, and referral needs of all U.S. veterans and their families through management and operation of the nation's first vet-to-vet toll-free helpline: 888-777-4443.

- <https://nvf.org/about-national-veterans-foundation>

10 CAN: HONOR, REVIVE, GROW:

The Christian Adventure Network partners with organizations to host hunting, fishing, and survival camps by fostering camaraderie through outdoor adventures, bridge the gap between warriors and the church, and build communities through service projects and public speaking engagements.

- <https://www.10canoutdoors.com/>
- Founder@10CANoutdoors.com

PROJECT SANCTUARY FAMILY SUPPORT:

This agency offers services led by licensed clinical staff for all military families, including veteran and active duty service members, their spouses, and children. Families are invited to engage with support staff to address emergency and long-term needs for financial assistance, counseling referrals, and connection to services offered by collaborating partners. Family Support Resource Weekends are a relaxed and mission-focused environment with direct, in-person access to organizations that serve veterans.

- <https://projectsanctuary.us/family-support>
- PO Box 1563 Granby, CO 80446
- info@projectsanctuary.us

PSYCHARMOR INSTITUTE:

PsychArmor is a national nonprofit that provides free online education and support to all Americans who work with, live with, or care for military service members, veterans, and their families. There are over 120 free online educational courses to help the civilian community connect with Veterans.

- 6215 Ferris Square Ste. 205, San Diego, CA 92121
- 1-858-755-3006
- info@psycharmor.org
- <https://psycharmor.org>



NATIONAL RESOURCES

TRANSGENDER AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION. (TAVA):

TAVA provides support and discussions for transgender veterans navigating the VA medical system.

- <http://www.transveteran.org>
- (516) TAVA 911

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

i. VA Education Programs:

- https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/education_programs.asp
- GI Bill Hotline: 888-GIBILL-1 (888-442-4551)
- Students Outside the U.S.: +1-918-781-5678

ii. VA Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP):

- <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/veap.asp>
- Education Call Center at 888-442-4551

iii. VA Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP):

- <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/reap.asp>

iv. Children of Fallen Patriots: Provides college scholarships and educational counseling to military children who have lost a parent in the line of duty.

- <https://www.fallenpatriots.org/>
- 44900 Prentice Drive Dulles, VA 20166
- Phone: 888- 294-8560 or 301-294-8560
- Fax: 301-294-8562



NATIONAL RESOURCES

v. Fischer House Scholarship Program for Military: College scholarships for children of active, reserve, and retired service members.

- <https://fisherhouse.org/programs/scholarships/>
- Phone: (888) 294-8560 or (301) 294-8560
- Fax: (301) 294-8562
- info@fisherhouse.org
- Fisher House Foundation, Inc., 12300 Twinbrook Pkwy, Suite 410, Rockville, Maryland 20852

vi. Folds of Honor (FoF): FoF's unique post-secondary educational scholarships can be applied to schooling now or held by the foundation on behalf of young children until needed at the time of enrollment. Scholarships for spouses and children of America's fallen and disabled service members are to be used to subsidize the costs of tuition, school books, fees, room and board, special tools and equipment necessary for coursework, school-approved tutoring, and any other expense that the school in which the student is enrolled may deem appropriate and unmet.

- <https://www.foldsofhonor.org/>

vii. Vietnam Veterans Car Donation Program: Car donation benefitting Vietnam Veterans. Vietnam Veterans of America is chartered by Congress and has been supporting our dedicated Veterans and their families for over 30 years. Site provides contact information for those wishing to donate their vehicle.

- 1-800-435-7838
- <http://vietnamveteranscardonation.org/>



LOCAL RESOURCES

STATE RESOURCES

i. VA Locations in Texas

- <https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/state.asp?dnum=ALL&STATE=TX>

ii. South Texas Veterans' Health Care Service (STVHCS):

South Texas Veterans Health Care System (STVHCS) is comprised of two inpatient campuses: the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans Hospital in San Antonio and the Kerrville VA Hospital in Kerrville, Texas. STVHCS serves one of the largest primary service areas in the nation and is part of the VA Heart of Texas Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN 17), with offices located in Arlington, Texas. South Texas provides health care services for 80,000 unique Veterans.

- Audie L. Murphy VA Hospital, STVHCS, 400 Merton Minter, San Antonio, TX 78229; 210-617-5300 | 877-469-5300
- Kerrville VA Hospital, 3600 Memorial Blvd, Kerrville, TX 78028; 866-487-1653
- <https://www.southtexas.va.gov/>
- National Crisis Line: 800-273-8255

iii. Texas Veterans' Commission:

The Texas Veterans Commission advocates for all Texas veterans, assisting with VA Claims, Employment, Education, Entrepreneurship and VA Healthcare Advocacy. Extensive resources for the veteran with breakdown of services.

- <https://www.texvet.org/>
- Calendar of Events: <https://www.tvc.texas.gov/events/>
- Texas Veterans 2-1-1: 2-1-1 is a 24/7 stigma-free and confidential phone service dedicated to connecting people with community, health and disaster services. Call 2-1-1.
 1. <https://www.texvet.org/resources/texas-military-family-access-program-texas-2-1-1>

iv. Texas Veterans Portal:

The portal connects veterans, their families and caregivers to the benefits and services earned through their military service. The app is available for download on Android or iOS.



LOCAL RESOURCES

- Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255
- <https://veterans.portal.texas.gov/>
- v. **The Military Veteran Peer Network:** Sometimes, people need a hand in slowing the internal disquiet and conflict that combat, deployment, military sexual trauma or other abnormal situations produce. No one is better prepared to speak with a veteran about their experiences than another veteran. With the peer-to-peer network, veterans go through a training course that teaches them how to facilitate groups of veterans. Once trained, they are tasked with going out into their local communities and creating peer groups. Because members of the group set the rules, no two peer groups are the same.
 - <https://www.texvet.org/partners/mvpn-military-veteran-peer-network>
- vi. **Texas Health and Human Services:** Texas Health and Human Services offers mental health and substance use services for families and people of all ages.
 - <https://hhs.texas.gov/services/mental-health-substance-use>
- vii. **Texas State Veterans Homes:** The Texas Veterans Land Board is proud and honored to offer long-term care for qualified veterans, their spouses and Gold Star Parents. Texas State Veterans Homes are owned by the state of Texas and are regulated by both the Texas Health and Human Services Commission as well as the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Third-party operators manage the day-to-day operations of the veterans homes. The Texas Veterans Land Board oversees the operators and has an on-site representative in each Veteran's home. The VA does not own or manage Texas State Veterans Homes.
 - 1-800-252-8387
 - Email: VLBinfo@glo.texas.gov
 - <https://vlb.texas.gov/veterans-homes/>
- viii. **Texas American Legion:** The Texas Veterans Commission was created in 1927 as the State Service Office to assist veterans of the Indian wars, Spanish-American War and World War I. Their purpose has always been to act as the state-appointed advocate of Texas veterans as they attempt to secure the benefits rightfully earned in exchange for their service in our nation's armed forces.
 - 24 Hour Veterans Crisis Line 800-273-8255 Press 1



LOCAL RESOURCES

- The website also offers a list of agencies that provide services across Texas broken down by a very comprehensive list including: Employment, Education, Healthcare, Women Veterans, State Benefits, Veterans Homes and Cemeteries.

a. Texas Veterans Commission

1. Stephen F. Austin Bldg, Suite 800, Austin, Texas 78701
 - 512-463-5538
 - 800-252-8387
 - 512-475-2395 Fax
 - info@tvc.texas.gov

b. American Legion Department of Texas

1. 1624 E Anderson Ln, Austin, TX 78752
 - 512-472-4138

c. American Legion Department of Texas Service Officer

1. Michael Lacy, 6900 Almeda Rd, Room 1019, Houston, TX 77030
 - 713-383-2755
 - 713-383-2759 Fax
 - <https://www.legion.org/veteransbenefits/texas>

- ix. Grace After Fire:** Grace After Fire's mission became centered on helping the woman veteran by connecting her with the resources and the tools she needs to be a productive citizen in her community, her work and her home after transitioning from the military.

- <https://www.graceafterfire.org/>
- POC: Kalia Jones Alamo Regional Outreach Coordinator Army Veteran; kalia@graceafterfire.org; 832-504-9153



LOCAL RESOURCES

- x. **Justice for Vets:** Justice For Vets is dedicated to transforming the way the justice system identifies, assesses and treats our veterans, leading the national effort to put a veterans treatment court in reach of every veteran in need. They are committed to ensuring that no veteran is left behind by providing training and technical assistance to help communities bring together local, state and federal resources to directly serve veterans involved in the justice system due to mental health disorders, trauma and substance use. The goal is to keep veterans out of jail and prison—preventing the loss of one of the nation’s greatest assets to local families and communities—and connect them with the benefits and treatment they have earned, all while saving tax dollars for the American public.
- 703-575-9400
 - <https://justiceforvets.org/>
- xi. **State Tax Exemption/License Information**
- a. **Disabled Veteran License Plate:** Texas DV military specialty license plates are available for a \$3 annual specialty plate fee, \$0 annual motor vehicle registration and local fees and any required inspection fee for one vehicle.
- Texas Veterans Commission: 800-252-VETS (8387), 512-463-5538
 - <https://gov.texas.gov/organization/disabilities/veterans>
 - https://www.txdmv.gov/sites/default/files/body-files/DV_Plate_Brochure.pdf
- b. **CDL Waiver Test based on Military Background/Experience:** The Commercial Driver License (CDL) skills test waiver form may be used by service members who are currently licensed and who are or were employed within the last 12 months in a military position requiring the operation of a military motor vehicle equivalent to a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV). This waiver allows a qualified service member to apply for a CDL without skills testing. CDL knowledge test(s) cannot be waived.
- PDF: <https://www.dps.texas.gov/Internetforms/Forms/CDL-3A.pdf>
- c. **Veteran’s Property Tax Exemption**
- Provides that homeowners who meet Social Security disability guidelines can receive a \$10,000 property value exemption from school taxes.



LOCAL RESOURCES

- Provides this property value exemption is effective on January 1 of the tax year regardless of the date the person qualifies and will not increase unless the homeowner makes improvements.
 - Provides a reduction of school tax ceilings on residence homesteads for people who are elderly or have disabilities.
 - Allows cities, counties or junior college districts or their voters to adopt a tax limitation for homeowners with disabilities who meet Social Security disability guidelines.
 - Provides that homeowners who meet Social Security disability guidelines may postpone paying current or delinquent taxes for as long as they own and live in the property (requires filing of affidavit). Once the property is no longer owned by the person with a disability, the taxes and interest are due immediately. Penalties on late taxes are reduced to 6%.
 - Provides that veterans with disabilities may qualify for property tax exemption (home or other property) ranging from \$5,000 to \$12,000 depending on the severity of the disability.
 - Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts; 800-252-5555; 800-735-2988 (TDD)
 - https://gov.texas.gov/organization/disabilities/property_tax_exemptions
- d. Fishing/Hunting Super Combo:** Available to Veterans and Active Duty: “Super Combo” and “Combo” license packages include hunting and fishing licenses and endorsements at a discounted price.
- 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744
 - 512-389-4800 | 800-792-1112 | TTY: 512-389-8915
 - Operation Game Thief: 800-792-GAME
 - <https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/licenses/combo-hunting-fishing#section-0>



LOCAL RESOURCES

xii. Education

- a. Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP)**—a \$2-to-\$1 government-match program for educational assistance.

- <https://www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/veap/>

- b. Application to TX school:** One Application/Many Schools

- https://www.applytexas.org/adappc/gen/c_start.WBX

- c. Fry Scholarship:** The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship provides Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to the children and surviving spouses of service members who died in the line of duty while on active duty after September 10, 2001. Eligible beneficiaries attending school may receive up to 36 months of benefits at the 100% level.

- <https://www.tvc.texas.gov/education/fry-scholarship/>

- d. Texas Hazelwood Act:** The Hazelwood Act is a State of Texas benefit that provides qualified Veterans, spouses and dependent children with an education benefit of up to 150 hours of tuition exemption, including most fee charges, at public institutions of higher education in Texas. This does NOT include living expenses, books or supply fees.

Hazlewood Team

- 877-898-3833
- educationservices@tvc.texas.gov
- Rand Binford, Hazlewood Supervisor; educationservices@tvc.texas.gov
- Dwina Bridgemohan, Hazlewood Specialist; educationservices@tvc.texas.gov
- Marcela Clay, Hazlewood Specialist; educationservices@tvc.texas.gov
- Miguel Rodriguez, Hazlewood Specialist; educationservices@tvc.texas.gov
- <https://www.tvc.texas.gov/education/hazlewood/>



LOCAL RESOURCES

e. Educational Resources for State of Texas

Contact Education

- SAA Approval for Programs of Education/Training: education_approvals@tvc.texas.gov
- School Compliance/VA School Certifying Official Questions: compliance@tvc.texas.gov
- GI Bill® Questions/Veteran Services & Support for Students: educationservices@tvc.texas.gov
- All Other Inquiries: education@tvc.texas.gov
- Sue Jevning, Director, Veterans Education Program; education@tvc.texas.gov; 512-463-3168
- Charles Bryant, Operations Manager, Veterans Education Program; education@tvc.texas.gov; 512-463-3168
- <https://www.tvc.texas.gov/education/>

xiii. Substance Abuse Service

- a. Rise Recovery Administration:** At Rise Recovery, the YRCC partners closely with the PDAP and The Training Institute, to allow participants to achieve the best possible outcomes for their lives and to educate the community and professionals about recovery from substance use disorder.
- Phone: 210-227-2634
 - Email: info@riserecovery.org
 - 24-Hour Recovery Resource Helpline: 210-SAY-CARE
 - <https://www.riserecovery.org/>
- b. Bexar County Rehabilitation Office:** The Bexar County Substance Abuse Treatment program works in conjunction with local agencies to provide the defendants with the opportunity to reach and maintain sobriety in order to assist the recovery and enhance family life until their criminal case is adjudicated.



LOCAL RESOURCES

- 222 South Comal #100, San Antonio, TX 78207
- Phone: 210-335-8964
- <https://www.bexar.org/3096/Drug-Treatment>

BEXAR COUNTY/LOCAL RESOURCES

i. Military and Veteran Services:

- a. Bexar County Military and Veterans Services Center** has everything for Veterans from the day they decided to transition from the military through survival benefits for their family. The calendar is a holistic list of upcoming free events and resources. Local resource that offers information for VA Compensation, education, employment, housing, burial benefits and state/local resources for military and veterans.

- 210-335-6775
- email vets@bexar.org
- <https://www.bexar.org/509/Military-and-Veterans-Services-Center>

- b. The South Texas Veterans Health Care System** includes the Audie L. Murphy VA Medical Center in San Antonio; the Kerrville VA Medical Center and the following outpatient and contract clinics:

- Frank M. Tejeda Outpatient Clinic
- North Central Federal Clinic
- Balcones Heights Outpatient Clinic
- Shavano Park Outpatient Clinic
- South Bexar Outpatient Clinic
- Victoria Outpatient Clinic
- Data Point Outpatient Clinic
- Northeast 410



LOCAL RESOURCES

- Northwest 410
- Pecan Valley
- New Braunfels
- Southwest Military
- Seguin
- Beeville
- 1714 SW Military Dr., Suite 150, San Antonio, TX 78221
- Phone 210-923-0777
- https://www.southtexas.va.gov/locations/SW_Military_CBOC.asp

c. Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Endeavors: Endeavors is helping Veterans face challenges with a new, first of its kind Veterans Wellness Center.

- <https://endeavors.org/?s=cohen>

d. Office of Military & Veteran Affairs San Antonio: The Office of Military & Veteran Affairs is an inclusive department that works with a number of military-related organizations that support San Antonio's military community and partners with Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) to engage and sustain JBSA's mission readiness and ensure the long-term protection of San Antonio's Military bases. The department works with all military families, active duty, retirees and approximately 250,000 veterans; and spearheads the City's Commission on Veterans Affairs; the City's Military Transformation Task Force (MTTF), is a designated Hidden Hero's program and San Antonio's registered trademark of Military City, USA®.

- Physical Address: 506 Dolorosa, San Antonio, TX 78205
- Mailing Address: P.O. Box 839966, San Antonio, TX 78283-3966
- Phone/TTY: 201-207-7234
- <https://www.sanantonio.gov/oma>



LOCAL RESOURCES

- e. **San Antonio Coalition for Veterans and Families:** List of resources available from the many Service Providers waiting to assist each veteran and their family.

- info@sacvf.org
- <https://sacvf.org/>

- f. **Veteran Resources for Law Services:** Established in 1898, the San Antonio Bar Association (SABA) is a voluntary professional membership association of attorneys and legal professionals. SABA provides members with opportunities to expand their professional expertise, network and be of service. Even with San Antonio's ranking as the seventh-largest city in the United States, the local bar boasts a close-knit collegial membership that enjoys a shared reverence for the law.

1. *Lawyer Referral Service*

- Lawyer Referral Service- Veterans seeking assistance for legal matters and who do not qualify for free legal services, call the Lawyer Referral Service at 210-227-1853.

2. *Other Local Resources*

- Texas Veterans Commission- Veterans with questions about benefits or discharge contact Benefits Counselor Art Swezey at 210-617-5175 for more information.
- Texas Legal Services Hotline for Veterans- Low-income veterans and their families may be eligible to receive referrals to and/or legal advice from a licensed attorney. 800-622-2520, Option 2.
- Veterans Treatment Court- For criminal cases only: 210-335-2156.
- Texas RioGrande Legal Aid- Local veterans program providing advice and services to veterans with limited income. For more information, call 210-212-3700.
- Texas Legal Services Center- This is a state veterans program. For more information, call 512-477-6000.
- <https://sanantoniobar.org/?pg=veteran-resources>



LOCAL RESOURCES

- g. Alamo Area Council of Governments, Texas Veterans Network:** The Texas Veterans Network, formerly TXServes San Antonio, has been providing service in the San Antonio area since June of 2017. This network assists service members, veterans and their families in the 13-county Alamo Area, and will soon expand into South Texas (Laredo area) and the Coastal Bend (Corpus Christi area). With oversight from the Alamo Area Development Corporation and Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG), this initiative creates a coordinated online network of over 100 public, private and nonprofit organizations serving service members, veterans and their families. AACOG acts as the central hub of the Texas Veterans Network and connects clients to services across the state and beyond.

- Phone: 888-724-8387 (888-SA4-VETS)
- txveteransnetwork@aacog.com
- <https://aacog.com/495/Veteran-Programs>

Texas Veterans Network (TVN) serves all military members, including active duty, retirees, veterans, guards and reserves and their families. Members living in the Alamo Area (Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, McMullen, Medina, and Wilson counties), the Coastal Bend region (Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Live Oak, Kenedy, Kleberg, Nueces, Refugio, and San Patricio counties) and in the Laredo region (Jim Hogg, Webb, and Zapata counties) can all join the network.

- <https://texas.uniteus.com/veterans-network/>

- h. Goodwill:** The Goodwill Careers Specialists are proud and dedicated to serving our veterans and their families as they transition into the civilian workplace. The agency will remove employment barriers with specialized career assistance. The programs are individualized and tailored to meet veterans' unique needs and goals.

- Good Careers Center Staff, 210-756-4800 (San Antonio) or 210-924-8581 ext. 5699 (Laredo)
- <https://www.goodwillsa.org/find-job/veterans-resources>



LOCAL RESOURCES

i. Emergency Relief/ Housing

1. *South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless (SARAH)*: The agency collaborates and collects data from the housing and homeless community to ensure each veteran has a place to call home. SARAH recognizes that each veteran has a unique situation that requires a custom solution.
 - South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless, 4100 E. Piedras, Suite 105, San Antonio, TX 78228
 - Office hours: Monday - Friday 8AM - 5PM
 - contactsarah@sarahhomeless.org
 - www.sarahhomeless.org
2. *American GI Forum National Veterans Outreach Program*: The American GI Forum National Veterans Outreach Program provides housing and career services to veterans, their families and other needy populations.
 - 519 N Medina St, San Antonio, TX 78207
 - Phone: 210-223-4970
 - www.agif-nvop.org
3. *SAMMinistries*: Prevents homelessness in San Antonio through a compassionate, holistic approach that brings self-sufficiency, pride and dignity to struggling families with no-where else to turn.
 - Veterans' Housing Stability Program: The Veterans' Housing Stability Program (VHSP) provides comprehensive housing support to veterans or surviving spouses through homeless prevention, rapid re-housing and wrap-around services.
 - SAMMinistries, 1919 NW Loop 410, Suite 100, San Antonio, TX 78213
 - Email: hope@samm.org
 - Phone: 210-340-0302
 - <https://www.samm.org/search/veterans>



LOCAL RESOURCES

4. *Endeavors (Housing support/Case Management), Supportive Services for Veteran Families:* Endeavors' Veteran Supportive Services (VSS) rapidly re-houses and prevents homelessness among eligible Veterans and their families. The programs offer emergency financial assistance and one-on-one case management services including:

- Short-term Emergency Housing
- Rental/Utility Payment
- Assistance Obtaining VA Benefits and Services
- Mental Health Resources
- Access to Substance Abuse Programs
- Job Placement Assistance
- Skills and Parenting Workshops
- Assistance with Other Public Benefits

Financial assistance takes out amounts for qualifying veterans and is available on a case-by-case basis. Case management services identify the unique needs of each veteran. Financial requests are made by the case manager on behalf of the veteran receiving assistance, within the guidelines and limitations of each program.

- San Antonio, 602 N. Staples St. #190, Corpus Christi, TX 78401
- 210-469-9664
- <https://endeavors.org/veteran-supportive-services/>

j. Family Services

1. *San Antonio Military/Veterans Prevention Programs Coalition (SAMVPPC):* The SAMVPPC will develop a Resource Directory for Military/Veteran Families that is user-friendly and frequently updated
- <https://readykidsa.com/family-resources/for-military-families/>



LOCAL RESOURCES

Available Services Include:

- Any Baby Can: Case Management for Military Families with Special Needs; Elisa Luna, 210-547-2851, eluna@abcsa.org
 - Big Brothers Big Sisters: Mentoring for At-Risk Youth; Kierra Goodwin, 210-225-6322, ext. 103, kgoodwin@bigmentor.org
 - The Children's Shelter: iParent SA®: Providing In-home Parenting Education and Support using the Parents as Teachers curriculum; Natalie Lopez, 210-212-2597, nlopez@chshel.org
 - ChildSafe: Education and Counseling Services; Kayla Bailey, 210-208-5759, kaylab@childsafe-sa.org
 - Endeavors: Providing Group and In-home Parenting Classes utilizing the Nurturing Parenting Program; Laura Vega, PH: 210-208-5705, lvega@endeavors.org
 - Family Service: In-home Parenting Education and Support using the Parents as Teachers curriculum; additional support provided through in-home counseling; Veronica Salgado, 210-431-7505, vsalgado@family-service.org
 - VOICES for Children: Education on military family issues for childcare providers; Kathy Fletcher, 210-858-8175, kfletcher@voicessa.org or Miranda Cushman, 210-858-8175, mcushman@voicessa.org
 - For more information, please contact Caroline Goddard, Community Engagement Manager, at CGoddard@unitedwaysatx.org
2. *Catholic Charities: Military Family Relief Project*: Financial assistance, food and clothing assistance and counseling services for active duty, reserve, National Guard or veteran service members, as well as their dependents and spouses in need of social services.

Family Service: Parent and Children's Resources Child Care Resource & Referral, a Child Care Aware® Quality Assured Consumer Education and Referral Service is committed to supporting our nation's military families and strengthening child care through a partnership with the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agency (NACCRRA) and Department of Defense (DoD).

- 210-222-1294
- info@ccaosa.org



LOCAL RESOURCES

3. *Joint Base San Antonio: Military and Family Readiness Programs:* The Military & Family Readiness Centers provide programs, referrals and services to Active Military and their Family, Reservists, Coast Guard, National Guard, Retirees, DoD civilian employees and DoD contracted employees.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston

Military & Family Readiness Center, 3060 Stanley Rd., Bldg. 2797, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234

Currently operating with virtual services only due to COVID-19

Hours of Operation:

- Monday-Friday 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- 1st & 3rd Thursday 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Closed Federal & AETC Family Holidays
- Email: usaf.jbsa.502-abw.mbx.mfrc@mail.mil
- Com: 210 221-2705, 210-221-2418

JBSA-Lackland

Military & Family Readiness Center, 2160 Kenly Ave., Bldg. 1249, JBSA-Lackland, TX 78236-5113

Currently operating with virtual services only due to COVID-19

Hours of Operation:

- Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- 1st & 3rd Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Closed Federal & AETC Family Holidays
- Email: 802fss.fsfr@us.af.mil
- Com: 210-671-3722
- DSN: 473-3722 or 1-800-621-3725



LOCAL RESOURCES

JBSA-Randolph

Military & Family Readiness Center, 555 F Street West, Bldg. 693, JBSA-Randolph, TX 78150

Currently operating with virtual services only due to COVID-19

Hours of Operation:

- Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 - 1st & 3rd Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 - Closed Federal & AETC Family Holidays
 - Email: Randolphmfrfc@us.af.mil
 - Com: 210-652-5321
 - (Voicemails monitored and calls will be returned)
 - DSN: 487-5321
4. *Camp Flaming Arrow*: This resident camp in Hunt, Texas, holds a special camp one week every summer strictly for children who have a parent or parents who have been deployed or are currently deployed in the military. Military kids receive a free week of camp where they connect with other kids just like them. It is called Operation Purple Camp because purple happens to be the perfect mix of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force Blue, Marine Corps Red and Navy blue. The children participate in kayaking, hiking, horseback riding, ziplining, swimming and more. It also gives them tools to deal with the stresses that come with a parent's deployment.
- 703-931-6632
 - <https://www.militaryfamily.org/operation-purple-at-home/>



LOCAL RESOURCES

k. Veteran Non-profits

1. *Soldier's Angels*: Soldiers' Angels is a volunteer-led 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization providing aid and comfort to the men and women of the United States Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, their families and a growing veteran population. Founded by the mother of two American soldiers, Soldiers' Angels has hundreds of thousands of volunteers assisting veterans, wounded and deployed personnel and their families in a variety of unique and effective ways. Soldiers' Angels has over 12 virtual teams that provide support to the military and veteran community.
 - info@soldiersangels.org
 - 210-629-0020
 - 2895 NE Loop 410 Suite 107 San Antonio TX 78218 USA
 - <https://soldiersangels.org/>
2. *Military Warriors Support Foundation*: Military Warriors Support Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charity, founded by LTG Leroy Sisco (Ret), in 2007. The mission is to provide programs that facilitate a smooth and successful transition for the nation's combat-wounded heroes, Gold Star Spouses and their families. The programs focus on housing and homeownership, recreational activities, transportation assistance and leadership development. Through the programs, the agency awards mortgage-free homes and payment-free vehicles to combat wounded heroes and Gold Star spouses. In addition to the home or vehicle, the families receive family and financial mentoring.
 - 210-615-8973
 - 211 N. Loop 1604 E Suite 250 San Antonio TX 78232 USA
 - <https://militarywarriors.org/>
3. *Green Beret Foundation*: The Green Beret Foundation serves the Army's Special Forces, the nation's most elite soldiers. Every day the agency honors the commitment to Green Berets past and present, as well as their families, by connecting them with the right resources to prosper and thrive.



LOCAL RESOURCES

- info@greenberetfoundation.org
 - 844-287-7133
 - 14402 Blanco Rd. Suite 100 San Antonio TX 78216 USA
 - <https://greenberetfoundation.org/>
4. *Military Spouse Advocacy Network*: Military Spouse Advocacy Network (MSAN) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to create stronger military families through education, empowerment and support. MSAN's Military Spouse Mentorship-HUB helps to bridge military families from every branch of the armed forces and their surrounding communities in locations around the world through a Virtual Education and Resource Center, New Military Spouse Support Program and Leadership Development Program.
- info@milspouseadvocacynetwork.org
 - PO Box 769908 San Antonio TX 78245 USA
 - <https://www.militaryspouseadvocacynetwork.org/>
5. *Serendipity Alliance*: Serendipity Alliance is a multidisciplinary group of innovative educators from all walks of life – medical, therapists, technicians, educators, business administrators, theologians, lawmakers, lawyers, political activists, suicide survivors – moms, dads, sisters, brothers, family members – all sharing a personal, common compassion and determination to eliminate suicide by improving mental health services and wellness for all people, creating a healthier world community.
- 210-833-9152
 - 3610 Highcliff Dr. San Antonio TX 78218 USA
 - www.serendipityalliance.org/
6. *Operation Comfort: Supporting Our Wounded Troops*: The vision is to promote an inclusive and positive environment where the wounded, ill and injured service members of all service branches, active duty and veteran, as well as the immediate family, can recover and get involved in the community. The agency continually adapts the programs to meet the ever-changing needs of the veteran population.



LOCAL RESOURCES

- Operation Comfort, 4900 Broadway St., Suite 100 San Antonio, Texas 78209
 - 210-826-0500
 - <https://operationcomfort.org/>
7. *Sound Off*: A way to receive mental help without any tracking information. Everything is anonymous.
- 800-227-4460
 - 4040 Broadway, Suite 501
 - San Antonio, TX 78209
 - <https://sound-off.com/>
8. *Military Civilian Charity Foundation*: Championing the military personnel who serve and have served our nation is the number one priority. The agency partners with agencies already in place.
- Military-Civilian Charitable Foundation, PO Box 6495, San Antonio, TX 78209
 - info@milcivfoundation.com
 - <https://www.milcivfoundation.com/>
9. *San Antonio Northwest Civic & Social Club (SANCSC)*: Nationally chartered in 1991, the agency consists of former military veterans and active-duty military. Membership is open to all active duty, reservist and retired military; and active and retired civil service, regardless of race, sex or age. The purpose is to provide community support for the benefit of unfortunate and aspiring youth, the elderly and those less fortunate.
- San Antonio Northwest Civil & Social Club, P. O. Box 769129, San Antonio, TX 78245
 - Webmaster@sancsc.com
 - <https://www.sancsc.com/>



LOCAL RESOURCES

10. *Women Veterans of San Antonio*: The Women Veterans of San Antonio (WVSA) is a nonprofit organization that welcomes women veterans from all eras and branches of service. The goal is to provide the women veterans who live in the local communities with opportunities to network and rekindle the bonds of sisterhood, camaraderie and connection through meaningful interaction.
 - Women Veterans of San Antonio, P.O. Box 769437, San Antonio, TX 78245
 - PH: 830-391-9235
 - WomenVetsOfSA@gmail.com
 - <https://www.womenveteransofsanantonio.org/>
11. *Hunting with Soldier*: A nonprofit geared towards helping those struggling with PTSD by using hunting as a tool to help with mental health issues
 - Hunting with Soldiers, PO Box 230, Paducah, Tx 79248
 - <https://www.huntingwithsoldiers.org/>
12. *The Dirt Therapy Project*: A Veteran-founded 501(c)(3) designed to help fellow service members past and present manage all kinds of stressors through an introduction to mountain biking and recreational therapy. The mission is to get the military community on bikes, and in the great outdoors where they can discover their own path to healing.
 - Contact the agency through the website: <https://www.tdtp.org/>
13. *Mechs for Vets*: Mechs For Vets is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to assist veterans that have suffered extraordinary hardship get their vehicles back on the road so they can be productive members of society.
 - Info@mechsforvets.org
 - <https://www.mechsforvets.org/>



LOCAL RESOURCES

14. *Broken Angels Inc.:* Broken Warriors' Angels is a grassroots non-profit organization in San Antonio, Texas that provides opportunities to the homeless, disabled and our OTH (Other Than Honorable) men and women veterans. Homeless veterans and their families in our community go without proper food, shelter and essential medical care every day due to a variety of factors including low wages, job loss, injuries, illness, PTSD, depression and anxiety. These veterans make up the largest number of homeless served.
- bwa@brokenwarriorsangels.com
 - <https://www.brokenwarriorsangels.com/>
15. *Coffee for Vets:* Mission is to identify senior World War II, Korean, and Vietnam veterans and to provide an environment where these senior veterans of all military branches and genders, along with family members can meet to converse with one another, sharing concerns they may have and to help find ways to improve their daily lives while sharing coffee and a meal.
- www.coffee4vets.org/
16. *Salvation Army Dave Coy Shelter for Men:* Dave Coy Men's Shelter provides emergency shelter and transitional housing opportunities for up to 131 men experiencing chronic homelessness and/or lack a stable housing environment. Participants receive three meals daily and work with a case manager to identify and coordinate available educational and career development opportunities and other resources to facilitate greater independence and self-sufficiency. The facility is alcohol, smoke and drug-free.
- 226 Nolan St, San Antonio, TX 78202
 - Phone 210-226-2291
 - <https://salvationarmysanantonio.org/dave-coy-shelter-men/>
17. [San Antonio Rescue Mission:](#) Christian rescue with 4 buildings which contain the chapel, office, kitchen, dining room, dormitories, bathrooms, clothing room, laundry room, storage areas and staff quarters. The dormitory can accommodate 40 guests.
- 907 East Quincy, San Antonio, TX 78215
 - PHONE: 210-222-9736



LOCAL RESOURCES

18. *San Antonio Catholic Worker*: The Catholic Worker House provides care, comfort and support to individuals who are homeless, poor, marginalized and in need of food and other basic services. The work follows the philosophy of the Catholic Worker Movement which emphasizes faith-centered action, personalism, community building, nonviolence, simple living and a respect for the environment.
- 626 Nolan, San Antonio, TX 78202
 - Office: 210-224-7736
 - <http://www.sa-catholicworker.org/about-us/mission.php>
19. *Haven for Help*: The Haven for Hope mission is to offer a place of hope and new beginnings. The agency does this by providing, coordinating and delivering an efficient system of care for people experiencing homelessness in San Antonio.
- Haven for Hope Way, San Antonio, Texas 78207
 - Main Office Line: 210-220-2100
 - <https://www.havenforhope.org/>
20. *Guadalupe Home*: Guadalupe Home is a transitional shelter for pregnant and parenting mothers and their babies who find themselves homeless. Rather than provide emergency shelter for a night or two, the home offers a safe, long-term, no-cost home for pregnant and parenting mothers of children under the age of three who are interested in making a change for a hopeful future.
- Guadalupe Home at 210-476-0707.
 - <https://ccaosa.org/guadalupe-home/>
21. *VFW Posts*: San Antonio has a plethora of posts. Use the “Find a Post” by entering zip code:
- <http://www.vfw.org/find-a-post>



LOCAL RESOURCES

22. *American Legion*: There are 13 posts located in the San Antonio Area. Use the “Find a Post” to find the closet post.

- http://www.members.legion.org/CGI-BIN/lansaweb?webapp=MYLEPOST+webtrn=wr_dsplcr+ml=LANSA:XHTML+part=TAL+lang=ENG

23. *Elks Lodge San Antonio*: Use the locator to find a local Elks Lodge in San Antonio.

- 15650 Market Hill #1004, San Antonio, TX 78256
- Phone: 210-697-3331
- <https://www.elks.org/lodges/>

I. Educational Resources

1. *University of Texas at San Antonio Center for Military Affiliated Students*: The UTSA Center for Military Affiliated Students proudly serves over 5,000 service members, veterans and their families. The mission is to serve the students in the most effective and efficient way possible so they may achieve their educational goals. The center welcomes and thanks veterans for their service and support.

VetSuccess on Campus Counselors at UTSA:

Wendy Foster, M.A., C.R.C.

- wendy.foster@va.gov
- 210-458-8081

Kareem Vaughn, Ph.D., C.R.C.

- kareem.vaughn@va.gov
- 210-458-8081
- <https://www.utsa.edu/va/>



LOCAL RESOURCES

2. *Alamos College District:* The Alamo Colleges District, Office of Veterans Affairs processes applications for eligible veterans to obtain Federal and State Veterans Benefits. The colleges participate in veteran educational programs provided by the Department of Veteran's Affairs.

Northeast Lakeview College

- Rosalinda Almanza-Martinez, VA Coordinator, Student Commons Welcome Center STCM 111
- Phone: 210-486-5827
- Email: NLC-VA@alamo.edu

Northwest Vista College

- Betty Cunningham, VA Coordinator, Cypress Campus Center (CCC-110)
- Phone: 210-486-4417
- Email: nvc-veterans@alamo.edu

Palo Alto College

- Vincent Bosquez, VA Coordinator, Palomino Center (PC-111)
- Phone: 210-486-3111
- Email: vbosquez3@alamo.edu

St. Philip's College

- Veronica Griego, VA Coordinator, MLK Campus Welcome Enrollment Center (WEC) Rm. 205
- Phone: 210-486-2111
- Email: SPC-VetAffairs@alamo.edu



LOCAL RESOURCES

San Antonio College

- Kenneth Ramelli, VA Coordinator, Victory Center Room 108, 1819 N. Main Ave., San Antonio, TX78212
- Phone: 210-486-0867
- Email: kramelli@alamo.edu
- <https://www.alamo.edu/admission--aid/special-populations/military/veterans/>

3. *UT Health San Antonio, Ben Rivers, Veteran's Advocate:* As UT Health San Antonio's veteran advocate, Ben Rivers advocates for all student veterans, active military, reservists and their family members. Ben represents the interests of the student veterans and active military service members and aids with any possible issue relating to being a student at UT Health San Antonio or living in San Antonio. As a regular attendee of the Veterans Affairs WAVES conferences, and in conjunction with UT System's Veteran Task Force, Mr. Rivers remains current with issues facing veterans and shares that knowledge with our veterans as well as other offices at UT Health San Antonio that work with veterans such as the Bursar's office or Veteran Services & Financial Aid.

- studentservices@uthscsa.edu
- <https://students.uthscsa.edu/veterans/>

4. *The Art Institute of San Antonio:* The Art Institutes system of schools proudly offers education opportunities for military members and veterans who have honorably served and their families.

As a military-inclusive school, the school is committed to providing support for veteran education and career goals, whether during military service or in civilian life. The degree programs are designed to prepare you for a variety of fields.

- 1-855-991-9325
- <https://www.artinstitutes.edu/san-antonio/tuition-aid/military-benefits>



LOCAL RESOURCES

5. *Texas A&M San Antonio*: The Office of Military Affairs is located in the Patriots' Casa, suite 202. The mission of the Office of Military Affairs (OMA) is to assist members of the military-connected community at Texas A&M University-San Antonio succeed academically while building enduring relationships of mutual support with our University community. The goal of OMA is that the military-connected graduates leave A&M-San Antonio with a solid foundation, resulting in truly meaningful opportunities for further service to others and career success.
 - 210-784-1397
 - 1-800-749-9673
 - <https://www.tamusa.edu/militaryaffairs/index.html>
6. *University of the Incarnate World*: VA Educational Benefits
 - 4301 Broadway, San Antonio, Texas 78209
 - 1-210-829-6000 • 1-800-749-9673
 - <https://www.uiw.edu/military-veteran-services/veterans/index.html>
7. *Baptist Health System School of Health Professionals*: The Baptist School of Health Professions will complete the Certification of Enrollment prior to the first class day to facilitate VA payment AND provided that all official transcripts from all previous educational programs have been received. The Certification of Enrollment is submitted through the VA ONCE computerized system. The School will notify the VA within 30 days if enrollment has ceased.
 - 8400 Datapoint Drive, San Antonio, TX 78229
 - Phone: 888-726-0410
 - <https://www.bshp.edu/future-students/financial-aid/military-veterans/>



LOCAL RESOURCES

8. *Our Lady of the Lake University*: Our Lady of the Lake University is committed to making the unique brand of personalized education available to veterans. OLLU was founded on a commitment to service by the Sisters of Congregation of Divine Providence. It is this heritage of service that makes OLLU an ideal choice for service members, veterans and their families. The university recognizes the sacrifices of these men and women and their families have made on behalf of our country.
 - San Antonio-Main Campus, 411 S.W. 24th Street, San Antonio, Texas 78207
 - 210-434-6711
 - <https://www.ollusa.edu/admissions/military-and-veterans/index.html>
9. *South Texas Vocational Technical Institute*: STVT provides students with a unique educational experience focused on hands-on learning opportunities. This is especially important for veterans who may be interested in learning a new discipline. Vocational training for veterans is offered in several fields, focusing on providing students with opportunities to learn from industry-experienced professionals.
 - 866-480-9766
 - <https://www.stvt.edu/military/>
10. *St. Mary's University*: St. Mary's offers numerous incentives to active and former military members: Yellow Ribbon programs, Post 9/11 GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation, Grants, Vouchers and Scholarships.
 - Andrew Lyons, Coordinator of Veteran and Military Affairs
 - alyons1@stmarytx.edu.
 - <https://www.stmarytx.edu/military/financial-aid/>

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