

# VETERANS FOUGHT FOR OUR FREEDOM; NOW IT'S OUR TURN TO FIGHT FOR THEIRS



JUSTICE FOR VETS IS THE ONLY NATIONAL ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE EXPANSION AND COORDINATION OF VETERANS TREATMENT COURTS.

## THE PROBLEM

While the vast majority of veterans are strengthened by their military service, war-time experience has taken a heavy toll and far too many veterans face challenges when they return home.

- 1 in 5 veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan suffer with PTSD or major depression.
- 1 in 6 veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan suffer with a substance abuse disorder.
- Approximately 22 veterans commit suicide every day.

Veterans with substance abuse and/or mental health disorders often find it difficult to secure a job, support their family, or maintain housing, resulting in high rates of unemployment, homelessness, crime or worse. The results are staggering—over 700,000 veterans are currently in the criminal justice system. 81% suffer from a mental health or substance abuse disorder.

## THE SOLUTION

**Veterans Treatment Courts:** Nationally recognized as the most innovative alternative to incarceration for veterans with mental health and/or substance abuse disorders. Veterans Treatment Courts (VTCs) conducted by specially trained and supported staff—including a Judge, an Interdisciplinary Court Team of justice and treatment professionals and a volunteer Veteran Mentor—provide a rigorous and structured program of regular court appearances, mandatory treatment sessions, and frequent, random substance testing to ensure veterans return to being healthy members of their community. VTCs often represent the earliest, if not only, point of contact with a troubled veteran for early intervention and treatment. VTCs ensure veterans receive their earned local, state and federal benefits (e.g. Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefit Administration). VTC Veteran Mentors provide critical peer-to-peer support and understanding.

**“VETERANS TREATMENT COURTS SAVE VETERANS’ LIVES,  
FAMILIES, AND FUTURES—WHILE SAVING TAX-PAYER DOLLARS.”**

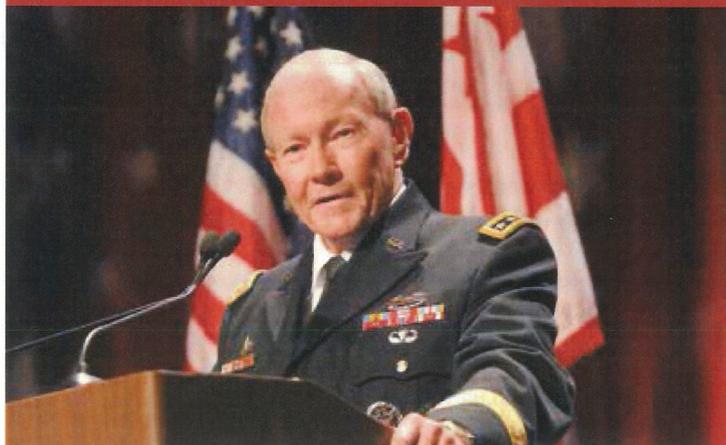
We urgently need more Veterans Treatment Courts. With 21.9 million veterans, there is an urgent and growing need for more VTCs. [Justice For Vets](#) is the only national organization dedicated to meeting this need through the expansion and coordination of VTCs. Justice for Vets:

- Offers the only comprehensive training for judges, court staff, and volunteer Veteran Mentors
- Builds the National Veteran Mentor Corps through training, education, and technical assistance
- Advocates on Capitol Hill for federal VTC funding (including the first ever VTC Appropriation in FY13)
- Directly assists in the development of VTC supportive state legislation
- Ensures veteran issues are at the forefront of national media
- Maintains strategic partnerships with the nation’s leading veterans service organizations
- Convenes Vet Court Con, the only conference dedicated to VTCs and justice-involved veterans

Justice For Vets has transformed the way the criminal justice system identifies, assesses, and treats our veterans. Today over 13,000 veterans are in Veterans Treatment Courts instead of languishing behind bars.

Visit us online at [www.justiceforvets.org](http://www.justiceforvets.org).

JUSTICE FOR VETS IS LEADING THE NATIONAL EFFORT TO ESTABLISH VETERANS TREATMENT COURTS WITHIN REACH OF EVERY VETERAN IN NEED.



“You fulfill a very important role in helping make sure that these young men and women can once again become productive members of society”

— Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey, Justice For Vets’ Vet Court Con 12/4/13

We seek partners to help us:

- Immediately [increase the number of Veterans Treatment Court](#)
- Dramatically expand training for the [National Veteran Mentor Corps](#)
- Continue to advocate for Veterans Treatment Court policy
- Continue to pursue [national media attention](#)—Justice For Vets/Veterans Treatment Courts have recently been highlighted in ABC, CBS, and NBC News, CNN, MSNBC, NPR, MTV, The Washington Post, The New York Times, USA Today, and The Economist.

SINCE 2008, 97% OF GRADUATES OF THE BUFFALO VETERANS TREATMENT COURT HAVE REMAINED ARREST FREE

“Veterans Treatment Courts prove that we can successfully treat our struggling veterans, protect public safety, and save valuable resources without relying on incarceration as a first response.”

— The Honorable Robert Russell, Buffalo Veterans Treatment Court, Buffalo, NY



For more information, please contact Melissa Fitzgerald, Senior Director, Justice For Vets, at [mfitzgerald@justiceforvets.org](mailto:mfitzgerald@justiceforvets.org) or visit us online at [www.justiceforvets.org](http://www.justiceforvets.org)