



JUSTICE FOR VETS

Justice For Vets: The National Clearinghouse for Veterans Treatment Courts at the
National Association of Drug Court Professionals

SITREP 003-11 (Situation Report)



The military uses SITREPs, or Situation Reports, to keep personnel apprised of what is occurring in and around military units. Justice For Vets uses the same tool to keep you informed of important Veterans Treatment Court news, legislation, media coverage, resources, funding opportunities, special events and more. Visit www.JusticeForVets.org, the National Clearinghouse for Veterans Treatment Courts, for the latest information on Veterans Treatment Courts.



Veterans Treatment Courts Front and Center at NADCP Annual Conference

From July 17-20, 2011 NADCP and Justice For Vets hosted the world's largest gathering of Veterans Treatment Court personnel as part of the 17th Annual NADCP Drug Court Training Conference in Washington, DC. Over 20 hours of sessions focused on Veterans Treatment Courts and justice-involved Veterans. Sessions included: The Ten Key Components, Targeting, Mentoring, Military Cultural Competency, Wounded Warrior Programs, and the intersection of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Substance Abuse, and Intimate Partner



Violence. In addition, NADCP and Justice For Vets were honored to have over 80 Veterans Justice Outreach Specialists in attendance as well as U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs General Counsel, Mr. Will Gunn. Veterans Treatment Court specific sessions are now available for download. [Click here.](#)

General (Ret.) Barry McCaffrey Calls For Veterans Treatment Court Expansion

In a rousing speech delivered to over 3,700 Drug Court and Veterans Treatment Court Professionals during the Closing Ceremony of NADCP's 17th Annual Drug Court Training Conference, General (Ret.) Barry McCaffrey called for an increase in Veterans Treatment Courts to ensure returning veterans get the treatment and services they have earned.



Attendees also heard from Nick Stefanovic, a decorated combat Marine, who told the story of his struggles after coming home from service in Iraq and his return to honor with the help of the Rochester Veterans Treatment Court. "For me, the battle began when I came home," he said. "Judge Patricia Marks and the Rochester Veterans Treatment Court team saved my life." [Watch.](#)



Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism Holds Hearing on Drug Courts and Veterans Treatment Courts

On July 19, 2011, NADCP and Justice For Vets testified before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism in a hearing titled "Drug and Veterans Treatment Courts: Seeking Cost-Effective Solutions for Protecting Public Safety and Reducing Recidivism." The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Deputy Director of State and Tribal Affairs Ben Tucker joined actor Martin Sheen, Chief Judge of the Rhode Island District Court Judge Jeanne LaFazia, and NADCP Chief of Science, Law and Policy Dr. Doug Marlowe in a discussion of Drug Courts and Veterans Treatment Courts as critical budget solutions. [Highlights.](#)



"Veterans Treatment Courts are a priority for this administration." – ONDCP's Ben Tucker

Veterans Treatment Court Planning Initiative Trains 8 Jurisdictions

From October 3 – 7, the National Drug Court Institute (NDCI) held the third Veterans Treatment Court Planning Initiative (VTCPI) in Tulsa, Oklahoma. To date, the NDCI has trained 29 jurisdictions to include 290 persons as part of the VTCPI. This training is funded through a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance and in January of



2011 was cited in the Obama Administration's report, "Strengthening Our Military Families, Meeting Americas Commitment." Those jurisdictions that attended the Tulsa training represented Dedham, Massachusetts, Pulaski Co and Texas Co, Missouri, Travis Co, Texas, Berks Co and Lackawanna Co, Pennsylvania, Appalachian Circuit Georgia, and Stark Co, Ohio. The next VTCPI training will be in held in San Jose, California, February 6-10. This training is now full, but [check back](#) with Justice For Vets for opportunities to take part in additional VTCPI training.

Visit a Veterans Treatment Court Mentor Court

The Veterans Treatment Mentor Court Program, a partnership between the National Drug Court Institute (NDCI) and the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), is again taking requests for funded visits to one of our four Veterans Treatment Mentor Courts. The program covers travel, lodging, and meals for up to four individuals from a jurisdiction. Upon approval of the visit request, NDCI staff will determine which Mentor Courts will best fit the needs and priorities of the requestor. [Learn more or to apply for a funded visit.](#)

Justice For Vets Storms Capitol Hill

On October 18, 2011 NADCP and Justice For Vets held a Congressional Briefing in conjunction with the House of Representatives Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus. The briefing was titled, "Drug Courts and Veterans Treatment Courts: A Proven Budget Solution – Serving Our Veterans." The briefing was attended by over 100 Congressional staff as well as four Members of Congress: John Sullivan (R-OK), Tim Ryan (D-OH), Patrick Meehan (R-PA), Louie Gohmert (R-TX) and Silvestre Reyes (D-TX). Following the briefing, NADCP CEO West Huddleston, Board Chair Judge Robert Rancourt, Former Congressman Jim Ramstad, Judge Michael Barrasse, Actor Matthew Perry, and Veterans Treatment Court graduate Nick Stefanovic, met with Congressman Meehan to discuss funding for Veterans Treatment Courts. For photos and details of the event, [click here](#).



Lackawanna County Veterans Treatment Court Judge Michael Barrasse answers questions as Actor Matthew Perry looks on.

National Veterans Organizations Endorse Veterans Treatment Courts

Justice For Vets has been honored to work with the nation's leading Veterans Service Organizations and Veterans Organizations on resolutions in support of Veterans Treatment Courts. Veteran's Service Organizations and Veterans Organizations offer critical support to Veterans Treatment Courts. To view a list of organizations that have passed resolutions and learn how they can assist your court, [click here](#).



***NEW WEBINAR* - Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder with Dr. Casey Taft**

Justice For Vets is pleased to present the latest in a series of webinars hosted by the National Drug Court Institute. Dr. Casey Taft, Ph.D., staff psychologist at the National Center for PTSD, first provides an overview of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), including diagnostic features, the identification of biomarkers for PTSD, and interventions for PTSD. Then, he focuses on how trauma and PTSD may impact the family and interventions to prevent family conflict and domestic violence are discussed. [Watch](#).



AMS Honored by St. Louis Veterans Treatment Court

Veteran's Initiative Makes Continuous Alcohol Monitoring Available to all Veterans Treatment Courts

On November 17, the St. Louis Drug Court and Veterans Treatment Court honored Alcohol Monitoring Services (AMS) during a special Drug Court and Veterans Treatment Court graduation ceremony. AMS and its St. Louis-based service partner, Eastern Missouri Alternative Sentencing Services (EMASS), were recognized for their collaboration with the St. Louis Veterans Treatment Court to offer a complete CAM program free of charge. The collaboration in St. Louis is part of an AMS initiative aimed at serving veterans in all Veterans Treatment Courts. [Learn how your court can receive free CAM services](#).



Lou Sugo, Vice President of Marketing with AMS, receives a plaque in recognition of his work with the St. Louis Veterans Treatment Court.

Justice For Vets Media Center

Justice For Vets was honored to be featured in the following national news stories about Veterans Treatment Courts.

Why Veterans Should Get Their Own Courts

The logo for 'the Atlantic' news outlet, featuring the word 'the' in a small, lowercase serif font followed by 'Atlantic' in a larger, elegant serif font.

“Nearly 80 veterans courts have sprung up across the country over the past four years, and 20 more are expected to open by the end of this year. Most consider only those veterans who are struggling with mental-health or substance-abuse problems.” [More.](#)

Special Courts Turn to Vets to Help Other Vets



“Veterans treatment courts like Buffalo’s are sprouting in courtrooms across the country, with 80 having been established in the past 3½ years. The growth—largely independent of the federal government—has been sparked by the recognition of judges, prosecutors, public defenders and legislators that a significant number of veterans are returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan with mental health issues that can manifest themselves in criminal acts both great and small, and that steering them toward treatment they may have initially rejected will benefit society in the long run.” [More.](#)

About Justice For Vets

In 2009, the National Association of Drug Court Professionals launched Justice For Vets: The National Clearinghouse for Veterans Treatment Courts. Justice For Vets is exclusively committed to ensuring that veterans involved in the criminal justice system have access to Veterans Treatment Courts and the benefits, services and treatment they have earned. Since Justice For Vets was launched the number of operational Veterans Treatment Courts has grown to over 80. Justice For Vets activities include advocating for federal Veterans Treatment Court funding, assisting with state legislation, training and technical assistance, public awareness, and building coalitions within the criminal justice, business, and Veterans Service Organization communities.

About National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP)

Since 1994, NADCP, a non-profit organization 501(c)(3) representing over 27,000 multi-disciplinary justice professionals and community leaders, has worked tirelessly at the national, state and local level to create and enhance Drug Courts. NADCP is recognized as the experts in the field of addiction and its intersection with the criminal justice system. In 1998, NADCP launched the National Drug Court Institute (NDCI). To date, NDCI has directly trained 65,440 Drug Court professionals from all fifty states and U.S. territories as well as fourteen other countries. Because of the breadth, quality and impact of NDCI's services, the Drug Court field has grown from 347 programs in 1998 to 2,600 Drug Courts currently in operation. Visit NADCP online at www.AllRise.org.