

Dear _____,

I, _____, want to ensure these programs are instituted for our military personnel.

GOAL:

1) To institute mandatory grief counseling for all military personnel as an integral part of the boot camp program. It would be similar to that which the police and fire personnel receive so as to enable them to more effectively cope with the emotions that are associated with the trauma of loss of life and limb.

JUSTIFICATION:

- A) Our troops go into combat totally unprepared for the trauma to come.
- B) This preparation would pave the way for making treatment for PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) more acceptable. And more effective
- C) Troops would be more effective and efficient in accomplishing assigned tasks

GOAL:

2) Establishment of a mandatory civilian reentry program for all military personnel prior to discharge. This could be accomplished efficiently in large groups.

JUSTIFICATION:

- A) This will give personnel tools and skills to assist them in dealing with the transition to civilian life.
- B) It ensures more effective screening of those who are severely affected but who neither recognize nor admit it.
- C) Making the program mandatory as well as calling it a Civilian Reentry Program removes the stigma and acknowledges that it is a human condition; the personnel are not broken or weak.
- D) Making the program mandatory prior to discharge also enables those who receive a Section 8 or conditional discharge to get attention they would likewise never get due to the loss of benefits.
- E) This program ensures that no one slips through the cracks

GOAL:

3) Making support groups available after discharge similar to a 12-step program to enable separated personnel to continue to lead productive lives.

JUSTIFICATION:

Such a program would foster more trust among veterans, the government, and civilians through concrete evidence that the nation they served cares enough to do something both practical and effective. These programs could come under the Joshua Omvig Suicide Prevention Act or as an expansion of TAP.

Sincerely,