

WARFIGHTER ADVANCE

GIVING WARFIGHTERS THEIR GREATEST WEAPON BACK

MEXICO 1846-1848 • WAR BETWEEN THE STATES 1861-1865 • SPANISH WAR 1898 • PHILIPPINE INSURRECTION 1898-1902 • BOXER REBELLION 1900 • NICARAGUA 1912 • VERA CRUZ 1914 •
LEBANON 1958 • VIETNAM 1962-1975 • DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 1965 • LEBANON 1981-1984 • GRENADA 1983 • PERSIAN GULF 1987-1991 • PANAMA 1988-1990



Gold
Transparency
2023

Candid.



Founded and staffed by Warfighters, for Warfighters

From Roosevelt Roads to Lions Camp Merrick: Warfighter Advance, 2003-Present

In 2003, The ADVANCE 7-Day Training Op started taking shape. Dr. Mary Neal Vieten, a United States Navy Officer and psychologist, was determined to step outside of the ineffectual medial model and return warfighter with operational stress challenges to a fit-for-full-duty status. This passion turned into a plan, then a dedicated, highly credentialed, volunteer staff, and, finally, the execution of what is now known as The ADVANCE 7-Day: an intensive, didactic, and experimental program in a serene setting.

The ADVANCE 7-Day empowers Warfighters. Warfighter Advance serves active, reserve, and veteran members of our military from all branches of service and eras of war. Additionally, the ADVANCE 7-Day welcomes public safety personnel.





Fit for duty, fit for life



After numerous tours to Iraq and Afghanistan, I was on edge constantly. Then the medical separation took place and I felt abandoned by the country I served. Warfighter Advance was referred to me by a service member and I was ready for anything. I had found my only relief in a bottle until this point.

Warfighter brought out the 'me' that I felt was lost forever. They helped me feel alive. The new lease on life had saved my marriage and my life and I have found a new mission helping homeless veterans. Warfighter Advance saved my life!

- BU1(SCW) Shane Perkins, USN

I served in the Navy for ten years. After my last deployment in 2009, I felt lost. I didn't fit in with society. My sister told me about Warfighter Advance. She could see the darkness in me and talked me into going. It was the best thing I have done for myself in a long time. Warfighter Advance showed me that I was not broken and how to live a better life.

I work as a veteran service officer helping with claims and resources. I encounter veterans in all stages of life. When I encounter a veteran that is looking to get help, I refer them to Warfighter Advance. I tell my veterans this, "I know you're in a dark place. I cannot fix this for you, but I can show you the way out. I will be by your side the whole way.

- EN1(SCWS) Marisol Cordova, USN



Twenty years in the Army, seventeen as a Green Beret. Some of what I did was violent and dangerous. People died. At one point in Afghanistan, we were in contact with the enemy pretty much every day for nine months. I felt like a cat that was rapidly losing its nine lives. I became angry.

The Dalai Lama said that holding onto anger is like drinking poison and expecting someone else to die. My version was being hard to get along with, a drunk, and divorced. But for the first time, at Warfighter Advance, I started talking about it. I am now a better spouse. I'm more compassionate and less judgmental. I'm happier. I've even stopped raising my five-year-old like a tiny little commando. Thank you, Warfighter Advance. You changed my life.

- SFC John Hamilton, USA



An N of 1

Giving warfighters their greatest weapon back

Too often, the warfighter has been convinced he or she has a DIS-order as a result of deployment related trauma. And too often, a one-size-fits-all "treatment" is administered. When we explain that what they are feeling and experiencing is completely IN-order, we witness their eyes come alive with hope.

Warfighters certainly have unique challenges to overcome but they are normal issues that come with trauma. They are not illnesses (mental or otherwise). We remind our men and women that they are still our nation's finest: highly trained, highly adapted. We do not treat them as if they are sick or disabled. We know better. Instinctively, warfighters know this themselves. By this reminder, we hand them back their personal command and re-instill their dignity.

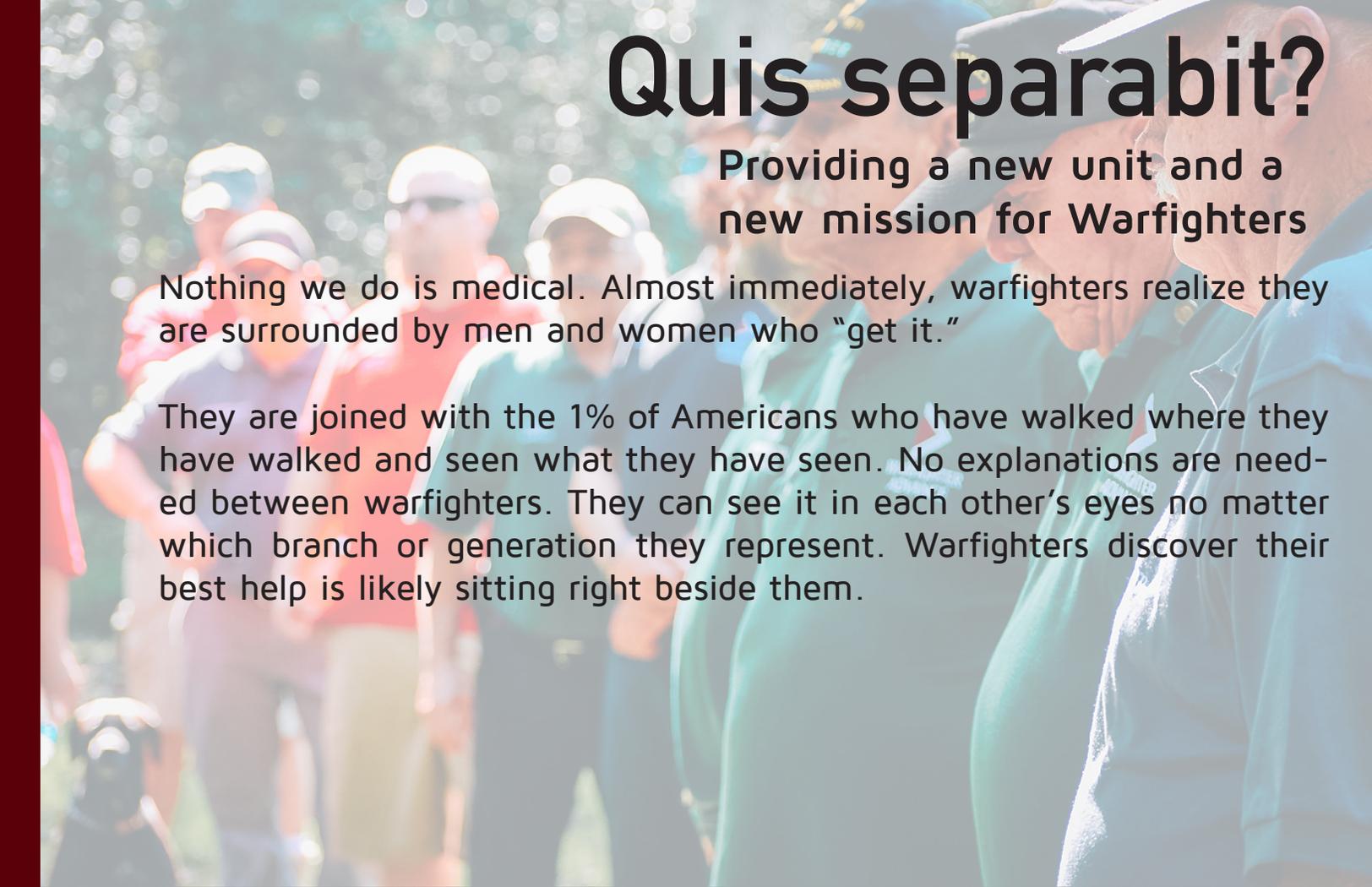
WHAT SETS US APART

100% OF COSTS COVERED FOR EVERY WARFIGHTER

145 YEARS OF COMBINED MILITARY EXPERIENCE WITHIN CORE LEADERSHIP TEAM

100% MONTHLY CHECK-IN WITH ALUMNI FOREVER

**24 / 7 / 365
AVAILABILITY OF STAFF TO ALUMNI**



Quis separabit?

Providing a new unit and a new mission for Warfighters

Nothing we do is medical. Almost immediately, warfighters realize they are surrounded by men and women who “get it.”

They are joined with the 1% of Americans who have walked where they have walked and seen what they have seen. No explanations are needed between warfighters. They can see it in each other’s eyes no matter which branch or generation they represent. Warfighters discover their best help is likely sitting right beside them.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS PROGRAM

98% OF PARTICIPANTS ARE REFERRED BY ANOTHER WARFIGHTER

100% OF ENTERING PARTICIPANTS REPORT SIGNIFICANT REINTEGRATION CHALLENGES

100% OF ALUMNI REPORT BETTER EXPERIENCES THAN OTHER PROGRAMS WITH SIMILAR GOALS

100% OF ALUMNI HIGHLY RECOMMEND THE PROGRAM

OUR MISSION:

THE SUCCESSFUL REINTEGRATION OF EVERY WARFIGHTER

The **first** tenant states that a warfighter must be allowed to determine his or her own successful outcome. At Warfighter Advance, we focus on functional outcomes. These could include, for example, meeting goals such as finding work, graduating from college, re-uniting with estranged family, running for public office, regaining physical health, or running a marathon. It appears to us as arrogant that we should determine for another person what a good outcome looks like, or that we should determine that another person's suffering, bereavement, response to trauma, or reintegration is "abnormal" or "pathological."

Our **second** tenant states that warfighters at Warfighter Advance are educated on the tension between practitioner benevolence and patient autonomy, as well as ethical and legal parameters of fully informed consent, which, for the reader's review, include, at a minimum:

To be informed of the risks and benefits of any proposed treatment or intervention

To be informed of the alternative treatments or interventions and their risks and benefits

To be allowed to make the treatment decision without coercion

In the **third** tenant, Warfighter Advance acknowledges that there is a direct cause and effect relationship, well-documented in the scientific literature, between the rates of post-deployment suffering and suicide, and the use of psychopharmaceuticals to treat a variety of psychiatric labels. To be clear, it is the treatment, and not an underlying clinical or medial condition, that is causing suffering and unprecedented rates of suicide (Council for Evidence-Based Psychiatry, 2019; FDA 2004).

Fourth, a careful review of the literature and analysis of scientific merit has led us (and many other scientists, including those at the National Institute of Mental Health, NIMH) to conclude that the categories of mental disorder as defined by the Diagnostic and Statistics Manual of Mental Disorders - 5 (DSM-5) are scientifically invalid and diagnostically unreliable (Jayson, 2013), and therefore, it is unethical for us to use them or to convince warfighters that they "have" them.

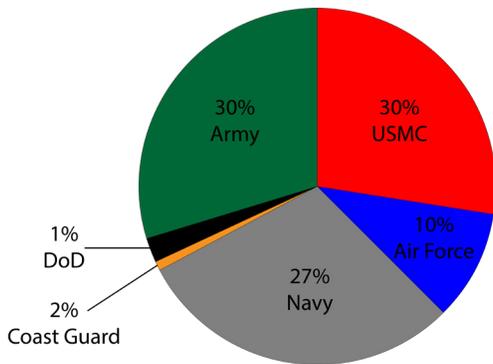
Fifth, after a careful analysis of the science, the available literature, and the risk-benefit ratio, WA rejects the use or usefulness of psychiatric medications and ECT in the process of warfighter reintegration or trauma response. We also acknowledge the devastating implications and harmfulness of these treatments for traumatized individuals in general (Breggin and Cohen, 2007; Jackson, 2005, 2009; Kirsch, 2010; Read, Kirsch, and McGrath, 2019).

The above is an excerpt from:

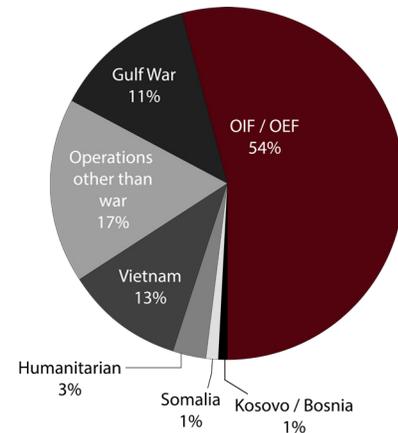
Vieten, Mary Neal. 2022. "Warfighter Advance: The ADVANCE 7-Day." *The Journal of Individual Psychology*, 78(1), 95-103.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS MAKE THE MISSION POSSIBLE

Our participants come from all over the country, as well as NATO allies.
All are welcome.



Our participants come from all branches of service



Our participants have served in many conflicts

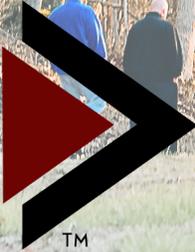
The ADVANCE 7-Day Training Op is completely free to the warfighter. This program is only possible because of the generosity of many individuals, organizations, business, and foundations. All contributions are tax deductible. For details, see our **DONATE** page at www.warfighteradvance.org.

COST FOR AN ENTIRE 7-DAY EVOLUTION = \$51,250

THE ADVANCE 7-DAY COST PER WARFIGHTER = \$2,050



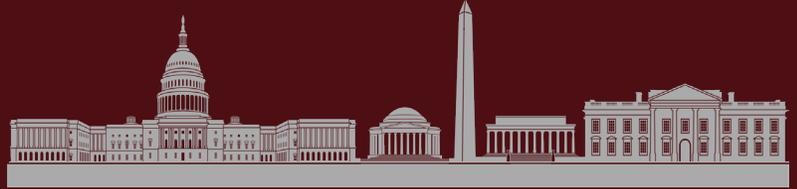
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WARFIGHTER  ADVANCE

For more information, custom programming,
or consulting services, visit: WWW.WARFIGHTERADVANCE.ORG



The ADVANCE 7-Day is located
just outside our nation's capital



Alumni Network across 42 States

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