Arts and the Military
Supporting our Military and Veterans through the Arts

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Professions/Providers:

Creative Art Therapists
- Art Therapy
- Music Therapy
- Dance/Movement Therapy
- Drama Therapy
- Psychodrama Therapy
- Poetry/Biblio Therapy

Expressive Arts Therapists
- Professional Artists in all disciplines
- Architects, Interior Designers
- Arts/Cultural Agencies & Councils
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Applications

Art therapists, Dance/Movement Therapists, Drama Therapists and Music Therapists are employed as Creative Arts Therapists in VA Hospitals across the country

Creative Arts Therapies Clinical Outcomes

➢ Nonverbal Expression of Thoughts and Feelings
➢ Enhance Recovery from Illness and Injury
➢ Process Memories and Experiences
➢ Reduce PTSD Symptoms
➢ Facilitate Family Interaction
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Applications

Creative Arts Therapists and Community Artists work across the military continuum to provide services to America’s service members and their families.
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Points of Contact

Before deployment
During Deployment
Transitioning from Deployment
Hospitalization/Active Treatment
Transitioning to Civilian Life
Charting a Path Forward
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Address

• Chronic Illnesses
• Mental Health
• Neurological Disorders
• Post-Traumatic Stress (TBI) Disorder (PTSD)
• Military Sexual Trauma (MST)
• Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
• Physical Disabilities
• Marital/Family Stressors
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Initial Access

Veterans’ Affairs (VA)
- Hospitals
- Clinics
- Rehabilitation Facilities

Department of Defense
- Military Hospitals
- Military Bases
- Family Programs
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Community Access

- Veteran support agencies
- Civilian hospitals, clinics, and rehabilitation facilities
- Local arts agencies

Homeward Bound Retreat
Saranac Lake, NY
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Community Access

Learning Opportunities
Family Activities
Retreat Opportunities
Creative Healing Connections
Cultural Programs
Enhanced Environment

#ARTSADVOCACY
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Benefits

Reduces the impact of trauma
Rebuilds self-esteem
Fosters resilience
Helps re-connect families
Supports growth & self-acceptance
Improves concentration
Strengthens coping skills
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Action Needed

**Action 1**

Support legislation that improves access for service members, veterans and their families to evidence-based complementary and integrative in-person treatments and telehealth, including creative arts therapies.
In 2017 the National Lieutenant Governors’ Association (NLGA) and Americans for the Arts launched a joint initiative with the goal: “to promote the use of arts and arts therapy with the nation’s military continuum.”
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Local Initiatives

In June of 2018, the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) adopted a resolution in support of Funding Arts, Health, and Well-Being Across the Military Continuum.
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Action Needed

Action 2

Support increased funding through the Department of Veteran Affairs and Department of Defense for creative arts therapies services and artist-directed programs for veterans, active military, and their families through community and wellness programs.
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Creative Forces

NEA Military Healing Arts Network

Collaborative Project

NEA
Department of Defense
Department of Veterans Affairs
State Art Agencies
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Creative Forces Locations

- Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Anchorage AK
- Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, CA
- Fort Carson, CO
- James A. Haley Veterans’ Hospital, Tampa, FL
- North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System, Gainesville, FL
- National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE) at Walter Reed, Bethesda, MD
- Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Jacksonville, NC
- Fort Hood, TX
- Fort Belvoir, VA
- Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, VA
- Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Tacoma, WA
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Research

Enhance Military Readiness
Foster Communication
Strengthen Resilience
Facilitate Transitions
Improve Coping Strategies
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Key Committees

Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs
https://www.veterans.senate.gov/

Senate Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Personnel
https://www.armed-services.senate.gov/

House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Health Subcommittee
https://veterans.house.gov/

House Armed Services Committee: Military Personnel Subcommittee
https://armedservices.house.gov/