

# Moving Forward:

Strengthening Services for our Military, Veterans, Families and Survivors



**First Annual Conference**  
**May 13 – 15, 2008 | Chantilly, VA**

# Table of Contents

---

<b>MOVING FORWARD.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>CONFERENCE OVERVIEW.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>HIGHLIGHTS.....</b>	<b>5</b>
GUEST SPEAKERS.....	5
VETERAN PANELISTS.....	5
PRESENTATIONS .....	5
PANEL PRESENTATIONS.....	6
ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF MILITARY AND VETERAN FAMILIES.....	6
LEGAL ISSUES FOR NON-LAWYERS .....	6
EMERGING ISSUES IN PTSD AND TBI.....	6
OUTREACH TO YOUNGER VETERANS, MILITARY AND VETERAN INSTITUTIONS .....	7
FOUNDATION, GOVERNMENT & PRIVATE FUNDRAISING .....	7
SELF-CARE FOR PROVIDERS .....	7
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING & EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE .....	7
OUR MESSAGE THROUGH THE MEDIA.....	7
<b>BREAKOUT SESSION SUMMARIES .....</b>	<b>8</b>
ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF FAMILIES .....	8
GIVING A VOICE TO MENTAL HEALTH INJURIES.....	9
FACILITATING PHYSICAL AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING.....	10
ENGAGING VETERANS AND THE COMMUNITY.....	10
<b>TOP PRIORITIES &amp; NEXT STEPS.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>CLOSING THOUGHTS .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>THE COALITION .....</b>	<b>15</b>

# Moving Forward

## Strengthening Services for Our Military, Veterans, Families and Survivors

**T**hank you for your interest in the Coalition for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans (CIAV) First Annual Conference and our plans moving forward to better serve our military, veterans, families and survivors. The CIAV is a clearinghouse of some 45 agencies serving myriad needs associated with deployment in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. We share a common funder who has underwritten the First Annual Conference as well as our ongoing efforts to leverage our resources to best serve the OIF/OEF community. These agencies provide a vital array of services, from small direct grants to active military; from comprehensive poly-trauma, post traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury treatment; to programs for military children and support for surviving family members.

No one agency or sector can deliver the breadth of support our military and veteran community require – not the Department of Veterans Affairs, nor the military, nor state and local systems, nor private non-profits, faith-based organizations or individual caregivers. That said, the groups in attendance at this CIAV Conference have an impressive record of accomplishments, having directly touched the lives of 600,000 warriors and served over two million people whose lives have been impacted by deployment. Still, active and former military families struggle with the burdens and legacy of deployment. The need for our services will not dissipate when the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan end; nor should our Nation’s collective commitment to support those who have sacrificed beyond measure, and to extend a supportive hand to warriors as they transition from combat to home, from military to civilian lives.

It is vital that we take this moment to step back and assess the individual strengths of our organizations and embark on a long-term strategic planning process. Our goals are simple: to ensure access to appropriate quality resources for military, veterans, families and survivors now and in the future.

I can say with great certainty that the attendees of the First Annual CIAV Conference deliver on these goals.

The conference was an historic opportunity for providers to break down geographic and technical barriers and work together to improve the access to and quality of services for our active military, a new generation of war veterans, their families and their survivors. Looking forward, we hope to capitalize on our individual strengths and work together to break down barriers between the military and civilian community to build a stronger, more effective, more efficient, more caring and more comprehensive system of care for decades to come.

*Amy Fairweather*

CIAV Director

“...looking forward, we hope to capitalize on our individual strengths and work together to break down barriers between the military and civilian

# Conference Overview

## A Summary of Conference Events, Highlights and Presentations

The 1st Annual Coalition for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Conference was held May 13 – 15, 2008 at the Westfield Marriott in Chantilly, Virginia. The hotel was chosen for its central location, close enough to the D.C. Metro area to permit for post-conference recreation, but secluded enough to allow for a concentrated effort on the three-day event.

The CIAV hosted two representatives from each grantee organization to attend the conference, with 135 grantees in attendance. Special guests were also invited to attend to share their experiences, challenges, and joys of serving our returning military. Guests were invited based on their present involvement with Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF) veterans/military and their families, and recommendations from grantees.

The goal of the conference was to draw together some 45 agencies nationwide to convene and address vital issues facing active duty, veterans and their families. The conference provided the opportunity to gather and support each other's work and leverage our collective skills and experiences to improve the lives of OIF/OEF veterans/military and their families.

For three days, panels and breakout sessions were conducted covering diverse areas, from the need among military and veteran families to self-care for providers. These interactive sessions generated new methods of outreach to younger veterans/military, as well as fostered collaboration within the Coalition to offer better and more comprehensive services. For this conference, we chose to limit

presentations to the expert representatives of IADIF grantee organizations. In the future, we hope to broaden the scope of attendance to members of the government and military.

The outcome and materials generated from the conference followed in the form of recommendations, quotes, and a plan for maximizing the effectiveness of the Coalition. These materials include information about featured speakers and presentations provided during the daily general sessions, as well as summaries and synopses of the breakout sessions, and theme-based discussions that involved 15 to 30 participants. Finally, this briefing will provide you with the priorities that the participants provided as a Coalition and

the next steps identified by members to achieve these goals.

● ● ●

**“...we have begun to prevail, and we’ve now planted the seeds for the inevitable if not essential public/private partnerships that we as a Nation must implement and sustain if we are to serve our service members in a fashion that both dignifies their service and meets their needs, now and in the future.”**

**Nancy Berglass,  
IADIF Fund**

● ● ●



## Highlights

### Guest Speakers

- **Nancy Berglass**, Consultant, Iraq and Afghanistan Deployment Impact Fund, served as the keynote speaker and addressed the progress and future scope of the Coalition.
- **Michael Blecker**, Executive Director, Swords to Plowshares, spoke about his perspective on the interaction between direct service delivery and system changes.
- **Jasmeet Sidhu**, Non-Profit Attorney, Alliance for Justice, discussed non-profit organizations' unique and essential role to play in the policy process.
- **Greg Colvin**, Attorney, Alder & Colvin, Counsel to the IADIF, shared his vast knowledge of non-profit advocacy and his particular insights on military and veteran advocacy.

### Veteran Panelists

- **Michael Zacchea**, OIF/OEF Veteran, Lt. Col. U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, talked about the challenges faced in commanding his troops and advising the Iraqi Army while emotionally and physically injured himself. Upon his return home, he was forced to face these issues. Upon meeting Paul Rieckoff from Iraq Afghanistan Veterans of America, and Vietnam Veterans at a counseling center, Michael has been able to face his injuries and is working to overcome them. He is now working with IAVA and has been involved helping Iraqi interpreters gain U.S. citizenship.
- **Andrew Pogany**, OIF/OEF Veteran, U.S. Naval Reserve and U.S. Army, spoke regarding the difficulties he faced when he became incapacitated by drugs administered by the U.S. Army and was diagnosed with chemically-induced Traumatic Brain Injury. He was charged by his command with "Cowardly Conduct Before the Enemy." While fighting these charges, Andrew met Steve Robinson, a ONE Freedom consultant, and as Andrew says, "I am in deep gratitude to Steve. If it weren't for Steve, I would be a statistic." Andrew now works for National Veterans Legal Services Program as a Special Investigator.
- **Dan Tazlitz**, Iraq Veteran, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Reconnaissance Team Leader shared his experience living with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), the impact on his military and civilian life, and his ongoing path to healing.



### Presentations

- **Legislative Presentation.** Paul Rieckoff, Director and Patrick Campbell, Legislative Director, Iraq Afghanistan Veterans of America reviewed the latest legislative developments concerning our military, veterans, and their families, particularly the GI Bill.
- **Media Presentation.** Jim Miller, Director, Brave New Foundation discussed how to capture a pressing issue on film to effectively convey your message to the media and the public; and shared a preview of their groundbreaking new Internet series, "In Their Boots."

- **RAND Corporation.** Lisa H. Jaycox, Ph.D, Senior Behavioral Scientist and Terri Tanielian, Senior Social Research Analyst presented the results of their research, “Invisible Wounds of War – Summary of Findings and Recommendations for Addressing Psychological and Cognitive Injuries.”
- **Veteran Panel.** Derek McGinnis, American Pain Foundation; Andrew Pogany, National Veterans Legal Services Program; Matt Randle, Vets4Vets; Johnny Fajardo, Vets4Vets; Michael Zacchea, IAVA; Tia Christopher, Swords to Plowshares; Dan Tazlitz, ONE Freedom; and Ernesto Estrada, Swords to Plowshares answered questions and discussed the trials and tribulations of being Active Military and Veterans.

## Panel Presentations

### Addressing the Needs of Military and Veteran Families

Military families are a unique community in need of services. In addition, they often serve as the conduit to care and provide invaluable support for the successful healing and transition of their combat



**“What is being asked of us [veterans] is not easy...we are being sent into the most grotesque and incomprehensible environment on earth.**

**When we come home, we are supposed to pretend that it’s not there, that it didn’t happen or that it didn’t affect us. Well it did affect us, and the fact that it did affect us should be embraced.”**

**Andrew Pogany,  
National Veterans Legal  
Services Program**



veterans/military. This panel focused on current efforts to reach out and serve this community and promote a discussion of gaps in services and future needs. Panelists Bonnie Carroll, TAPS; Lynn Chwatsky, Sesame Workshop; S. Frank Gallo, Armed Services of America; and Joyce Wessel Raezer, National Military Family Association discussed various programs and advocacy for improvements in the quality of military family life.

### Legal Issues for Non-Lawyers

OIF/OEF military, veterans, and their families face a myriad of legal issues, from the need for representation in VA Disability Claims, discharge matters, and discharge review, to civilian civil and criminal matters. This panel was designed to assist the non-attorney veteran supporter better spot and identify legal needs among clients and members in order to make appropriate referrals and inquiries on their behalf. Panelists Bart Stichman and Ron Abrams, National Veterans Legal Services Program; and Elinor Roberts, Swords to Plowshares discussed military/VA claims and civilian legal issues, where to find help, and some of the ancillary issues non-attorneys can recognize in their clients.

### Emerging Issues in PTSD and TBI

This panel focused on lessons learned among the grantees concerning the prevalence of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), mental health needs, Military Sexual Trauma (MST), and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). The panel examined innovative service deliveries and lessons learned regarding treatment options and benefit systems. Panelists Shawn Brossart, TIRR Foundation – Project Victory; Fred Gusman, The Pathway Home; Steve Robinson, ONE Freedom; and Terri Tanielian and Lisa H. Jaycox, The RAND Corp. talked about obstacles to overcome, and discussed the latest neuroscience to re-frame combat stress from being a mental and behavioral health issue to viewing the symptoms of stress and trauma as natural adaptations at a neurophysiological level.

## Outreach to Younger Veterans, Military and Veteran Institutions

This panel addressed the ways in which our agencies reach out to military, recently separated veterans and their families in order to best meet their needs. The panelists discussed techniques to network with Active Military, National Guard and Reserve personnel, as well as institutional entities within the VA and military. Panelists Elizabeth Hawkins and Steve Robinson, ONE Freedom; Abel Moreno, Vets4Vets, and Paul Rieckoff, Iraq Afghanistan Veterans of America discussed new approaches to penetrating and shifting the military culture and how to optimize online tools to reach and organize veterans/military.

## Foundation, Government & Private Fundraising

This panel addressed the need to maintain secure funding, including diversifying fundraising streams to include major donors, small individual support, government, and foundation funding. The panel also explored how to have a healthy outlook on fundraising. Panelists Edward Boyer, Air Compassion for Veterans; Amy Palmer, Operation Homefront; Sandie Palomo-Gonzalez, San Antonio Area Foundation; and Michael Blecker, Swords to Plowshares talked about how to leverage government and private dollars to deliver employment, training, legal, housing and mental health services to military and veterans.

## Self-Care for Providers

The wounds of war last beyond the battlefield. As providers in the military and veteran service community, we need to sustain our own emotional well being while caring for our clients. This panel addressed the spiritual wounds of war as they affect those serving veterans/military and their families. Panelists Dr. Joseph Bobrow, The Coming Home Project; Bonnie Carroll, TAPS; and Dr. Lynette Fraga, Zero to Three discussed the longevity of veteran service organizations and shared tips on what works for the Coalition community.

## Transitional Housing & Employee Assistance

Too many veterans leave the military without secure and stable housing and employment prospects. This panel addressed the ways in which we as a group, and as individual organizations, can deliver supportive services, including job training and financial skills necessary for veterans to overcome transitional barriers. Panelists Tom Benoit, Homes for Our Troops; Mike Conklin, Sentinels of Freedom; David Lopez, Swords to Plowshares; and Amy Palmer, Operation Homefront talked about strategies for private funding to provide services and lessons learned in delivering housing and employment training to a new generation of veterans/military.

## Our Message through the Media

There is an enormous disconnect concerning military and veteran issues among the general public. Less than one percent of our population are members of our Armed Forces, leaving most Americans with little first-hand knowledge of the systems, cultures, and resources affecting our military. From original media to local media to national press coverage, our IADIF grantee panelists discussed strategies for building a strong veteran/military support network. Panelists Tracy Garrett, Sesame Workshop; Jim Miller, Brave New Foundation; and Ami Neuberger-Miller, TAPS discussed different strategies for attracting and managing media coverage of program events, announcements, and policy initiatives.

● ● ●

**“The Veteran Panel was one of the most touching and impressive experiences. It was the core that made us all realize why we are persevering to make sure each veterans needs are met.”**

**Heidi Greer,  
Air Compassion for Veterans**

● ● ●

# Breakout Session Summaries

## Highlights of Introspective Discussions and Decision-Making

Vital components of the Coalition are the sharing of experiences, facilitated networking, and brainstorming. The four Breakout Session topics were: Mental Health, Addressing the Needs of Families, Economic Well-Being, and Outreach. Each session was held two times, giving the opportunity for each member to two different sessions. Approximately 30 people attended each session that served as an additional forum to learn from one another.

### Addressing the Needs of Families

Military families are a unique community in need of services. These families are clustered on military bases or dispersed in civilian communities; both types are in need of the support of community-based organizations that understand their sacrifices, commitment, and emotional wounds. Families are composed of parents, partners, and children of service members and veterans and are a critical conduit to care for the veteran community. Uniformly, participants agreed that the family is best defined broadly to leave room for the service member or veteran to interpret his own personal intimacy and its effects on his professional pursuits. Discussions were focused around identifying the resources and needs of families that are a part of the military community.

Several successes were identified in the regulation of services provided to, and information relating to addressing the needs of the family:

- **Community based organizations.** Coalition members reported that non-profits have been able to have greater access and provide services where the VA and the military have not, such as providing programs to children, offering bereavement services and financial assistance.
- **Increased inclusion of non-traditional family members.** The military and community based organizations have become increasingly more aware and inclusive of family members who have not traditionally recognized such as parents, non-married partners, and extended family.
- **The military professionalizing family readiness groups.** The military has recently pledged and begun to create paid positions for those who coordinate family readiness groups. These initiatives create jobs for the community. While alleviating some of the burden on over stretched volunteers.

The Coalition emphasized the need to better educate and communicate with family members, consolidate and coordinate existing resources, and deal with regulatory barriers:



**“...an excellent beginning; giving us a chance to meet one another, to hear first-hand about the work of Coalition members, to learn about the any needs of the OIF/OEF community.**

**But this is just a beginning...we need substantive, strategic follow-through if we are to evolve into a true Coalition and not just a group of nonprofits that happened to receive funding from the same source.”**

***Coalition Member***



- **Information dissemination.** Difficulties were reported concerning the availability and accuracy of information regarding services that are offered by the military, VA and community service providers.
- **Family outreach.** Participants reported that it was difficult to get in touch with family members to deliver adequate information and services due to legal/privacy restrictions, lack of child care, geographic accessibility, and a lack of interest on the part of the service member or their family.
- **Lack of coordination among veteran/military service providers.** Coalition members expressed the desire to learn more about the services that other organizations provided in order to avoid a duplication of services and develop a method of referring veterans/military and their family members to different agencies.
- **Inconsistent quality of care from the VA and military.** Some of the Coalition reported outstanding care, while many reported difficulties accessing and receiving family services depending on the facility and/or installation. Several individuals remarked that a formal transition process in and out of the military would be helpful to family members.

### Giving a Voice to Mental Health Injuries

The Mental Health Breakout Sessions focused on diagnosis, gaps in service, and successful developments in legislation and care. A large concern of the 30 participants was self-diagnosis, misdiagnosis, and cases of dual diagnosis. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) for example, can be looked at as a normal reaction to abnormal situations and as an alternative to attaching a potential mental health stigma to active duty and veterans/military.

Several gaps in legislation, services, and information relating to diagnosis, stigma, and other areas surrounding mental health were identified:

- **Mental health systems of care.** Participants reported a need for mental health providers for younger children, family members as care-givers, re-evaluation of treatments, self-medication, and removing stigmas.
- **Financial.** Inconsistency in disability ratings, disability affecting employment, and a need for Tri-Care to be more affordable were discussed as financial barriers.
- **Diagnosis.** Participants discussed the inconsistency in diagnosis by the DoD and VA systems, self-diagnosis and diagnosis by family members, and the need for more resources for dual diagnosis cases.
- **Resources.** A need for more community resources, alternative treatments, and more information for the general public to reduce stigma were stressed.

• • •  
*“I couldn’t remember for the life of me how to get home.”*

*Allegory from  
 Michael Zacchea  
 OIF/OEF Veteran*

• • •

In addition, positive developments and successes were also noted:

- **Rural veteran services.** Tele-medicine and Internet-based programs are being developed with the goal of eliminating geographic barriers, similar to other CIAV member organizations that are helping with unmet transportation needs in the form of private aircrafts, airlines, or bed-to-bed air ambulances.

- **Legislation.** The “Veterans Mental Health Initiative” was discussed, which would provide additional Congressional funding for short-term mental healthcare as OIF/OEF veterans return; as well as the “Defense Authorization Act 2008,” which addresses pre and post deployment screenings, disability compensation, and other pertinent healthcare issues.

As the CIAV moves forward, a combined effort can be made to address the cultural competency of providers, support family members, and provide innovative and holistic treatment and resources.

### Facilitating Physical and Economic Well-Being

The transition from military to civilian life can be challenging enough without the added physical and mental wounds of war. The CIAV community is well-versed in various areas of rehabilitation; from vocational rehabilitation to securing earned VA and military benefits for transition. This dialogue was an opportunity for participants to exchange information about available resources and gaps in meaningful access to services. Several gaps in regulations, services, and information relating to sustaining financial stability and housing were identified:

- **Transition from MOS to civilian occupation.** Participants reported problems with veterans effectively translating their skills obtained in the military for the civilian job market.
- **Automatic enrollment into the VA at moment of separation.** A major issue is that veterans/military are not properly informed about benefits and potential VA healthcare. Participants agreed that veterans should be automatically enrolled in the VA upon separation.
- **Transitional housing opportunities.** Participants sought to increase the pool of transitional supportive housing, especially for veterans/military without substance abuse and mental health issues.
- **Financial literacy.** Participants recommended financial planning and management courses to educate military personnel on the realities of loans and credit. Instruction should also emphasize the dangers of payday advance/loan shops and their negative impact on credit and livable income.



**“This was an historic event that will be instrumental in the understanding of the specific needs of veterans, troops and military families.**

**The many conversations we had with other Coalition groups gave us reassurance that there are common areas of mutual concern among us all in regard to how best service our target population.”**

**Dan Shea,  
VFW Foundation**



### Engaging Veterans and the Community

The Outreach Breakout session allowed for a great exchange of information between organizations about how best to connect active duty, veterans, and families with the variety of services collectively offered by the Coalition.

The use of the Internet as a contemporary means to reach out to younger veterans greatly interested participants. Those representing groups who have an established online presence, i.e. Brave New Foundation, IAVA, and the American Pain Foundation, offered great advice on the convenience and efficacy of the Internet in accomplishing our organization’s goals. Participants also focused on the

groundwork needed to make those we aid aware of the services offered. Many emphasized the need for outreach to mobilized service members, before they are released from active duty.

Several suggestions were made for more effective outreach to; such as:

- **Effective use of the Internet.** Suggestions were made on how to establish an online community, such as using Myspace or Facebook as a starting place. Groups also discussed the effectiveness of having a robust online presence.
- **Comprehensive approach to outreach.** Outreach needs to encompass active duty military, veterans, and families, including doing outreach on and off military bases.
- **Impact of disabilities on accessing services.** Providers should have an increased awareness of how specific disabilities affect getting veterans linked into programs, services, and the community-at-large.



# Top Priorities & Next Steps

## A Blueprint of Next Steps for the Coalition for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans

Throughout the conference, the Coalition for Iraq and Afghanistan Veteran community had the opportunity to share skills and knowledge concerning care and services for OIF/OEF military, veterans, and their families. In closing the 1st Coalition for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Conference it was essential to formulate how our diverse Coalition could act as a unified body to meaningfully meet the needs of our returning OIF/OEF military. On the last day of the conference approximately 90 individuals participated in a facilitated debriefing to identify priorities and goals for the CIAV and the military/veteran community.

Coalition members identified the following issue areas as priorities:

**Media and communication.** Participants agreed that the Coalition needs to take advantage of the heightened publicity around the recent conflicts in order to raise awareness of and support for our organizations collective and individual work. We may also explore how the current presidential race can be used in a non-partisan way to highlight the needs of military/veteran needs. Participants want to empower local community members to become key players in providing military/veterans with services and resources. The Coalition will:

- Enhance the website to have greater impact on public awareness, including editorials and other media created by the CIAV.
- Publish a hard copy newsletter for sharing with other organizations, leaders, and the public.
- Establish a coordinated media strategy for the Coalition.

**Information sharing/coordination of services.**

Participants identified the need for coordination among organizations, as well as supporting external entities such as first responders, medical professionals, public institutions and researchers. By working together, the Coalition can become a hub for information-gathering, research, inter-agency resources and referrals. The Coalition will:

- Enhance the Coalition website for information sharing, cross-referrals, and accessibility for service providers and seekers, and update internal and external directories.
- Develop fact sheets and other resources.

**Public advocacy and education.** The CIAV will utilize the resources developed by organizations such as RAND and the Ad Council to maximize awareness of services and current military/veteran issues and services. This outreach is especially critical to the National Guard and Reservists who receive little information and are often isolated, in rural areas. The Coalition will:



**“Now is the time to hunker down, get strong, get united, and commit to common strategic objectives despite the frustrations and hiccups that will mark this work. I am of course talking about your specific grant outcomes, but I am also talking about the bigger picture; about the opportunity right now to make a difference that will change history.”**

**Nancy Berglass,  
Impact Fund**



- Create and maintain a legislative information hub on the website.
- Conduct strategic distribution of member research and data.
- Inform the community and public leaders on key veteran issues based on our privileged access to vets and their families.

**Fundraising.** The CIAV will optimize resources and expertise within the CIAV by learning from seasoned organizations, and collectively identify potential funding sources to ensure sustainability. The need to fund future conferences and strengthen the sustainability of the services provided by the Coalition was explicitly identified. The Coalition will focus on:

- Attracting funding to supplement the Impact Fund to sustain the Coalition.
- Providing education and “how-to” sessions for organizations on such subjects as government funding, foundations, individual donors, and board development.

**Building community and strengthening the referral network within the CIAV.**

The conference brought agencies together from across the nation, creating an atmosphere of intensified sense of community and purpose. Frequent communication and growth as an active referral network is a primary goal. Further discussions will be held on how to build on the momentum established by this meeting of 135 committed individuals. To start, the Coalition will:

- Hold webinars, conference calls and focus groups to revisit panel and breakout session topics as well as other areas of interest.
- Consider the possibility of meeting in smaller clusters by region or area of service.



**Coalition logistics.** In order to strengthen the Coalition and capitalize on the results of the conference the following foundational documents will be created:

- A Coalition mission statement and strategic plan.
- A policy and procedure for admitting new organizations into the Coalition.

**Creation of task-focused sub-committees.** In order to accomplish the priorities, the following sub-committees will be created:

- The Media/Communication/Public Advocacy Committee will create a media strategy for the Coalition to promote awareness of veteran issues and services and influence public policy.
- The Coalition Logistics Committee will create a Coalition mission statement, strategic plan, and policy for adding new organizations.
- The Fundraising Committee will generate ideas to supplement current Coalition funding and support CIAV organizations in their own fundraising.

## Closing Thoughts

---

The first step is to care and this [conference] is certainly proof of that.

*~Michael Zacchea, OIF/OEF Veteran*

Those who serve combat veterans know that healing cannot happen in the absence of love.

*~Nancy Berglass, IADIF Fund*

Being a community-based organization means it is vital and crucial to be available. It also means not being afraid of whom you are serving: impoverished, homeless, in crisis. That is not pretty. You also need to listen to those you are serving. Don't be afraid of those you are providing for.

*~Michael Blecker, Executive Director, Swords to Plowshares*

We have these wonderful opportunities to share our resources and knowledge...and for the veterans here...their experiences. We learn from those we serve...we have a unique and privileged insight into what people have gone through, what they need and that is part of our mission to tell those stories...so people really understand and make sure services are available and accessible and to take care of those who are serving, those who will serve and their families.

*~Amy Fairweather, Director CIAV*

*This report has been prepared by:*

Amy Fairweather

CIAV Director

[afairweather@stp-sf.org](mailto:afairweather@stp-sf.org)

Mary Moran

CIAV Program Coordinator

[mmoran@stp-sf.org](mailto:mmoran@stp-sf.org)

Tia Christopher

CIAV Program Associate

[tchristopher@stp.sf.org](mailto:tchristopher@stp.sf.org)

Megan Klein

CIAV Communications Associate

[mklein@stp.sf.org](mailto:mklein@stp.sf.org)

Mai-Ling Garcia

Senior Policy Associate

Swords to Plowshares

[mgarcia@stp-sf.org](mailto:mgarcia@stp-sf.org)

If you have any questions about this report, please contact any of the above at:

Swords to Plowshares

Iraq Veteran Project

1060 Howard Street

San Francisco, CA 94103

415-252-4788

# COALITION FOR IRAQ+AFGHANISTAN VETERANS

---

American Pain Foundation

Armed Services YNCA of the USA

Brave New Foundation

California National Guard Family Assistance Fund

Cause – Comfort for America’s Uniformed Services

Coming Home Project – Deep Stream Institute

The Dallas Foundation

Disabled American Veterans

Family Literacy Foundation United Through Reading

Fisher House Foundation

Homes for Our Troops

Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund

Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)

Jacobs’s Light Foundation

Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation

Mercy Medical Airlift – Air Compassion for Veterans

Michigan National Guard Family Fund

National Military Family Association

National Public Radio

National Veterans Foundation

National Veterans Legal Services Program

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

New Directions

ONE Freedom

Operation Homefront

Our Military Kids

Pentagon Federal Credit Union Foundation

Permian Basin Area Foundation

Project: Return to Work

The Salvation Army Liberty Program

San Antonio Area Foundation

Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation

Sesame Workshop

Swords to Plowshares Iraq Veteran Project

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)

TIRR Foundation – Project Victory

USA Cares

Veterans Home of California – The Pathway Home

Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation

Vets4Vets

Veterans Village of San Diego

Zero to Three

**COALITION FOR**

**IRAQ + AFGHANISTAN**

**VETERANS**

***SAVE THE DATE***

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
Coalition for Iraq and  
Afghanistan Veterans  
Conference**

***WILL BE HELD***

**May 5 – 7, 2009**

**LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED**