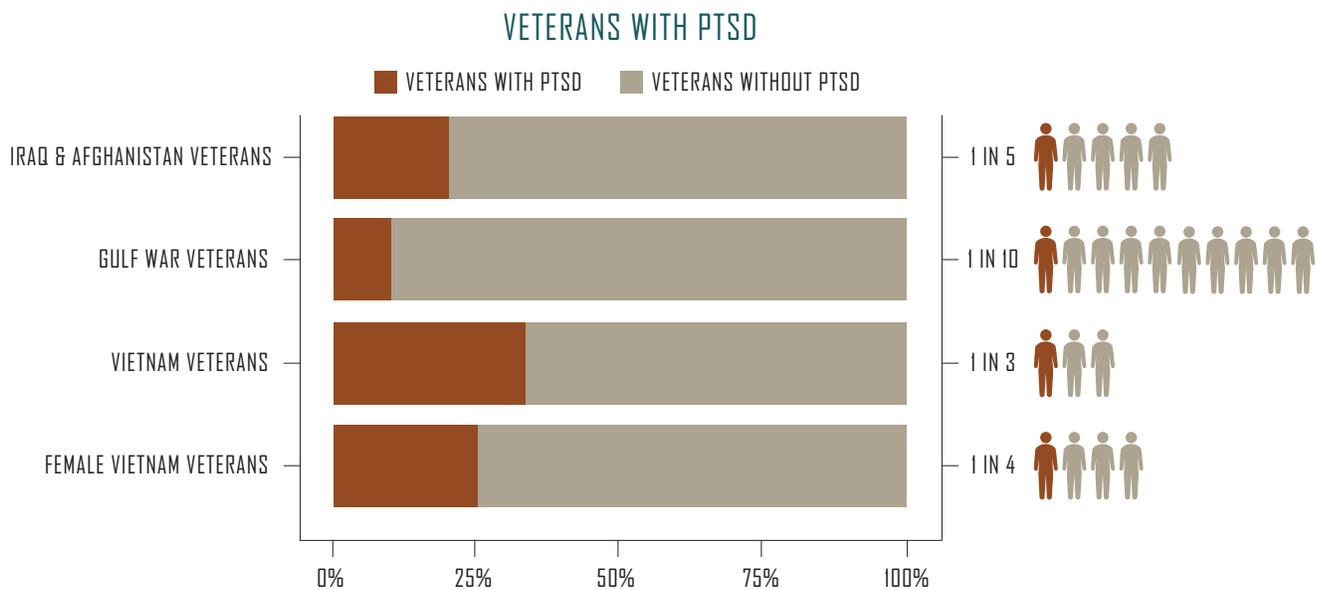


## BAD PAPER & THE MENTAL HEALTH LINK

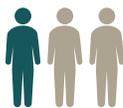
- PTSD and TBI produce behavioral dysfunction through an exaggerated startle response, inability to control reflexive behavior, irritability, or attraction to high-risk behavior <sup>1</sup>
- Interference with social and occupational functioning is a primary measure of the severity of PTSD and TBI <sup>2</sup>

## POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD)



## TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (TBI)

**313,816** Number of those deployed in support of Iraq and Afghanistan that have been diagnosed with TBI.<sup>3</sup>



1 in 3 veterans with TBI demonstrate significant aggressive behavior during the first 6 months after their injury.<sup>4</sup>

## SUBSTANCE USE

### SUBSTANCE ABUSE COMORBIDITIES:

- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder<sup>5</sup>
- Military Sexual Trauma (MST)
- Depression
- Combat Exposure<sup>6</sup>

## COMBAT & BAD PAPER

**MARINES WITH PTSD IN COMBAT** are 11x more likely to receive misconduct discharges than those without PTSD.

**WOMEN WITH COMBAT EXPOSURE** have an increased chance of behavioral problems related to PTSD, depression and substance abuse.<sup>7</sup>

# THE FALLOUT OF BAD PAPER

## VA ACCESS

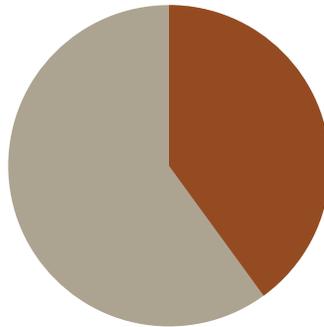
- Servicemembers with bad paper might be eligible for VA benefits, however that decision is up to the VA
- The veteran has to request that the VA make a decision on this. Until the VA makes its decision, the veteran is ineligible.

## INCARCERATION

- Bad paper veterans are overrepresented in state and federal prisons
- In 2004, 40% of incarcerated veterans had less than honorable discharges <sup>8</sup>

### TOTAL INCARCERATED VETERANS IN 2004

■ INCARCERATED VETERANS WITH BAD PAPER



## SUICIDE

**2X** The rate in which veterans with bad paper commit suicide than those with honorable or general discharges <sup>9</sup>



The rate of suicide for veterans outside of VA care is increasing <sup>10</sup>

- In 2010, veterans outside of VA care were committing suicide 30% more frequently than those enrolled in VA care <sup>10</sup>

## BAD PAPER & ACCESS TO VA CARE AND BENEFITS

MEDICAL CARE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Treatment related to Military Sexual Trauma (MST)</li><li>• Treatment for service-connected disabilities (after it is service-connected)</li></ul>
COUNSELING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Counseling at Vet Centers for combat veterans and survivors of MST</li></ul>
HOUSING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GPD, unless dishonorable discharge</li><li>• SSVF, unless dishonorable discharge</li><li>• Must have minimum time in service</li></ul>
G.I. BILL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No educational assistance unless fully honorable discharge</li></ul>