

ENGAGING IN THE SECOND MISSION

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OBJECTIVES

- Describe examples of Battlemind to Homemind and how you can be a liaison between the two cultures.
- Describe the second mission, and how you and the Veteran can grow together.
- Highlight promising best practices that will support veteran development in your agency and culture.



BEFORE WE BEGIN...

- Not all veterans' experiences are the same.
- Not all veterans are broken, angry or unstable.
- One does not need to have been in combat to be a veteran.
- Some of the information in this presentation may or may not apply to one's respective situation.
- Everybody in attendance today has a voice in this discussion.



MILITARY CULTURE

**What strengths, skills, talents
and values are taught and
learned in the military by us or
those we serve?**



WHAT MILITARY VALUES AND SKILLS ARE VALUED?

- **Leadership and teamwork.**
- **Character – trustworthy, dependable, drug free and strong work ethic.**
- **Structure and discipline.**
- **Job specific experiences and skills.**
- **Decision making under rapidly changing circumstances.**
- **Getting the job done.**
- **Share company values.**
- **Resiliency and working in difficult situations.**
- **Loyalty to the employer.**

Harrell & Berglass (2012). Employing America's Veterans: Perspectives from Business



WARZONE SURVIVAL SKILLS AND EXPERIENCES

What skills and experiences are necessary to survive in a war zone?

- **Trust Buddies**
- **Accountability/Control**
- **Targeted Aggression**
 - **Anger/adrenalin**
- **Tactical Awareness**
- **Quick decisions**
- **Lethally Armed**
- **Emotional Control**
 - **Detachment**
- **Individual Responsibility**
- **Discipline, Order**

How might these skills and experiences transfer to the civilian world?

- **Isolation/Avoidance**
- **Details remain important**
- **Quick reactions/frustration**
- **Quick decisions/snapping reactions**
- **World is about absolutes**
 - **Grey area thinking?**
- **Vigilance about surroundings**
- **Anxious in crowds**
- **Need for structure**
- **Guilt/Loss**
- **Control emotions**
- **Inflexible Interactions**



WHAT CAN YOU FOCUS ON

AS A RESULT OF TRAINING AND EXPERIENCES, WHAT BELIEFS AND VALUES DOES A VETERAN HAVE?

- I will never fail.
- I will respect authority.
- I live in selfless service.
- Mission overall.
- Success is a matter of life and death.
- Quick decisions save lives.
- You don't understand me or my background.
- I can never show weakness.
- I cant ask for help.
- No grey areas, no grey thinking.
- I must contain emotion.
- Every detail is important.
- I must be in control.
- Lethally armed, everyone is safe.



POST TRAUMATIC GROWTH

What's your definition



POSTTRAUMATIC GROWTH

“ The experience of positive change resulting from the struggle with major life crisis”

1. New opportunities & possibilities.
2. Change in relationships & connection to others who suffer.
3. Increased sense of ones own strength.
4. Greater appreciation of life in general.
5. Deepening of spiritual life and change in belief system.

Posttraumatic Growth Research Group. (2014). What is PTG? Retrieved from:
<https://ptgi.uncc.edu/what-is-ptg/>



SECOND MISSION

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FIND A SECOND MISSION?

- Will you, and the Veteran witness strengths, skills, talents, and values applied in a new way.
- How *AWARE* are you or the veteran about the impact of military training and experiences on his/her life?
- Post Deployment – 1-----10
Civilian Military



SECOND MISSION

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FIND A SECOND MISSION?

- It will be helpful to guide the veteran with the following:
“What does it mean for me to become a civilian again?”
- At some point there will be a need to learn which military characteristics to apply and not apply
- How can you be a liaison and ambassador between military and civilian culture?



BEST PRACTICES FOR ENGAGEMENT: GROUP ACTIVITY

1. What does it mean for your national service program to be veteran supportive?
2. How competent are you, and your program in working or engaging with military culture?
3. What would prevent a veteran from self-identifying in your organization and or programming?

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RESOURCES

- Harrell & Berglass. (2012). *Employing america's veterans: Perspectives from business*. Retrieved from http://www.alanational.org/assets/research_center/a_CNAS_EmployingAmericasVeterans_HarrellBerglass.pdf
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- Pew Research Center (2011). *War and sacrifice in the post-9/11 era*. Retrieved from: <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2011/10/05/war-and-sacrifice-in-the-post-911-era/5/#chapter-4-re-entry-to-civilian-life?src=prc-number>
- Posttraumatic Growth Research Group. (2014). *What is ptg?* Retrieved from: <https://ptgi.uncc.edu/what-is-ptg/>



QUESTIONS?

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