

The Coming Home Project

Announcements from our Partners

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) Launches SupportYourVet.org

Two weeks ago, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), the nation's first and largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization for veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, launched a massive new effort in partnership with the Ad Council. Continuing the momentum of last November's successful <http://communityofveterans.org/> campaign, the focus of these ads is to empower the friends and family members of veterans, and to offer support and guidance after a deployment.

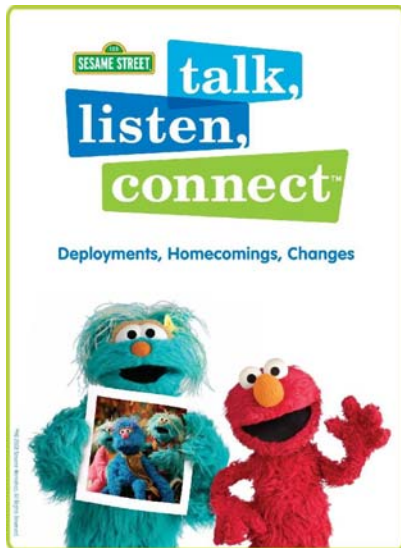
"What was it like? Were you scared? Are you OK?"



For anyone who has welcomed someone home from Iraq or Afghanistan, these questions may sound familiar.

After spending months, or years, apart, being reunited at the end of a deployment is a welcome relief. It means the end of waiting for phone calls and worrying about a loved one's safety. But millions of families and friends of veterans are finding that coming home isn't always easy.

The star of NBC's *Heroes*, Milo Ventimiglia, the son of a Vietnam veteran, said it best at the launch of www.SupportYourVet.org:
"This campaign is something a lot of people can get behind, because it's really about giving back. If I'm one voice, and I can speak to ten people, ten people turn into a hundred, and a hundred into thousands. Then you're really doing your part."



Sesame St. Project

Supporting Military Families with Young Children
www.SesameWorkshops.org

The folks that produce Sesame Street have developed a project to help military families with young children. *Talk, Listen, Connect* is a bilingual, multimedia initiative that provides resources and support to help military families cope with a parent's deployment and build resiliency in times of separation and change.

Sesame Street is looking for families interested in evaluating their recent materials which offer tools and resources to help families who have experienced a combat-related physical or psychological injury.

Who qualifies for participation?

To qualify for participation in this project, you must have a child aged 2-8 and be a military member or the spouse, significant other, or close relative of a military member. The child must have a parent who has a combat-related physical or psychological injury.

All participating families will be compensated with a Sesame Street gift worth up to \$30 upon completion of both phone interviews. In addition, participants will be able to keep the Sesame Street materials regardless of whether the interviews are fully completed.

Who is coordinating this project?

The Military Family Research Institute at Purdue University is organizing the assessment of the multimedia kit developed by Sesame Street. They are a team of researchers and outreach specialists interested in learning more about the experiences of military families.

For more info or to sign up to be part of the assessment, please call: 800-217-3098

REAL WARRIORS ★ REAL BATTLES
REAL STRENGTH

Partnering to Promote Psychological Health

The Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) launched a public awareness campaign May 14 that focuses on combating the stigma associated with seeking care and treatment for psychological health concerns.

View the Real Warriors Campaign Web site at www.realwarriors.net, and learn more about the campaign themed, "Real Warriors. Real Battles. Real Strength." The Web site features articles and resources on a variety of psychological health issues, as well as video interviews with service members, their families and others dealing with psychological health or traumatic brain injury issues. The DCoE Outreach Center, available 24/7 by dialing 866-966-1020, also provides information on the care and treatment of these invisible wounds.