



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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COUNTY LAUNCHES WEBSITE TO HELP VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES *Multilingual Site Provides Access to Counseling, Housing and Jobs*

WHAT: County Health and Human Services Agency and military officials launch a new website aimed at helping veterans and their families access mental health counseling, emergency housing, and employment assistance. Information on the website is offered in 11 languages.

The Network of Care for Veterans & Service Members is a state-of-the-art website that serves as a one-stop-shop for veterans, National Guard, reservists, active duty personnel, and their families to learn about services and organizations that can help them.

WHO: **Supervisor Bill Horn**, District 5, County of San Diego Board of Supervisors
Nick Macchione, Director, County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)
Alfredo Aguirre, Director, HHSA's Mental Health Services
Tom Splitgerber, County Veterans Service Officer
Matthew Camp and other veterans and their families

WHEN: **WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2009 AT 2:00 P.M.**

WHERE: **VETERANS MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL CENTER**
2115 Park Boulevard, San Diego

WHY: About 1.5 million veterans from across the country are expected to return home in the next two years.

A recent study conducted by the Rand Corporation revealed that approximately 300,000 Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans report suffering from major depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. Only about half of those sought help for their mental disorder.

Fear of rejection and discrimination often prevents people with a mental illness from accessing needed mental health services.

One out of every five Americans is diagnosed with a mental disorder every year. A mental illness is a disease that causes mild to severe disturbances in thought and/or behavior, resulting in an inability to cope with life's ordinary demands and routines.

The address for the Network of Care for Veterans & Service Members website is:
www.sandiego.networkofcare.org/veterans/home/index.cfm

People suffering from a mental illness can access services by calling the County's 24-hour, multi-lingual Access and Crisis Line at (800) 479-3339.

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