

## The Military Wire

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### Collaboration Provides Free Services to Long Overlooked PTSD Issues

The estimates of those servicemembers from OIF/OEF suffering from TBI and/or PTSD, according to Rand, exceed some 300,000 - An estimated 22% of all Operation Iraqi and Enduring Freedom combat injuries involve some form of brain injury.

As of January 2009, 105,465 veterans were PTSD patients at VA facilities. The need to develop and facilitate specialized care and rehabilitative services for our veterans is of paramount importance. Two organizations are answering this call - and doing it for free.

[Centerstone](#), the nation's largest provider of community-based behavioral healthcare, has partnered with [NotAlone.com](#) to expand programs and services offered to warriors and families impacted by combat stress and PTSD. Both online support and free in-person mental health services will be available.

The partnership will create a network of mental health providers specifically for this group by recruiting doctors who are personally connected to the military. It also is providing specialty training to give those who work with soldiers and their families greater understanding of military culture and the effects of combat stress.

Making mental health services available and support accessible to those affected by military service has been too-long overlooked.

"War takes a toll on our military service members and their families, and transitioning home after a deployment can be very difficult," said Robert Williams, PhD, Chief Executive Officer of Centerstone of Indiana. "Physical and mental battle scars, multiple deployments and extended separation can put significant strain on soldiers and their families, leading to substance abuse, divorce and thoughts of suicide.

We salute [Centerstone](#) and [Not Alone](#) (who we are a big fan of) for collaborating on this important issue and providing the much needed assistance.

To find out if you or a loved one qualifies for services, call 866-781-8010. For general information or to find out how you can support Not Alone, call 888-454-0950.

Posted by [Michael Schindler](#) at June 8, 2010 8:15 a.m.

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