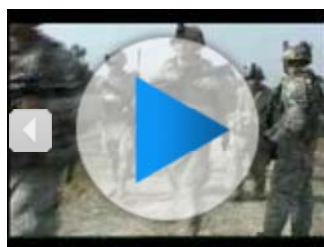


## NEWS - LOCAL

### Faith community addressing PTSD issues

Posted: Apr 30, 2011 6:00 PM by Matt Stafford


Updated: Apr 30, 2011 8:15 PM




## NEWS VIDEOS



 Don't leave pets i

 Saturday forecast

 Bear crosses Uni

 Mayor on Parks T

 Millen returns to t

## SOCIAL



Even with all of the resources of the military, taking care of all of the

soldiers coming home with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder is a big task. Local experts say we have 70,000 active duty or retired military suffering from P.T.S.D. in the Pikes Peak region.

"Talking about the divorce rate among soldiers being at least twice the national average. Everyday five, either active duty or retired, soldiers are trying to commit suicide, so the need is tremendous," says Mike Chapman, who works with the Military Ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ on Fort Carson.

In Colorado Springs, local experts only see problems with P.T.S.D. growing; and the issues extend past the post.

"The fact that 70 percent of soldiers and families who attend church, or other faith groups, do so off-post means it is a community issue," says Chapman.

Local faith leaders are taking charge; 20 to 30 churches and others spent all day talking about ways to help at Woodmen Valley Chapel.

"I served for 20 years, and now I find myself in a church setting where our church is very interested in reaching out to the same military community that we're part of in Colorado Springs." says Jeff Kozyra, a conference attendee who works for New Life Church.

Hernando Pena has a clear view of what they're up against; after two deployments from Fort Carson, his stress came out in the form of anger and alcohol use.

"This has been a three year stinch that we're talking about as far as suffering through Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder," says Pena, a veteran of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. "It almost broke us apart."





Once he realized he needed help, Pena and his wife, Mari, say they saw how widespread of an issue P.T.S.D. really is locally. They say all of the local service providers were swamped.

"Appointments we're hard to come by." says Mari Pena. She says finally they found steady help, and more stability, for Hernando.

For Hernando, his faith and support from others are what he's able to now tell people is what worked for him. He hopes churches get the message and offer more counseling and outreach for soldiers.

"Churches have a lot more resources than they realize," says Chapman. He adds that the best part about churches helping out is that they don't have to do much differently -- he says they're already set up to help. Right now they want church leaders keeping an eye out in their congregations, so they can put those resources to work.

Topics: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, P.T.S.D., soldiers, war, stress, combat, help, Woodmen Valley Chapel, faith community, Bridges to Healing, Campus Crusade for Christ Military Ministry, Colorado Springs, Pikes Peak region, News First 5, Matt Stafford

 Like 42  
 Tweet 11  
 SHARE  
 Rating:  
  
 0.0 (0 votes)

**VIEWER PHOTOS**

**MOST POPULAR**

- | VIEWED                         | RATED        |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Former teacher arrested on s   | - 3212 views |
| Teacher arrest: Ribaudoadr     | - 2203 views |
| Woman killed in Pueblo Wes     | - 1369 views |
| "Jackass" star killed in crash | - 1226 views |
| Pair rescued from dangerous    | - 1029 views |

**CALLING ALL BLOGGERS!**

**Calling All Bloggers! No your blog!**

First Name \*

Last Name \*

E-mail \*

Blog URL \*

How would you categorize



Add a comment...

Post to Facebook

Posting as Peter McCall (Not you?)

**Comment**

Facebook social plugin



**Submit Your Blog**

Copyright © KOAA - Colorado Springs & Pueblo. 2011. All Rights Reserved. Developed by Synapse Multimedia  
[Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#)

Search Yellow Pages:   Popular Searches Powered by Local.com