



SITREP [sit-rep]: Military Acronym for “Situation Report”

Welcome to the *SitRep*, NAMI's advocacy and public policy newsletter dedicated to issues involving the mental health and wellness of our nation's military, veterans and their families.

We created the *SitRep* with you in mind—those who currently serve our nation in uniform, are veterans, or care about our troops, veterans and military families.

Reporting for Duty

[A General's New Mission](#): Top Commander of American Special Operations Forces in Africa is fighting to remove the stigma around seeking help for PTSD and other military-related mental health conditions.

[Spotlight on Military Kids' Mental Health](#): Army's Director of Psychological Health reveals that 20 percent of Army kids will require mental health treatment within first 15-16 years.

[One-third](#): the fraction of calls left unanswered at the VA suicide hotline, according to a report by the former director of the Veterans Crisis Line.



In the Policy Trenches

Congress has recessed until after the election. Unfortunately, the Senate left unfinished work behind--Mental Health Reform and a bill that would require the VA to develop a plan to address the failings of the Veterans Crisis Line (VCL). **H.R. 5392, the No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go Unanswered Act** passed the House unanimously in late September, but the bill was blocked from being considered in the Senate.

Take Action Now

Call Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's office at 202-224-2541 and Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid's office at 202-224-3542.

Give their offices the following message:

Stop playing politics with the Veterans Crisis Line. Pass the *No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go Unanswered Act* when the Senate reconvenes. America's veterans deserve better.

Speaking of the election--we sifted through the rhetoric on tax returns, private e-mail servers and locker room banter to highlight for you the major party candidates' plans around military and veterans mental health. [Click here.](#)



Sonar Soundbites

Over two years have passed since the *Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act*, also known as "Choice Act" became law in response to the waiting list scandal at Phoenix VA. Has the \$10 billion Choice program alleviated access to care burdens? *Reveal News* believes it has not. This month we're listening to a podcast by *Reveal*, titled *No Choice: Failing America's Veterans*. Listen [here](#).

Intel Brief

The backbone that keeps our military strong is our military families. What policies are currently in place at the Department of Defense (DoD) to support family resiliency? Our friends at the *RAND Corporation* examined current policies, and prepared a [research brief](#) which included recommendations to DoD.

Commanders in the Field

This month we're highlighting the great work of NAMI Montana, which under the leadership of Executive Director Matt Kuntz, is helping veterans and their families heal from the invisible wounds of war. Special NAMI shout-out to retired Navy Seal Commander Scott Hannon for stepping forward, sharing his story of recovery, and exemplifying the resiliency we know to be true of our men and women in uniform. Click the

video below to hear Commander Hannon's speech at the 2016 Montana NAMIWalk.



Final Thought

"We only have one sacred obligation--to care for those we send to war, and to care for them and their families when they come home."

--Vice President Joe Biden when speaking on the invisible wounds of war



**WE WANT
YOU...**

To give us your thoughts and feedback
on *SitRep!* Please send us any ideas and issues you
would like to see featured in future editions
at: namiveterans@nami.org.