

Special Guest

Brigadier General Michael A. Stone

Assistant Adjutant General – Installations, Michigan Army National Guard



Brigadier General Michael A. Stone is the Assistant Adjutant General for Installations, Michigan Army National Guard and serves as Michigan's Dual Status Commander for domestic response situations. He is responsible for Army armories and installations, strategic communications, strategic level cyber initiatives, and National Guard employment initiatives.

General Stone was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1989, designated as the Distinguished Military Graduate, through the University of Detroit Reserve Officer Training Corps program. He possesses a Bachelor of Arts degree in History, cum laude, from the University of Detroit, where he attended on a full academic scholarship. He also possesses a Juris Doctorate, cum laude, from the Detroit College of Law (now Michigan State University School of Law) as well as a Master of Science, Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College. He previously commanded the 1776th Military Police

Company in Taylor, Michigan, the 1-182nd Field Artillery Battalion in Detroit, Michigan, and he recently served as the Deputy Brigade Commander of the 177th Military Police Brigade in Taylor, Michigan.

General Stone has deployed three times as a member of the National Guard; serving as a Military Police Officer in Iraq during Operation Desert Storm, in support of Operation Joint Endeavor and most recently in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Speakers, Moderators, and Facilitators

Cara Addy



Cara Addy served in the US Navy from 1998 – 2002 as an Avionics Technician stationed on board the USS Nassau. Ms. Addy began her career at the VA Ann Arbor Medical Center in 2009 as a Medical Support Assistant, and later transferred to a Peer Support Specialist position in 2013. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Colorado Technical University in 2012 and was certified as a Peer Specialist through the Michigan Department of Community Health in 2013. Ms. Addy is passionate about promoting personal empowerment and independence using a person-centered collaborative approach that helps Veterans with mental health diagnoses develop the skills they need to live meaningful lives in their communities. She models the recovery process and works to inspire and empower Veterans by sharing her personal recovery story to Veterans who are early on in their mental health recovery.

Sangeeta C. Ahluwalia, PhD, MPH, MA



Sangeeta C. Ahluwalia is a health services researcher with the RAND Corporation and Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Fielding UCLA School of Public Health. She is a Fellow of the VA/ NIMH Implementation Research Institute. Her research focuses on improving communication between healthcare providers and patients regarding advance care planning and end of life care, with a particular focus on older adults and veterans with chronic illness. Dr. Ahluwalia's work in the Veterans Administration includes developing a toolkit to support palliative care quality improvement nationally and implementing a comprehensive palliative care assessment template within the VA's electronic medical record. She has conducted several large systematic reviews, including on the impact of palliative care, the use of communication interventions in palliative and intensive care settings, and on patient experience measures of end of life care. Dr. Ahluwalia has specialized expertise in advanced qualitative research methods, implementation science, and systematic review methods.

Anthony Allman



Anthony Allman is the Co-Founder of POS REP, a mobile proximity-based peer support platform made expressly for the military veteran community. Prior to POS REP, Mr. Allman founded Health IT startup Cloud Corpsman, a 2011 VA Industry Innovation Award Finalist, which developed the first direct import tool for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Blue Button initiative and Google Health. Previously Mr. Allman served as Director of Strategy at VIWO, Google's first Value Added Reseller specializing in the deployment of Google Apps (later renamed G Suite). Mr. Allman has been a tireless advocate for veterans. He began as a VA Work-Study, co-founded Student Veterans of America, introduced the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities to UCLA's Anderson School of Management and volunteered as Team Rubicon's first Chief Information Officer. Mr. Allman enlisted in the U.S. Army as a PATRIOT crewman (14T) deploying to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Meredith Beck



Meredith Beck has dedicated over a decade to the veteran community, serving most recently as the Senior Charitable Investments Advisor for the Bob Woodruff Foundation. She offers a deep knowledge of programs and legislative policy related to veterans' issues, having previously served as the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Prior to that role, she was the National Policy Director for the Wounded Warrior Project and also served as the Military Legislative Assistant to Senator Lindsey Graham, a member of both the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee and the Senate Armed Services Committee. Ms. Beck also served for five years on the staff of Senator John Warner, former Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. She currently resides in Arlington, VA with her husband and two young sons.

Megan Bunce



Megan Bunce serves as the Director of Government and Community Affairs at America's Warrior Partnership (AWP). Ms. Bunce brings a unique perspective to AWP as it relates to warrior care, collective impact, and case coordination. She has worked on landmark caregiver legislation and

is responsible for developing strategic partnerships that align community-based support with national programs. Prior to America's Warrior Partnership, she ran the Charitable Investments Program at the Bob Woodruff Foundation, which provided millions of dollars' worth of innovative grants to numerous nonprofits serving our troops and their families. Her most meaningful work involved proactively assisting acutely injured patients and their families navigate the maze of resources available to them and re-engaging them with their communities at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center via employment at Wounded Warrior Project. These efforts helped contribute to the America's Warrior Partnership's Community Integration model that is practiced today reaching over 27,000 warriors.

Bonnie Carroll



Bonnie Carroll founded the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) in 1994, following the death of her husband in the Army. TAPS is the leading national military service organization providing compassionate care, casework assistance, and peer based emotional support for those

mourning the death of a military loved one. Ms. Carroll has also developed programs internationally, including in Iraq and Afghanistan, where she has worked with widows and orphans of those wars. In 2015, Ms. Carroll was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her development of peer-based programs for military surviving families. A recipient of the Association of Death Education and Counseling's highest honors, she co-authored *Healing Your Grieving Heart After a Military Death* with Dr. Alan Wolfelt. Ms. Carroll also served in the military herself, retiring as a Major in the Air Force Reserves, where she held various positions including Chief of Casualty Operations.

Lieutenant Colonel Erika Cashin



Lieutenant Colonel Erika Cashin is currently assigned to the 934th Airlift Wing, Minneapolis, MN. She began her DoD career at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, Cuba, as a civilian with the US Navy. She commissioned as a military personnel officer for the Air Force in 1996, and served 6 years

active duty. In 2002, LtCol Cashin transitioned to the Air Reserve Technician program. She founded the first military Lean In circle in 2013, and then founded the DoD-wide Military Chapter. This chapter was officially recognized by Secretary of Defense Carter, September 21, 2015, as a Force of the Future initiative. Today, the chapter consists of 2000 members world-wide. In May 2016, she founded the Lean In Women Veterans initiative, officially supported by both the VA's Center for Women Veterans, and LeanIn.Org. These chapters are currently leading the #IServed campaign with Think Broader to increase awareness of women veterans in local communities.

Matt Chinman, PhD



Matt Chinman is a Senior Behavioral Scientist at the RAND Corporation and a Research Specialist at the Pittsburgh VA Healthcare System. One of Dr. Chinman's primary research foci has been to develop strategies to enhance the capacity of practitioners to adopt and

successfully implement evidence-based practices and programs. As such, he co-developed Getting To Outcomes® (GTO), a model and implementation support intervention designed to help organizations to better plan, implement, and self-evaluate programs across a number of domains. A second area of focus has been Peer Specialists. In multiple trials over the last 16 years, Dr. Chinman has been researching the impact this group of providers has had on Veterans with serious mental illnesses in the VA. He has also conducted several studies assessing implementation barriers and facilitators that Peer Specialists face in the VA and developed an implementation toolkit distributed to all VA medical centers.

Melissa Comeau



Melissa Comeau is the proud spouse and caregiver of a United States Marine. After 13 years of service, her husband was medically retired from the Marine Corps due to a myriad of combat related injuries. Ms. Comeau's book, *Sleeping with the War*, was published in 2015 and has

brought the family and caregiver perspective to life after combat. Ms. Comeau served as the 2014 Arizona Fellow for the Elizabeth Dole Foundation and remains an active participant in the mission of the Foundation. She is a recognized advocate for the military and veteran community and continues her efforts to support caregivers in her role as the Director of IT Systems and Online Community at the Military and Veteran Caregiver Network (MVCN) at the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS). Her education and background in IT project management have made her a valuable resource and a pioneer in the development of technology to support caregivers who may be isolated or not otherwise connected.

Robert Curry



Robert (Bob) Curry is a combat veteran of Vietnam and Laos flying over 250 missions interdicting traffic on the infamous Ho Chi Minh trail. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin, his business career included management positions at IBM, AT&T, Lotus, and iEmagine, where

he spoke internationally on new technologies. His war caught up with him with the start of the Wars on Terrorism and he was forced to undergo extensive treatment for untreated PTSD and TBI. After treatment, Mr. Curry decided his efforts would be best spent helping our newest veterans not go down the same path as the Vietnam Vets did. He started Dryhootch.org, a community based veteran peer program that has expanded to multiple states and earned him the White House Champion of Change Award for his innovative work in "helping our veterans and their families who survived the war, survive the peace."

Lynda Davis, MA, MPA, PhD



Lynda Davis serves as the Executive Vice President at the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), where she is the Executive Director of the Military and Veteran Caregiver Network (MVCN). She is nationally recognized for her leadership in the development and implementation

of significant and sustainable programs that successfully support the full spectrum of quality of life support and services for the communities which she is affiliated: military personnel, veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors. A veteran herself, Dr. Davis previously served as Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy and led the first joint U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) comprehensive care/case management reform in support of wounded warriors. She is a former VA clinician and serves on the Boards of the Elizabeth Dole Foundation, Student Veterans of America, and the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program.

Harriet Dominique



Harriet Dominique is Senior Vice President of Corporate Responsibility and Community Affairs at USAA, responsible for leading USAA's philanthropic strategies, engagement and communications. She leads a team that deploys USAA's charitable investments, employee volunteer

programs, financial readiness for the military community, and educational initiatives to benefit local USAA communities. Ms. Dominique also serves as President of The USAA Foundation and President of The USAA Educational Foundation. Ms. Dominique began her career at USAA in 1989 answering phone calls as an entry-level member service representative. Since then she has held a variety of positions with increasing accountability and most recently served as General Manager for the USAA Phoenix campus, leading more than 3,000 employees with responsibility for a member contact center handling sales and service for USAA's banking and insurance members. Ms. Dominique has a Bachelor's in Business Administration from Liberty University and has completed graduate-level courses in organizational leadership and development.

Colonel (Retired) Gregory Durkac, MA



Colonel (Ret) Gregory Durkac was the Land Component Commander for the Michigan Army National Guard. He was responsible to the Adjutant General for the Michigan Army National Guard readiness and training of Soldiers in support of Operational Missions and Defense Support of Civil Authorities.

COL (Ret) Durkac was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on 14 May 1988 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) at Pennsylvania State University. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology from the Pennsylvania State University and a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies from the US Army War College. Throughout his 35 year military career COL (Ret) Durkac has held numerous command and staff positions and also served as an enlisted Infantry Soldier in Germany. He has had six deployments, including Germany/Eastern Europe, Central America, Egypt and most recently, Iraq where he was a Battalion Commander. He is currently the Director of Athletics for Linden Community Schools where he resides with his wife and 2 children.

Major Mike Erwin, MS



Mike Erwin is the CEO of the Character & Leadership Center, whose mission is to produce better leaders through a deeper understanding of positive psychology and character. He is the Co-Founder & President of the Positivity Project, a non-profit organization with the mission

to help America's youth build better relationships by recognizing the character strengths in themselves and others. In 2010, Major Erwin founded the veteran-support non-profit organization Team Red, White & Blue (Team RWB), and he is currently the Chairman of the Board. He is the co-author of a forthcoming book from Bloomsbury Press, *Lead Yourself First—Inspiring Leadership Through Solitude*. Major Erwin deployed to Iraq once and Afghanistan twice, and still serves as a Major in the U.S. Army Reserves, assigned to the United States Military Academy at West Point. He currently lives in Pinehurst, NC, with his wife and their four young children.

Colonel Steven Eshenaur, DO



Colonel Steven Eshenaur is a 28-year service veteran currently serving as the State Surgeon of the West Virginia Army National Guard. COL Eshenaur graduated from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine and completed a residency in Family Medicine from West Virginia

University. Clinically, he works as an Emergency Physician for Jackson General Hospital. He deployed to Operation Desert Storm, twice to Operation Iraqi Freedom and to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, and served a two-year tour in Korea. He is a member of the Medical Advisory Council and Credentialing Committee for the National Guard Bureau with oversight of the health and medical fitness of the 350,000 members of the Army National Guard. He volunteers as the Medical Director of the Summit Bechtel Reserve, site of the National Scout Jamboree. As an avid supporter of peer to peer programs, COL Eshenaur has worked to build a collaborative partnership with M-SPAN to bring the Buddy-to-Buddy program to West Virginia.

Richard Gengler, MBA



Richard Gengler graduated with honors from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Accounting. Following college, he joined the US Navy flight program and was designated a Naval Aviator and selected to fly the F/A 18 Hornet. Over his nine and a half years of service, Mr.

Gengler participated extensively in various assignments in support of the Global War on Terror. During his two tours aboard the aircraft carrier USS Constellation, he flew combat missions as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom and earned an Air Medal for his distinguished service. He left the Navy as a Lieutenant Commander and enrolled in the MBA program at the University of Chicago. Mr. Gengler founded Prevail Health Solutions with the goal of helping address the surge in military mental health issues. He lives in Chicago with his wife Carrie, daughter Autumn and son Ethan, and is a lifetime member of the Martin Baker Ejection Tie Club.

Ron Goldman



Ron Goldman is an innovator, tech executive, and social entrepreneur. Mr. Goldman co-founded and has served as CEO of Kognito since 2003, where he has pioneered the use of gaming and simulation technology for learning experiences in health, behavioral health, and education. He has been a principal investigator and co-author of several articles published in peer-reviewed journals. Mr. Goldman is a member of the advisory board of the Games for Health Journal. He is a frequently requested speaker at conferences about the intersection of gaming and health, the efficacy of role-play conversations and behavior change with virtual humans, and growth and leadership in entrepreneurial environments. He has spoken by invitation at the White House, the CDC, Health 2.0, mHealth, Connected Health and other government agencies and industry conferences.

Lisa Goodale, MSW, LSW



Lisa Goodale is Peer Support Services Vice President at the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance where she manages training and consultation services for peers, clinicians, and the general public. She served as Project Manager for DBSA's national contract with the VA which trained and certified nearly 500 newly-hired veteran peer specialists throughout the country. Ms. Goodale served as an Expert Panel Member for the Peer Specialist Services in the VA: Fidelity of Implementation study and was a co-author of Pillars of peer support: transforming mental health systems of care through peer support services. She holds an MSW degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a BA degree from Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. It is her joy and special privilege to have been invited along on the recovery journeys of so many courageous people.

Major General (Retired) Mark Graham



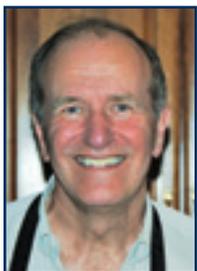
Major General (Retired) Mark Graham and his wife, Carol, are tireless champions of efforts to promote mental health and suicide-prevention awareness, and to eliminate the stigma surrounding mental health care. They do this work to honor the memory of their sons, 2LT Jeff Graham who was killed by an IED in Iraq in February 2004, and their son Kevin a Senior Army ROTC cadet who died by suicide in June 2003 while studying to be an Army Doctor at the University of Kentucky. Major General Graham is currently serving as the Senior Director of the Rutgers UBHC National Call Center and the Director of Vets4Warriors, a 24/7 confidential stigma free peer support program for veterans, anyone currently serving, and their families. Major General Graham retired from the US Army after almost thirty-five years of service. His final position was as the Director (G-3/5/7) U.S. Army Forces Command, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Sean Hanna, LAc, MAOM



Sean Hanna is a licensed acupuncturist in the State of Texas and Director of the Veterans Mental Health Program (VMHP) at the Texas Veterans Commission. Working with the Texas Department of State Health Services, he co-created and coordinates the Military Veteran Peer Network throughout the State of Texas as part of the VMHP. Mr. Hanna spent 8 1/2 years (1991 to 2000) as a US Navy Hospital Corpsman. While stationed at 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division. Mr. Hanna deployed to multiple international locations and saw combat action in support of Operation United Shield, Somalia in 1995. Mr. Hanna earned his Master of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine degree from the Academy of Oriental Medicine at Austin (AOMA) in 2005. Mr. Hanna is also a lifetime member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #4443. He lives in Austin, TX.

William J. Hudock



William (Bill) Hudock serves as Senior Public Health Advisor in SAMHSA's Center for Mental Health Services. He works with federal departments, states, providers, insurers, health plans, and private employer groups to address the strategic and operational issues that relate to the structuring and financing of behavioral health prevention, treatment and recovery support systems. Mr. Hudock's career includes twenty-four years with major insurance companies focusing on management training, creating organizational change, data management, strategic planning, and managing the applied economics of healthcare. Mr. Hudock ran a consulting practice for eight years for providers, government entities and payors. He served as President of a major mental health provider organization, built a Medicaid HMO's behavioral health department, helped to develop strategic plans for government entities and companies, and restructured numerous provider organizations that were in financial difficulty. Mr. Hudock earned both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Connecticut.

Kristy Kaufmann



Kristy Kaufmann is the co-founder and executive director of the Code of Support Foundation. She is responsible for driving the foundation's mission to meet the critical and complex needs of service members, veterans and their families in crisis. Ms. Kaufmann combines her first-hand experience as a wartime Army wife with her knowledge of research, programs and organizational strategies to raise awareness, inform policies and facilitate collective effort necessary to meet the needs of the military/veteran families. She has served as an advocate for military and veteran families for over 15 years and is a subject matter expert regarding the mental health impact of war on military families. Ms. Kaufmann's publications and media appearances include the Washington Post, New York Times, NPR, CNN, NBC, FOX and ABC. Ms. Kaufmann has briefed congress on several occasions and speaks at conferences across the country.

Jackie Maffucci, PhD



Jacqueline Maffucci, PhD is the Research Director for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. She holds a Bachelor of Science from Cornell University and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Neuroscience from The University of Texas at Austin. Prior to her position at IAVA, Dr. Maffucci spent nearly four years as a consultant to the Pentagon focusing on behavioral health policy for the Army. This included over two years spent on the Army Suicide Prevention Task Force. Among other responsibilities, she acted as the liaison to the Department of Defense research community working to translate research into policy. Dr. Maffucci currently serves on four advisory committees and two steering committees, including the National Center for PTSD Education Advisory Board, the Department of Veterans Affairs Women's Health CREATE Veterans Council and the National Academic Affiliations Council.

Captain (Retired) Sean Mahoney



Sean Mahoney is the Executive Director of zero8hundred, an organization that links transitioning military families to community resources. A native of Fishkill, New York, Captain Mahoney served 27 years in the US Coast Guard, retiring as a Captain. He is a 1987 graduate of the Coast Guard Academy. Captain Mahoney served aboard a Coast Guard Cutter before attending Navy Flight School and piloting helicopters in Massachusetts, Oregon, California, and as an Exchange Officer to the Canadian Forces. In 2007, Captain Mahoney completed the USMC Command and Staff College Distance Education Program and was assigned as Commanding Officer of Air Station Houston, Texas, where he directed hurricane responses. He served as the Director of External Affairs at Coast Guard Atlantic Area, and was then assigned to the Mid-Atlantic region, where he oversaw crisis management. Captain Mahoney served most recently as Captain of the Port of San Diego and Commander of Coast Guard Sector San Diego.

Sharon McCarthy, PhD, MBA, MSW



Sharon McCarthy is a researcher in the VISN 4 Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. She is co-investigator on a national project to implement and evaluate the introduction of Peer Specialists to primary care teams in the VA.

She serves as project manager

for Improving Outcomes for Homeless Veterans with Peer Support, research evaluating the use of structured peer support for veterans experiencing homelessness. Dr. McCarthy was previously on the faculty of Carnegie Mellon University, teaching organizational leadership and management. She has published research on the implementation of evidence-based practices, peer support and evidence-based management. Dr. McCarthy graduated with honors from the University of Michigan, and she holds an MBA and a PhD in Management from Cornell University. She is a Fulbright Scholar, and in 2009 she earned a Masters in Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh.

Dan O'Brien-Mazza, MS



Dan O'Brien-Mazza is the first Director of Peer Support Services in VA and assumed his position on September 2, 2007. Mr. O'Brien-Mazza has overseen the hiring and training of over 1,000 Peer Specialists in VA facilities across the nation. In March 2014, he established the first formal

provider classification for peer specialists in the nation with the National Uniform Coding Committee. His current focus is on expanding the deployment of Peer Specialists by integrating them into primary care and other VA specialty clinics. Before his current position, Mr. O'Brien-Mazza was team leader of the Syracuse VA's Psychosocial Rehabilitation & Recovery Programs. He is a former recipient of the VA Secretary's Heart and Hands Award. He holds a Master's Degree from Syracuse University's Rehabilitation Counseling Education Department. He is a US Air Force Veteran. He is married, has three adult children, 3 grandchildren and lives in Nolensville, TN.

Captain (Retired) Jonathan Pruden



Jonathan Pruden began his career as an Army officer, serving first as a Medical Service Corps Officer and later as an Infantry Officer. He was on the initial invasion of Iraq with 3rd Infantry Division and on July 1st, 2003 became one of the first Improvised Explosive Device (IED) casualties of Operation Iraqi

Freedom. While undergoing 20 operations at seven different hospitals, including the amputation of his right leg, he earned his MA in Public Affairs from the University of Florida and started working with Wounded Warrior Project. As a Warrior Relations Specialist, Captain Pruden leverages internal and external resources to address the most dynamic and complex challenges facing wounded warriors, their caregivers, and families across the nation. Captain Pruden has testified before the U.S. Senate and U.S. House committees and is a volunteer at the VA and Team Rubicon. In his free time, he enjoys exploring the great outdoors with his wife, Amy, and their two children, Abigail and William.

Rajeev Ramchand, PhD



Rajeev Ramchand is a senior behavioral scientist at the RAND Corporation. His research focuses on the prevalence, prevention, and treatment of mental health and substance use disorders in adolescents, service members and veterans, and minority populations, and is currently adapting

this research to study peer-based interventions, interventions to combat violent extremism, and human trafficking. He is lead author of *The War Within: Preventing Suicide in the U.S. Military* (2011: RAND) and co-led RAND's 2014 study on military caregivers, Hidden Heroes. He formerly served as associate director of the RAND Center for Military Health Policy Research. Dr. Ramchand is currently working on studies examining disparities in mental health conditions among minority subgroups in the U.S. military and on RAND's Gun Policy in America initiative, focusing on the role of firearm availability, storage, and policies on suicide. He received his BA in economics from the University of Chicago and his PhD in psychiatric epidemiology from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Brittany Risk, LMSW



Brittany Risk is the Program Manager for PAVE (Peer Advisors for Veteran Education), a peer support program for student veterans offered through M-SPAN at the University of Michigan. Ms. Risk oversees the implementation of the PAVE Program on 42 campuses nationwide, and has

held a lead role in the development of the curriculum and the roll-out of the hybrid technology training model. She completed her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work at Michigan State University, and earned her Master's Degree in Social Work at the University of Michigan. Prior to her work with PAVE, Ms. Risk worked as a project coordinator at the Department of Veterans Affairs on grants that focused on veteran mental health, substance abuse, and suicide. She is specifically interested in reducing stigma and barriers to care and creating supportive networks and programs for service members and veterans.

James Schmeling, JD



James Schmeling is Executive Vice President, Strategic Engagement for Student Veterans of America. He joined the SVA team in December, 2015. Prior to joining SVA, Mr. Schmeling co-founded the Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University, and was its first managing IVMF

director. He supervised the programs mission area, which included transition, employment, education and training programs: Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV); Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans-Families (EBV-F); Veterans Career Transition Program (VCTP); Transition Assistance Program: Boots to Business Program; Veteran Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship (VWISE); and VetNet. Mr. Schmeling serves on the Veterans Employment Advisory Committee for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Hiring Our Heroes initiative and helped found the Coalition for Veteran Owned Business with First Data and IVMF. Schmeling is a U.S. Air Force veteran, served 6+ years, and was honorably discharged as a sergeant. Post-service he earned his law degree, with distinction, from the University of Iowa College of Law.

Terri Tanielian, MA



Terri Tanielian is a senior behavioral scientist at the RAND Corporation with interests in military and veteran health policy; military suicide; and military sexual assault. Ms. Tanielian was co-study director for RAND's study Invisible Wounds of War and the principal investigator for the comprehensive study titled

"Hidden Heroes: America's Military Caregivers." She has conducted several assessments of issues facing veterans living in the Detroit Metropolitan Area, Massachusetts and in New York State. She leads several other RAND studies including the Deployment Life Study, a study of military families across the deployment cycle, and a study examining community based models for expanding mental health care for veterans and their families under the Welcome Back Veterans Initiative. Ms. Tanielian has published numerous peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and serves on many advisory committees related to veteran mental health policy. She has an MA in psychology from the American University.

Stephanie Zarb, MA



Stephanie Zarb is the Program Manager of M-SPAN's Buddy-to-Buddy Program at the University of Michigan. She is a native of Redford, Michigan and joined the United States Air Force in 2006. Ms. Zarb deployed twice in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and for Counter-Narcotics Missions

in South America. She earned a Bachelor's Degree from Michigan State University and a Master's Degree from the University of Oklahoma with a focus in Human Relations. Ms. Zarb's interests include veteran outreach, volunteer training and development, improving veterans' awareness and access to resources, and community outreach. As Program Manager, she oversees all aspects of the Buddy-to-Buddy Program, including conducting volunteer trainings, recruiting new volunteers, communicating with National Guard leadership, working with community partners, and supporting the corps of Buddy-to-Buddy Volunteer Veterans who donate their time and expertise to support fellow veterans.