



ISSTD SUPPORTS MILITARY FAMILY APPRECIATION MONTH BY OFFERING THERAPIST TRAINING ON COMBAT TRAUMA AND IMPACT ON MILITARY FAMILIES

Premier professional society on trauma related disorders will feature a pre-conference institute during the ISSTD 26th Annual Conference on November 19th in Washington, DC.

International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation

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WASHINGTON, D.C. Thursday, November 5, 2009 — The **International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation (ISSTD)** acknowledges our dedicated military and their families during Military Family Appreciation Month: “Honoring the sacrifices of the military family” with a workshop, **Combat Trauma: Boot Camp for Clinicians**.

We have now been at war in Iraq and Afghanistan for eight years. Over the next two years, 1.5 million of our military men and women will return from this war. Some 300,000 veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan have already been diagnosed with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder.

This workshop is a “boot camp” for mental health clinicians during which they can hone and reshape their trauma-treatment skills for effective work with those exposed to war trauma. Combat trauma affects not only our military men and women, but their families, co-workers, and communities as well. And, of course, the effects of war trauma go far beyond PTSD (Posttraumatic Stress Disorder); they include depression, substance abuse, dissociative reactions, loss, traumatic grief, suicidality, and traumatic brain injury. This day of coaching and training enables clinicians to assess and treat the effects of combat trauma in individuals and families. The faculty members are skilled teachers, drawn from military, veteran, and civilian backgrounds. Each will impart specific skill-building expertise. The day begins with a detailed review of military culture; this provides the necessary starting point for effective clinical work with these men and women. Combat trauma and its myriad sequelae are viewed through the lens of military culture. Comprehensive assessment includes not only the usual mental health intake, but also a detailed review of the individual’s experiences of war. It is vital to have an

awareness of the serious comorbid issues, particularly substance abuse and suicidality (both passive and active). Integrative treatment for war trauma and its complications entails a “dual” diagnosis model and multiple treatment modalities. The treatment framework will include engagement and commitment to treatment, cognitive behavioral therapy, and appropriate trauma processing. We discuss what to avoid and the typical sticking points in this kind of clinical work. We will pay special attention to the treatment of families affected by deployment. Case vignettes, of both individuals and families, demonstrate assessment and treatment. Discussion periods are interspersed throughout the day.

This one-day intensive workshop on working with the many aftereffects of combat trauma on the soldier and deployment on the military family. The faculty will include eight leading experts from military, veteran, and civilian backgrounds on military culture, combat trauma sequelae and military families. Dr. Kathryn Basham from Smith College School for Social Work will present on military families and will be a respondent to the presentation of a clinical case of treatment with a military family. The presenter of the case is Barbara Leiner MSW from the Social Work Dept. of the WRMAC Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. Visit our website at www.isst-d.org for the detailed agenda.

“Throughout history, societies have struggled without fully realizing the devastating psychological effects of war. We have more empirical data than ever that demonstrates the profound and chronic effects on the mind, body, and brain of many who are exposed to the severe stressors of war. As clinicians, we strive to offer comprehensive and effective treatments to those who suffer so terribly.” Kathy Steele, MN, CS, President of ISSTD.

The pre-conference institute will be held on Friday, November 19, 2009 at 8:30 – 5:30 p.m. ET in Washington, D.C. at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel.

Event online registration is open until November 13. Registration will be available on the day of the event at the registration desk, based on availability. Please visit our conference website for the full agenda and list of presenters at http://www.isst-d.org/annual_conference/2009/index.htm

About the International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation (ISSTD): *ISSTD is a nonprofit professional association organized for the purposes of: information sharing and international networking of clinicians and researchers; providing professional and public education; promoting research and theory about dissociation; and promoting research and training in the identification, treatment, and prevention of dissociative disorders. For more information, please visit www.isst-d.org.*