MODULE 6: OVERVIEW OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY’S ROLE IN MILITARY TRANSITIONS
According to the most recent U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics report on veterans:

- There were 22 million military veterans living in the United States.
- About 5.5 million of these veterans were disabled.
- Since 2001, when the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq began, there has been a marked increase in the number of disabled veterans aged 18 to 24 years.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

• The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)

• Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
  - Title I
  - ADA Amendments Act of 2008

• Rehabilitation Act
  - Section 501
  - Section 504

• Executive Orders
PRACTICE CONSIDERATIONS

• Improve abilities and aptitudes of the soldier

• Restore skills through medical and rehabilitation services

• Promote healing in the physical, emotional, social, spiritual, family, and career domains of life

• Conserve familiar military living environment

• Establish individualized goals

• Perform daily routines within the military culture.
SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY ASPECTS

• Duty assignments may involve vocational or work programs to help identify and access resources

• Community reintegration activities help prepare soldiers to become active participants in their communities, and in civilian and military life

• Community mobility activities, including participation in public transportation and/or resuming driving skills are necessary for community integration

• Educational activities, such as college courses or technical training, can ease transitions and facilitate advances in either military or civilian work roles.
Soldiers participate in OT Evaluations to:

- Identify previous military and civilian job skills and training, interests, and abilities
- Assess functional performance
- Determine life skill needs (e.g., time management, money management, home management)
- Assess cognition
- Identify vocational interest, aptitude, and career goals
- Determine driving or firearm training abilities
CASE SCENARIO: RODNEY

- Rodney is an Infantry soldier wounded in a blast
- Disfiguring injuries, limb loss, and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) led to self-consciousness and depression
- OT evaluation revealed that prior to injury, Rodney had training in informational technology, and an interest in animals
- OT intervention began with upper extremity activities requiring participation in a group.
## CASE SCENARIO: RODNEY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Challenges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Motivated</td>
<td>- Uncomfortable with altered body image</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Skilled in computer technology</td>
<td>- Use of prosthetics during ADLs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Able to identify an interest</td>
<td>- Anxiety associated with PTSD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Full elbow ROM on affected side</td>
<td>- Pain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OT ROLE

• Life skills training
• Behavioral health strategies
• Pain management techniques
• Leisure development
• Adaptive technology
• Vocational exploration
• Assistance with work opportunities
• Task analysis.
POSITIVE OUTCOMES

• Decreased anxiety, improved mental health and well-being
• Increased community involvement with participation in a therapeutic horseback riding program
• With use of adaptations and voice dictation, Rodney changed his career to Informational Technology.
YOUR TURN...

• What other areas can occupational therapy address with Rodney that were not previously discussed?
WHAT NEW CHALLENGES WILL HE ENCOUNTER....HOW WILL OT HELP?
REFERENCES


RESOURCES

U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder Web site
http://factfinder2.census.gov

Americans With Disabilities Act Web site
http://www.ada.gov/

RESOURCES


US Dept of Veterans Affairs National Center for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder
A center of excellence for research and education on the prevention, understanding, and treatment of PTSD. www.ncptsd.va.gov/ncmain/website/sitemap.html
Defence Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury
www.dcoe.health.mil/Resources

Military Service Wounded Warrior Programs

U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program
www.wtc.army.mil/resources

Navy Safe Harbor
www.public.navy.mil

United States Marine Corp Wounded Warrior Regiment
www.woundedwarriorregiment.org/marine/transition

Air Force Wounded Warrior Program
www.woundedwarrior.ar.mil/transitionassistance
AOTA OT’s Role in the Military

AOTA’s Societal Statement on Combat-Related Posttraumatic Stress
NAVIGATION:

Use the icons below to navigate to different scenarios within this slideshow.

Module 1
Early Childhood

Module 2
Schools

Module 3
Health

Module 4
Mental Health

Module 5
Return to Work

Module 6
Military Service

Module 7
Healthy/ Productive Aging

Click on the icon below to conclude your exploration and view general AOTA resources.