

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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VA partners with Nebraska Commission on Deaf, Hard of Hearing to focus on ‘Hearing Loss in the Military’

OMAHA, Neb. — The Department of Veterans Affairs Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System (VA NWIHCS) is partnering with a Nebraska agency to raise awareness of the impact of hearing loss that service members and veterans experience because of combat in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

The Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) is partnering with the VA and Department of Defense to host a live broadcast called “Hearing Loss in the Military” April 10 from 2 to 3 p.m. The program will be held at the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications studios at 1800 N. 33rd Street, Lincoln, Neb.

The program features three segments: a roundtable with Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans, a panel of experts who will answer questions about hearing loss, and a discussion about the mission of the NCDHH.

The program will be led by Dr. Ron Lybarger, a service-connected veteran, who started Resiliency Resources.

The panel discussion will feature Dr. Daniel Chadwell, Chief of Audiology Services at the VA NWIHCS; Dr. Peter Seiler, Executive Director, NCDHH; and U.S. Air Force Maj. Brian Weston, audiologist at the 55th Medical Group at Offutt Air Force Base. In addition, A U.S. Marine who was in combat in Iraq will discuss the impact of hearing loss from combat.

A VA report estimates that more than 59,000 service members and veterans have disabilities for hearing loss because of service in Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn.

Veterans and their families who wish to attend this program in studio should call NET at (402) 472-9333 or toll-free at (800) 634-6788. For more information, visit www.ncdhh.ne.gov.

The VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System proudly serves more than 167,660 veterans in Nebraska, western Iowa and portions of Kansas and Missouri. Omaha’s medical center is an inpatient facility and also a large outpatient clinic for primary and specialty care. The Community Living Center is in Grand Island. There are community-based outpatient clinics in Lincoln, Grand Island, North Platte, Holdrege, Norfolk, Bellevue and Shenandoah, Iowa. For more information, visit <http://www.nebraska.va.gov>.

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