

The Goals of VTAC

- Enhance public safety by reducing recidivism of veteran offenders
- Reduce costs of incarceration and criminal justice processing
- Increase compliance with treatment and other court ordered conditions
- Improve family relationships and social support connections
- Improve access to VA benefits and services
- Improve life stability

Eligibility Criteria

- Honorable or General Discharge, after completion of boot camp; or service-related disability; or current active military duty
- Probation eligible Felony, Misdemeanor and DUI offenses
- Crimes against person must have consent of victim (excludes violent offenses with serious injuries or where death occurred)
- Pre and post plea participation
- Willingness to participate in program
- Eligible for veteran benefits and services

"Veterans Treatment Courts present an opportunity for us to come to the aid of the men and women in uniform who are suffering as a result of their sacrifice to this country and should be expanded to serve all veterans in need."

General Barry R. McCaffrey (ret.)

"Those who are referred to the Veterans' Treatment Court are homeless, helpless, in despair, or are suffering from alcohol or drug addiction; others have serious mental illnesses."

Buffalo, NY, Veterans' Court

"The experience of war often results in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and brain injury. When these injuries go untreated, the result is often suicide, depression, drug and alcohol addiction and criminal behavior. It may be years before a person realizes or admits that his life is spiraling downhill because of the trauma he experienced in military service."

Harris County, TX Veterans' Court

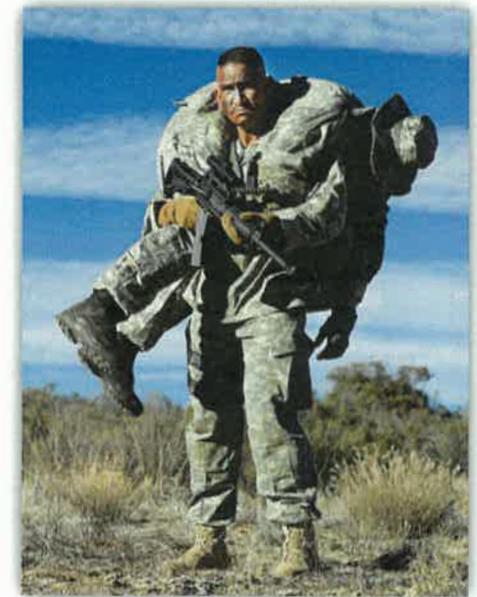
"A nation will be judged by the way it treats its veterans."

George Washington



19th Judicial Circuit
Lake County, Illinois

VETERANS TREATMENT & ASSISTANCE COURT



LEAVE NO VETERAN BEHIND...
NOT IN THE FIELD NOR AT HOME



Facts:

- 17,960,000 veterans in the United States (2018)
(source: www.census.gov)
- 3.7 million veterans served post-9/11 (2018)
(Source: www.census.gov)
- 3.8 million veterans served in the Gulf War (2018) (Source: www.census.gov)
- 1 in 4 veterans, struggled with illicit drugs (2018)
(Source: www.samhsa.gov)
- 4 out of 5 veterans struggled with alcohol use (2018) (Source: www.samhsa.gov)
- 3.7 million veterans had a mental disorder and/or a substance use disorder 2018
(Source: www.samhsa.gov)
- 30,351 veterans in Lake County (2019)
(source: www.census.gov)

Veterans in the Criminal Justice System

(Source: *Veterans in Prison and Jail 2011-2012*; December 2012 www.justice.gov)

-  131,500 - The number of veterans incarcerated in prison
-  50,000 - The number of veterans incarcerated in jail
-  About half of all veterans in prison (48%) and in jail (55%) had been told by a mental health professional they had a mental disorder

What is Veterans Treatment and Assistance Court (VTAC)?

VTAC is a collaboration of numerous agencies: the Court, the VA, the Public Defender's Office, Lake County Bar Association, Adult Probation Services, the State Attorney's Office, the Health Department, Nicasa, the Lake County Veterans Assistance Commission, volunteers and other community partners. These agencies work together to provide veteran offenders services to address their needs through treatment interventions, rather than incarceration.

How it Works

- A non-adversarial team approach
- Vet signs petition for consideration
- Case is reviewed by State's Attorney
- If approved, case proceeds for further consideration and team staffing
- Veterans Court will be held two times per month, one court call will consist of a referral call and the second call will consist of a status call for veterans
- Prior to the referral call, the VA's Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator will meet with the veteran to screen for treatment planning
- Prior to the status call, eligibility, treatment plans and other conditions will be reviewed and determined by the team
- The Division of Adult Probation Services will supervise the defendant

VTAC Mentoring Program

The VTAC Court and other veteran courts across the nation have come to realize that veterans are more likely to respond more favorably with another veteran than with others who did not have similar experiences. As a result, the VTAC believes that peer mentors are an essential component of the team. It is anticipated that active, supportive relationships developed and maintained throughout the program, between veteran defendants and peers, would increase the likelihood that the veteran will remain in compliance with treatment and court conditions. The lasting effects thereby improve a veteran's chances for sobriety, stability and law-abiding behavior.

Simply said, it is the mission of the mentoring program to support the veterans through their readjustment to civilian life, assist the veteran navigate through the court, treatment and VA systems, and act as a mentor, advocate and ally.

For more information on VTAC or other Specialty Court programs, contact one of the offices listed below:

**Lake County Adult Probation
847-377-3646**

**Lake County State's Attorney's
Office 847-377-3000**

**Lake County Public Defender's Office
847-377-3360**