

WELCOME OEF/OIF/OND SERVICEMEMBERS

U.S. Marine Corps Veteran Duane A. Confer II has heard the VA described as “horrible”—but he does not believe it. How does he describe it? “I go to VA Butler Healthcare every week, at least once a week. When I pull in, that parking lot is slammed pack full of cars, but every time I walk in, everyone makes me feel like I’m the only one there. I’ve been going to VA Butler since April 2013 and I have not one complaint.”

Duane volunteered for two consecutive tours in Iraq. He was

medically discharged in August 2009, but did not seek help from VA until 2013. “I had a Marine mentality—I could do this on my own... I was just lying to myself.” Duane even went into the VA and grabbed a few brochures, but when someone asked if he needed any help, he replied “no” and left.

It was not until his wife left, that he knew he had to do something.

“I knew how hard it was to start – just starting the process all over again, meeting a new psychologist, opening up to new people,” said

Duane. “VA Butler’s OEF/OIF/OND Office just helped so much with that transition.

Any questions – even if they didn’t know the answers, they would find out for me.”

In addition to support from VA Butler’s OEF/OIF/OND Office, Duane participates in one-on-one counseling, as well as group programs at VA Butler. He’s even starting a new group program specifically for combat Veterans. “Group programs allow you to hear from other Veterans and what helps them/what

doesn’t help. A coping technique that works for them, might work for you too. We bounce ideas off each other.”

“I’ve heard horror stories that nobody cares and VA is just terrible – I can’t even believe it! VA Butler is phenomenal. They have their program together. Everyone cares and acts like they want to be there—that makes me want to be a part of it and let them help me.” Duane now volunteers at VA Butler one day a week. “There are great, caring people there, and I wanted to be a part of that and give back.”

VA Butler Healthcare has a team ready to



welcome OEF/OIF/OND Servicemembers and to help coordinate their care. To learn more about VA care, services and specialty needs, call the OEF/OIF/OND coordinator today at 800.362.8262, ext. 2493 or visit www.butler.va.gov/services/returning/index.asp.

“I go to VA Butler Healthcare at least once a week. When I pull in, that parking lot is full of cars, but every time I walk in, everyone makes me feel like I’m the only one there.” —Duane Confer II, U.S. Marine Corps Veteran

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY...AUGUST

- 2 The Army Ambulance Corps is established by Maj. Gen. George McClellan (1862)
- 4 Helicopters from the U.S. Air Force Air Rescue Service land in Germany, completing the first transatlantic flight by helicopter (1952)
- 7 President Bush orders the organization of Operation Desert Shield in response to Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait [25th anniversary] (1990)
- 12 The balloon satellite Echo One is launched from Cape Canaveral, FL. [the first communications satellite] (1960)
- 15 Thomas Edison writes to the president of the Telegraph Company in Pittsburgh PA. The letter states that the word “hello” is a more appropriate greeting than “ahoy” when answering the telephone (1877)
- 18 Operation Starlite marks the beginning of major U.S. ground combat operations in Vietnam (1965)

AUGUST IS NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH



Recommendations for getting immunizations or vaccines depend on your age, gender, health status, and family history. Talk to your VA Butler health care team to find out what is recommended for you. Flu season is just around the corner! Stop by one of VA Butler’s flu clinics to get your flu shot this fall. www.publichealth.va.gov/flu/vaccination.



SUMMER OF SERVICE

Summer is quickly coming to a close. But, it's not too late to get involved with VA's Summer of Service—an opportunity to honor Veterans by volunteering. Help us give back to those who have given so much to our nation. Ready to give back to Veterans during this Summer of Service? VA Butler is currently seeking individuals to fill volunteer assignments as drivers, transportation schedulers, Community Living Center (CLC) volunteer aides and with MyHealtheVet.

For more information about volunteering at VA Butler Healthcare, contact VA Butler's Voluntary Services Office at 800.362.8262, ext. 2575 or visit www.butler.va.gov/giving. Also, be sure to check out #VASummerOfService on Vantage Point, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, and join VA in caring for America's Veterans.

NEW ACUPUNCTURE CLINIC

VA Butler now offers an Acupuncture Clinic for Veterans at the main facility in Butler. VA Butler chiropractors, Zachary Cupler and Michael Anderson, both licensed acupuncturists, will provide this new service to eligible Veterans.

Acupuncture refers to solid, stainless steel, hair-thin needles inserted through the skin and moved by hand or electrical stimulation. Needles are inserted into defined locations, painful areas, and tight muscles. Acupuncture is used mainly to relieve discomfort associated with a variety of diseases and conditions. Some conditions acupuncture may help treat are chronic pain (pain lasting more than three months), low back pain, neck pain, headaches/migraines, arm/wrist pain, hip/leg pain, and neuropathy.

Veterans interested in the new Acupuncture Clinic at VA Butler Healthcare should talk to their VA doctor to determine if acupuncture is a good fit for them.

NEW CONTRACT FOR COMMUNITY BASED OUTPATIENT CLINICS

VA Butler Healthcare awarded a new contract for the facility's Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) in Armstrong, Clarion, and Butler (Cranberry Township) Counties. The contract was awarded to Valor Healthcare for all three CBOCs. They will be located at the following addresses:

- Armstrong County CBOC (opening on or about September 17, 2015): 10A Hilltop Plaza, West Kittanning, PA 16201
- Clarion County CBOC (opening on or about October 1, 2015): 56 Clarion Plaza, Suite 115, Monroe Township, PA 16214
- Cranberry Township CBOC (opening on or about November 1, 2015): 900 Commonwealth Drive, Suite 100, Cranberry Township, PA 16066

The new CBOC facilities will be prepared and activated in a phased approach anticipated to begin this fall. During the transition, Veterans will continue to receive care without interruption and there will be a seamless transition from the existing to the new CBOC sites. More information will be provided regarding the transition as it is available including direct communication to all Veterans receiving care at the sites. Stay tuned! www.butler.va.gov/locations/index.asp

We want to hear from you! Email amanda.kurtz2@va.gov to share your story with us!

EVENTS

12 Lawrence Co. Veterans Stand Down
Wednesday, August 12 • 2pm-6pm
1st Battalion, 107th Field Artillery
820 Frank Avenue, New Castle, PA

27 2015 Mental Health Summit
Thursday, August 27 • 8am-4pm
Caring Place, Wexford, PA
For more information, call 724.285.2485

28 Summer Health & Wellness Event
Friday, August 28 • 10am-2pm
Outside Lawn, Primary Care Main
Entrance



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724.287.4781

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325 new castle road . butler pa 16001

