

Homecoming Vets at the Crossroads of Humanity

Information network for Canada's vets and their families. A “Veteran” – whether active duty, discharged, retired, or reserve – is someone who, at one time, wrote a blank check made payable to Canada, for an amount “up to and including” his or her own life.



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← The anti-malaria drug Lariam or mefloquine still a monster no one wants to acknowledge.

THOSE AMONG US WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE – A SERIES ON SELF-HELP →

U.S. Veterans describe resulting suffering from PERMANENT mefloquine brain damage

Posted on [October 2, 2012](#) by [Homecoming Vets](#)

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OK. I’m ticked! Canadian veterans will argue amongst themselves ad nauseum to

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prove they are right but, when advocates dedicate themselves to actually help them, they swing in the wind. I'm through with tact. I know there are many veterans out there suffering from the after effects of being issued mefloquine, particularly in [Somalia](#) where you were issued double the dosage required.

The original journalist to blow the whistle on this — [CTV's](#) Christine Nielsen — proved you were used as guinea pigs by the Canadian military and Health Canada in a signed agreement with the La Roche drug company. She uncovered the actual signed agreement and showed it on camera in October 1997. She was the only one to follow up on Cpl. Scott Smith's suicide when his mother pleaded for an investigation because she was convinced the Canadian military was covering up the true cause of her son's death. Christine persevered because she herself suffered severe effects caused by mefloquine when she was on assignment in Angola. It took her and her research assistant Kit Melamed two years to collect all the data they needed for their exposure documentary on CTV's W5. Kudos to CTV for braving the government's wrath by airing that document. What happened to Christine for caring and risking her job to bring that scandal to the public's attention? The last I saw her she looked like a Holocaust survivor she was so frail and emaciated but still doggedly reporting the news, this time from Tibet.

When Scot's mother sent me the news that he committed suicide, I couldn't believe it. He was so afraid of being labeled a gold bricker he never reported to army doctors the side effects of mefloquine he suffered through his deployments to Somalia, the [Gulf War](#) and then Rwanda. If he were my son, I would be as proud of him as she was. None of you deserved to be treated as guinea pigs. None of you are expendable in my books.

When Christine interviewed me because I talked to Scot on his deployment to Rwanda in 1994, I learned for the first time that even though I had only been issued mefloquine for five weeks, I too am adversely affected.

As the years went by, I met two advocates who spurred me to jump into the ring: Jeanne Lese who carries on the blog filled with [Lariam](#) (mefloquine) information — <http://www.lariaminfo.org> — and Dr. Remington Nevin, a [Canadian born](#) in Toronto serving in the [U.S. Army](#) as an epidemiologist and physician board-certified in Preventive Medicine by the [American Board of Preventive Medicine](#) — <http://www.remingtonnevin.com>. The research Dr. Nevin has done and the published medical papers he has written that proves mefloquine is a neurotoxin that permanently damages the brain is staggering for one as young as he is. The results of his work are why the U.S. Senate finally heard testimony in committee about the dangers of mefloquine and why it needs to be banned from use in all U.S. military services. Here's only a small sample of his published medical papers:

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Saying it had to modernize to reflect the new, unwrinkled face of the Canadian veteran, the federal government revamped legislation governing benefits for retiring and disabled soldiers in 2006. The **New Veterans Charter**, introduced by the Liberals under Paul Martin, backed by all parties and passed by the newly elected Harper Conservatives, was designed to meet the complex needs of veterans from the war in Afghanistan.

Young soldiers didn't want to sit at home, waiting for a cheque in the mail, reasoned the government. They wanted work in civilian society and to live fulfilled lives. The Veterans Charter would provide that by offering improved counselling, vocational training and one-on-one case management.

Veterans at the time warned that the new charter would drastically cut disability payments at a time when thousands were coming home wounded from Afghanistan. The changes, critics said, were all about saving the government millions at the expense of soldiers permanently disabled in the line of duty. As it turned out, these CRITICS WERE CORRECT.

*Mass administration of the antimalarial drug mefloquine to Guantánamo detainees: a critical analysis. **Tropical Medicine and International Health** 2012;17:1281-1288.*

*Limbic encephalopathy and central vestibulopathy caused by mefloquine: A case report. **Travel Medicine and Infectious Diseases** 2012;10:144-145.*

*Mefloquine gap junction blockade and risk of pregnancy loss. **Biology of Reproduction** 2012;87:65.*

*Hallucinations and persecutory delusions in mefloquine-associated suicide. **American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology** 2012;33:e8.* “The antimalarial drug mefloquine has been linked to spectacular cases of suicide and suicide attempt, but until recently the pathophysiology underlying this association has been unclear. This Letter to the Editor comments on a recent case report of a stunning suicide by skull stab wounds associated with mefloquine, and references recent biological evidence suggesting that among susceptible individuals, mefloquine may induce a dissociative hallucinogenic state that mimics [phencyclidine \(PCP\)](#) toxicity. Such evidence provides insight into the known epidemiological association of mefloquine with acts of violence, and into earlier ecological and case-series reports of suicide associated with the drug.”



The CBC's Nancy Wood and Dr. Remington Nevin

The CBC has also risked the government's wrath with further budget cuts by permitting Nancy Wood to present her recent documentary where she interviewed Dr. Nevin. The CBC was willing to do a follow-up but were faced with a vacuum of response from veterans and civilians (who have also been victims of mefloquine while travelling to malaria regions around the world). These are the

people Nancy's report was trying to help.

I further quote comments from U.S. veterans who have suffered from the mefloquine issued to them to prevent malaria, and these veterans are grateful for the dedicated work of Dr. Nevin and Jeanne Lese to help their needs be recognized.

Afghanistan Mission Stats

- 39,558 Number of Canadian Afghan veterans (defined by having spent 30 or more days in-country)
 - 4,181 Number of veterans receiving disability benefits whose disabilities are directly related to their service in the Afghanistan mission, as of Dec. 31, 2011.
 - 40 Number of veterans who did five tours
 - 3,680 Number of female Afghan veterans (9.3 per cent of total)
 - 338 Approximate number of female veterans receiving disability benefits directly related to service in Afghanistan
 - 158 Number of Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan
 - 82 Number of dead who were from rural communities
 - 579 Number of veterans with injuries related to service in Afghanistan from Edmonton, the highest of any single city
 - 63 Percentage of veterans who were married or in common-law relationships
 - 635 Number of Canadian soldiers wounded in action in Afghanistan between 2001-2011
 - 1,412 Number of Canadian soldiers injured in non-battle situations in Afghanistan between 2001-2011
 - 8 Estimated percentage of Canadian soldiers suffering Afghanistan-related PTSD
 - 5.2 Estimated percentage of Canadian soldiers suffering other Afghanistan-related mental health issues
- Department of National Defence,
Library of Parliament, Veterans Affairs Canada, Office of the Veterans Ombudsman

Blog Stats

- 81,359 hits

Recent Posts

- [2013 in review](#)

NATE TYLER: *Mefloquine is a dangerous, toxic drug that was mandatory to take while I was deployed to [Operation Restore Hope](#) in Somalia. Tens of thousands were administered this drug at that time. I have seen documentation that 18% of troops noted symptoms of anxiety and restlessness. I believe the numbers to be grossly under reported. The truth needs to come from the Department of Defense, the House and the Senate. They know the answers. Is this today's Agent Orange? Many of us know how long it took to right that wrong. 2 decades after taking this toxic drug, I too suffer from numerous unexplained symptoms that I strongly believe to be mefloquine related. In saying that, I have very strong feelings that this toxic drug needs to be banned!*

MARK ULINSKI: *I took Mefloquine while deployed to Somalia in 1993. Unexplained or out of character actions were a common occurrence by troops that took it. Some were very extreme to the point I had a fellow soldier draw down on me locked and loaded. It doesn't end with just how troops acted. Medical issues have also been felt by troops that took it. I myself, deal with daily digestive, short term memory loss, speech issues, high blood pressure, low testosterone levels, hearing issues, dizziness and the inability to sleep for more than 2-3 hours at a time 20 years later. The amount of troops that deal with these issues that took Mefloquine is quite staggering. My health along with others has put us in positions to not even be able to maintain gainful employment.*

JOHN STOCKTON: *I took Mefloquine 20 years ago in Somalia and saw numerous people react in very odd ways. Things like a Scout platoon member pulling his rifle on his squad leader and other soldiers commit suicide. Personally I didn't have any ill effects (other than some nerve twitching) at the time but now, two decades later, suffer from numerous un-explained symptoms that appear to be Mefloquine related. Did Bales take it? I don't know, but I sure wish we knew. Would it excuse him for what he did? No, but it might explain it.*

COMMANDER BILL MANOFSKY USN(ret): *I want to again applaud Dr. Ritchie for her bravery in keeping this story public. Yes, this drug can cause in some people hallucinations and a severe anger and personality change....real [Dr. Jekyll](#) /Mr. Hyde stuff that I saw first hand. In fact, after maintaining a very high level security clearance for many years, it was Navy medical who first introduced me and the members of my deployment team to this psychedelic drug...particularly when two safer alternatives are available – malarone and doxycycline.*

Plainly speaking, Mefloquine(Lariam) should not be issued to people carrying weapons in foreign countries. Since it has a very long plasma half-life of 15 to 33 days, the effects

- [Calgary veteran appeals](#)
- [Coming Back Home and A Veteran's Point-of-View blogs to carry on PTSD Forum as HOMECOMING VETS website retires](#)
- [PTSD goes undiagnosed for 48 years. This veteran needs your support.](#)
- [PTSD Forum with Dr. Dee Rajska](#)

Bonnie Toews



Bonnie Toews is a former business journalist reporting for logistics and private security magazines and now a novelist, speaks out for the victims of genocide and war, from the peacekeepers and coalition forces trying to save suppressed peoples to the children and innocent civilians caught in the crossfire of opposing powers, ideologies and cultures. Current writing "Trilogy in Treason." Member of Military Writers Society of America, American Authors Association and ACFW.

Blogroll

- [2003 Vancouver Trauma Conference — detail agenda](#)
Conference brings together doctors who treat PTSD to share their findings and papers. 0
- [91 Outcomes](#) Boston University and U.S. Veterans Advocates for improved care 0
- [A Place of Hope for PTSD](#)
Website introduces a treatment center in the U.S. for those suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder 0
- [Adolescent Health and Wellbeing Study](#) A research study on the wellbeing, family functioning and social development of adolescents

are far from temporary.

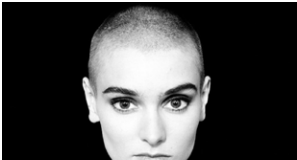



The upper levels of the military medical chain of command know this but are powerless to enforce any change since medical staffs in the field are given free rein to do as the please and with no accountability. Orders coming from the top of the operational chain of command are enforceable with the full weight of the UCMJ, yet policy directives from the top of the medical chain of command are routinely discounted by the lower ranks as “recommendations”.... this is unheard of on the operational side.

Read more: <http://nation.time.com/2012/10/01/the-lariam-mystery-continues/#ixzz289h1LFLd>

I believe these chaps speak for our Canadian veterans, but it’s time for Canadians to speak for themselves and support all the efforts made on their behalf to find out what this drug has done to them while also looking for ways to alleviate the resulting conditions.

BONNIE

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- in military families. 0
- [Adverse Effects of the Antimalaria Treatment Mefloquine or Lariam](#) U.S. Army preventive medicine physician and epidemiologist Maj. Remington Nevin publishes medical papers on mefloquine adverse effects in U.S. National Library of Medicine–PubMed. 0
- [AfterDeployment — Suicide Prevention](#) Essential information about who is at risk and what to do, direct info for the one who is depressed as well as the caregiver 0
- [AfterDeployment–PTSD Help](#) Wellness treatments to help you through PTSD symptoms that lead to healing. 0
- [AfterDeployment.org](#) Wellness resources for the military community. 0
- [Belleruth Naparstek](#) HealthJourneys.com, Naparstek’s website, is a major mind-body media center, featuring holistic resources, research abstracts and articles archived from her blog, BelleruthNaparstek.com. 0
- [Better Health Network](#) PTSD Flashbacks Reduced By Playing Tetris Dr. Glenn Laffel in Better Health Network, Health Tips, News, Research 0
- [Blog of a Vet's Wife](#) Nancy MacMillan has published her first book about what it is like to be a vet’s wife and the trauma that the family suffers along with the soldier consumed with battle nightmares. 0
- [Canada Salutes Her Heroes](#) Canadian singers and the Canadian Armed Forces joined talents to produce this special presentation for National Veterans’ Week. 0
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- [Canadian Forces badge plates support our homecoming vets](#) Here is a tangible way to help our homecoming vets. A portion of

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In "Afghanistan vets"

More than 14,300 vets being treated for mental health plus an unknown number of reservists prove armed forces and Veterans Affairs face alarming crisis
In "Afghanistan vets"

- each sale is contributed towards the Support Our Troops – Military Families Fund, and the plates themselves are a beautiful piece of art. 0
- [Canadian Legion's website](#) Full information about the Canadian Legion for veterans is registered here. 0
 - [Canadian Veterans Advocacy Official Message Board](#) Canadian Vets Register and find out the newest information posted for veterans adversely affected by the New Veterans Charter including articles. 0
 - [Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan](#) Canadians working together to secure human rights fot Afghan women and girls — a cause Captain Nichola Goddard died in battle to secure. 0
 - [Catapult Solutions](#) Calgary’s Kelli McMillan, a former police officer, is a clinical counselor for veterans and their families. She specializes in treating trauma, depression, anxiety and PTSD for all serving forces — military, police, firefighters, EMS — and uses an eclectic 0
 - [CBC Archives of Veterans news film footage 1944-2002](#) Our returning soldiers have been denied the recognition and benefits so crucial to rebuilding their lives. 0
 - [CBC reports on poor treatment of Canadian vets](#) News clips of interviews with Col. (ret.) Pat Stogran and wounded vets seeking compensation 0
 - [Center for Mind-Body Medicine in Washington, D.C.](#) Dr. Jim Gordon, Harvard-trained psychiatrist, emphasizes self-healing through integrating mind-body medicine with clinical practice and medical education for global trauma relief at his center in Washington, D.C. 0
 - [Challenges at the Crossroads of Humanity](#) Gist for Fiction For



About Bonnie Toews

About this site: People forget that family and partners become victims of the war Canadian vets have fought when they return home needing special care and consideration. Who helps them? This blog is dedicated to our homecoming vets and their families who need our understanding and support in making sure they receive the assistance they need to reintegrate into civilian life.

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	<p>intrigue that keeps you guessing, read Bonnie Toews and her collection of research for each novel. 0</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Common Sense Caregiving A guide to help caregivers of vets or loved one better understand brain damage, how it affects and changes them and how to adjust their own expectations, of themselves as well as of the patient. 0■ Communication Skills Effective communication is something we can all benefit from learning, even when arguing with our spouses, because we’re not expected to agree on everything. Removing “you” from the discussion and referring to the subject of the dispute when explaining how 0■ CVA's Bank of PTSD Articles Sylvain Chartrand has collected special information on the latest treatments, services and studies of PTSD. 0■ Dame Vera Lynn Vera Lynn sings “We’ll Meet Again” with photos in memory of WWII on video. 0■ Dangers of Lariam (mefloquine) and Halfan, anti-malaria drugs British Dr. Ashley M. Croft wrote a medical paper in the April 2007 Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine describing the rise and fall of anti-malaria drugs — Lariam (mefloquine) and Halfan. 0■ David Pugliese's DEFENCE WATCH, Ottawa Citizen newspaper A daily report to the public on what is happening to affect Canadian Armed Forces and vets. 0■ Did we poison our soldiers in Somalia? Peter Worthington’s article in the EDMONTON SUN Jan. 23, 1998 0■ Documentation 0■ Faith Deployed — Spiritual Support for Military Wives This website was created to promote Jocelyn Green’s first book, FAITH DEPLOYED: DAILY
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ENCOURAGEMENT FOR MILITARY WIVES. Jocelyn provides resources and spiritual support for the unsung heroes at home. 0

- [Fight or Flight Mode by Leslie Raddatz](#) Leslie Raddatz describes how something innocent can trigger a PTSD attack. 0
- [From Pain to PTSD](#) A patient’s personal story and successful treatment for PTSD at the VGH PTSD Clinic. 0
- [Grace After Fire — A Place for Women Veterans to Heal](#) Examples of the type of programs organized to help women veterans 0
- [Heal my PTSD](#) Michele Rosenthal, a trauma survivor who struggled with undiagnosed PTSD for 24 years, but today is 100% PTSD-free. A Self-Empowered Healing Coach and passionate PTSD advocate, she founded this website to provide information about Post Traumatic Stress Di 0
- [Healing Combat Trauma](#) Therapeutic resources for combat-based PTSD and articles by Lily Casura, who has developed interactive healing programs and forums with vets. 0
- [Healing our Heroes](#) A trusted solution for veterans still at war with post-war conditions through a network of community-based resources and ministries. 0
- [Heart Tugs ... at the Crossroads of Humanity](#) A blog dedicated to the Honour Roll of Fallen Canadian Soldiers in Afghanistan, their portraits and a history of Canada’s peacekeeping missions. 0
- [Homewood Health Centre](#) Homewood Health Centre is a leader in mental health and addiction treatment, providing specialized psychiatric services to all Canadians, especially for veterans suffering from PTSD or victims and families dealing with PTSD. 0

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Inspire~ The musings of an inspirational historical fiction writer 0■ Join the FaceBook page supporting Col. (ret.) Pat Stogran's fight for our veterans. This Facebook page presents all comments and links to the veterans ombudsman’s public fight to bring better treatment and benefits to our returning vets. 0■ Leslie Raddatz on PTSD therapies Leslie Raddatz explains the therapies for PTSD that worked best for her. 0■ Mary K. Armstrong , Trauma Therapist Mary is a social work psychotherapist who specializes in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), a specific approach to PTSD that has achieved promising healing. 0■ Mefloquine (Lariam) Action Organization Lariam (mefloquine), manufactured by Roche Pharmaceuticals, is no longer sold under that trade name in the United States. Generic mefloquine, however, still is, in Canada and the U.S. The website name has been changed to reflect the switch to generic mefl 0■ Mefloquine (Lariam) Stinks Facebook group discusses latest studies on the anti-malaria drug mefloquine (Lariam). 0■ Military Healing Center This program is for full spectrum use including PTSD, TBI, general depression, anxiety, broken sleep, insomnia, anger or other strong emotions such as grief or guilt, to improve mental clarity and operational effectiveness. Download of program FREE. 0■ Military Times Your source for everything that is going on in the Army. 0■ Military Writers Society of America This organization includes Canadian and American services and veterans as well as writers and journalists who either
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write about the military or include them in their stories. 0

- [MyPTSD.me](#) An online newsletter with all kinds of information and news about PTSD. 0
- [OnLine Journal](#) Investigative journalists present their findings here. 0
- [OUR DUTY](#) Our Duty is an organization dedicated to ensuring that the veterans of our Forces receive what they have earned: pensions and benefits. We have required their service and sacrifice. We owe them for their dedication. 0
- [Our Forgotten Warriors](#) This website focuses on treatments for TBI and PTSD by providing integrated quality programs and services for individuals with physical and cognitive impairment to help individuals develop to their fullest physical, psychological, social and economic pote 0
- [Peacekeeper Park](#) A little known educational and rehabilitation facility for vets of peacekeeping missions right here in Ontario. 0
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- [Post Traumatic Stress Disorder — Mental Health Net](#) Mindfulness Meditation Therapy for PTSD with Dr. Peter Strong, Ph.D. 0
- [Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder: Signs and Symptoms](#) PTSD is an anxiety disorder that develops under extreme stress or a LIFE-THREATENING event. Symptoms are described here. 0
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- [Public Broadcasting](#) News and opinions 0
- [Report of the Standing Committee on Veterans' Affairs](#) This report delves into the many concerns

and weaknesses in the new Veterans' Charter. 0

- [Sign Online Petition for better treatment of Canada's Veterans](#) Five key issues concern Canada’s veterans who need Veterans Affairs to redress these unfair gaps in the New Veterans Charter. 0
- [Skilled-Companion Dog for PTSD Veterans](#) K-W Poppy Fund was the first organization to support this Skilled-Companion Dog for Veterans Program with a donation of \$5000.00. Go to the site where you can sponsor individual dogs in PTSD service training. 0
- [Sleep of Primary Importance to Healing, especially in PTSD](#) A collection of valuable articles: Sleep is SO vitally important to troops in theater — for mental and emotional health — and then afterwards to combat vets with PTSD, who frequently CAN'T sleep. 0
- [Suggest Ideas](#) 0
- [Support Forum](#) 0
- [The Battle of the Mind — Operational Stress](#) Elton Adams, a Canadian soldier fighting in Afghanistan has created this album to bring attention to veterans’ post combat conditions. Though the stats are American, Canadian percentages are similar in comparison. 0
- [The Sanctuary Project for Veterans and Seniors](#) This is a model resource center for veterans and seniors that provides information and offers a food bank. 0
- [The Truth about PTSD and Anxiety](#) This article explains how PTSD is not a mental illness but a way for the mind to protect itself in the same was as shock protects the body from recognizing unbearable pain at the outset. This shift in definition should eliminate the stigma that PTSD suffice 0
- [Themes](#) 0

- [Top 10 conditions for which disability award payment approved](#) Tinnitus — Hearing loss — Internal derangement knee — Post-traumatic stress disorder — Lumbar disc disease — Chronic mechanical lumbar pain/strain — 0
- [Trauma Counselling Centre with therapist Janice Holden](#) A compassionate and therapeutic professional who has helped thousands regain control of their lives. 0
- [UBC Psychiatric Program associated with VGH PTSD Clinic](#) UBC, Predoctoral Internship in Clinical Psychology 0
- [Vancouver Coastal Health: Post Traumatic Stress Disorders](#) BC neuropsychiatric outpatient program accepts PTSD referrals for assessment and treatment of patients living in the Vancouver area. 0
- [Vancouver General Hospital PTSD Clinic — established May 1, 2003](#) Vancouver General Hospital PTSD Clinic established May 1, 2003. The clinic is set up to assess PTSD and to conduct individual and group therapy as well as research. Treatment, research and practical applications presented for PTSD and Complex PTSD III. 0
- [Veterans Affairs Ombudsman website \(while it lasts\)](#) Sign up for newsletter from the Veterans Ombudsman, but because of his zealous action to get help and funding for returning Afghan vets, the Cdn. gov't. is refusing to renew his appointment. 0
- [Veterans Affairs shafting Afghani returnees](#) Vets endure worse treatment than bullet reeived on the battlefield 0
- [Veterans Against Lariam \(mefloquine\)](#) Facebook group discuss symptoms and coping strategies. 0
- [Veterans Emergency Transition Services \(V.E.T.S\)](#) V.E.T.S. is a volunteer-led nonprofit

organization providing aid and comfort to Canadian veterans who are at risk. V.E.T.S services are listed here. 0

- [Veterans of Canada](#)
VeteransofCanada.ca Incorporated was founded September 2006 with a desire to create a strong support system for Canadian heroes. Here veterans, special support programs and businesses can interconnect in community spirit. 0
- [Vicki Hinze's Faith Zone](#)
Affirmation. Inspiration. Confirmation 0
- [WAR TOLL ON VETS](#) 35,000: number of Canadian soldiers deployed to Afghanistan at least once since 2002 — 2,726: number of Canadians receiving disability pension or award related to Afghanistan service — 1,442: number of Canadians injured during service in Afghanistan — 0
- [Warning Signs of PTSD](#) This is a checklist of warning signs by Leslie Raddatz, who has undergone treatment for PTSD. 0
- [Web Site Marketing Strategy](#) Web directory listing. 0
- [With My Little Box of Crayons by Laura Wooten](#) This book can help families and children of soldiers and vets returning from war begin communicating with each other, because not only the vet hurts. So does everyone he or she loves. 0
- [WordPress Blog](#) 0
- [WordPress Planet](#) 0
- [Wounded Times](#) Chaplain Kathie who is married to a Viet Nam vet has provided more than 25 years of veteran outreach, with emphasis on PTSD. 0
- [Wounded Warriors.ca](#) A Canadian non-profit organization, Wounded Warriors supplies four main streams of support for our vets: self-mobility, advocacy for 'invisible' wounds, first-line hospital donations and individual financing. 0

Videos

- [Homeless Canadian Vets](#) You can contribute to Pennies for Canadian Veterans Program 0
- [RCMP Are Vets Too](#) RCMP have served in peacekeeping, humanitarian rescue and war missions since World War One to Afghanistan. 0

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