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NEWS

TO THE POINT



Stress in the Military

FRI NOV 6, 2009

Host: Sara Terry

Produced by: Frances Anderton, Katie Cooper, Gary Scott

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Two of the biggest issues faced by soldiers and combat veterans are stress and mental health. Yesterday's shooting suspect at Fort Hood, a trained army psychiatrist, was reportedly suffering from some of the same stresses he was trained to treat. At Walter Reed Hospital, doctors have enlisted psychiatric service dogs to help treat soldiers suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. What role does man's best friend play in healing? What can be done to catch signs of an impending breakdown before it's too late? Guest host Sara Terry gets an update on yesterday's shootings at Fort Hood, looks at the role stress might have played and learns about the evolving role of psychiatric service dogs.

Banner image: Jesus Bocanegra, 24, drinks water to wash down one of four anti-depression and anxiety drugs he takes in McAllen, Texas. Bocanegra has been diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD, a result of his service in Iraq. Photo: Chris Hondros/Getty Images)

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MAKING NEWS

More Details Emerge on Mass Shooting at Fort Hood (12:00PM)

Yesterday's shooting at Fort Hood left thirteen dead and dozens wounded. The suspect in the killings is Major Nidal Malik Hasan, who reportedly had complained of harassment for being a Muslim and had hired a lawyer to help get him out of the military. Sig Christenson has been covering the story for the San Antonio Express-News.

Guests:

Sig Christenson: Military Reporter, San Antonio Express-News

MAIN TOPIC

Stress in the Military (12:07PM)

Yesterday's shooting at Fort Hood was the most violent in history on a US military base, with 13 people confirmed dead and dozens more injured. With stress disorders taking an increasing toll in the military and thousands of combat veterans struggling with Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome, mental health has become one of the most important issues facing soldiers today. For some, help may be coming from a surprising place, dogs that are trained to deal with PTSD and other problems. They're also playing a critical role on the battlefield. So how much can man's best friend do? What are the limits of canine therapy?

Guests:

Louie Palu: photojournalist

Jay Kopelman: former Lieutenant Colonel, US Marine Corps

Joan Esnayra: Founder, Psychiatric Service Dog Society

Harris Done: Director, 'War Dogs of the Pacific'

Bernard Unti: Senior Policy Advisor, Humane Society of the US

Links:

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

At War with the Enemy and with Ourselves (12:42PM)

Little is known about what triggered yesterday's deadly shooting spree at Fort Hood military base. The suspected shooter is an Army psychiatrist who had complained of harassment for being a Muslim and was reportedly desperately trying to avoid upcoming deployment to a war zone. The case of Major Nidal Malik Hassan has raised questions about the military's ability to deal with mental health issues. Lawrence Korb of the Center for American Progress was Assistant Secretary of Defense in the Reagan Administration.

Guests:

Lawrence Korb: former Undersecretary of Defense, @LarryKorb

ENGAGE & DISCUSS

