

USC
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**POLICY AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTISE TO ENHANCE THE HEALTH AND WELL-
BEING OF MILITARY VETERANS IN THE PACIFIC RIM
SYMPOSIUM**

May 17-19, 2017

University of Southern California, Los Angeles – Town and Gown, 665 Exposition Blvd

PRELIMINARY SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

SYMPOSIUM GOAL

In recognition of a global need to ensure policy related to enhancing the well-being of veterans of military service, particularly issues involving health, housing, education, and employment, the **University of Southern California** is pleased to host members of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities to this two day symposium on global Military veteran policy. The goal of the symposium is to provide a forum for in-depth discussions on issues related to the health and welfare of military veterans in the Pacific Rim. The event will engage experts from the academic, research and military fields in a discussion of the top priorities regarding veterans' policy that challenge the Pacific Rim. This action research initiative will be the beginning of a process that will anticipate and propose veterans policy outcomes that will present more effective options to governments, major health care providers, and veterans support organizations, which will be made available to key decision-making bodies around the world.

THEMATIC PILLARS

The principle themes of this year's symposium will focus of on four pillars:

- GI Bill
- Suicide
- Disability and Compensation
- Successful Transition to Civilian Life

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

May 17, 2017

2:00 PM Registration Desk Open and Symposium Package Pick-up. Campus Tours Available.

6:00 PM Meet and Greet – hosted by Professor Cherrie Short – Associate Dean, Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

7:30 PM Free Time

May 18, 2017

7:30 AM Registration Desk Open and Symposium Package Pick-up

8:00 AM Light Breakfast

9:00 AM Opening Remarks-Professor Cherrie Short, Associate Dean, Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

9:10 AM University Welcome
Professor Michael Quick – USC Senior Vice President Academic and Provost

9:20 AM Deans Welcome
Dean Marilyn Flynn – USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work
Dean Jack Knott – USC Sol Price School of Public Policy

9:45 AM Meeting Called to Order and Administrative Remarks – Professor Cherrie Short, Associate Dean, Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

10:00 AM Introduction of Key Note Speaker
Lieutenant General (Ret) Jeffrey W. Talley, former Chief of Army Reserve

10:45 AM Questions and Discussion

11:15 AM Group Photo

11:30 AM Lunch Break

12:30 PM Overview of the GI Bill – strengths, challenges and opportunities. The GI Bill of Rights has a long history of success and challenge. What are the strengths and opportunities that face the Department of Veteran Affairs education benefit program earned by members while on active duty. The benefit is designed to help eligible veterans cover the costs associated with getting an education and training. Has the program been effective, are the outcomes measurable, what needs to be addressed? How can research benefit the program and what are the lessons learned and potentially exportable to the Pacific Rim?

Presenter and Discussion Leader – Professor Carl Castro – Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

1:00 PM Panel Presentations on GI Bill – Panel format presentations followed by questions and discussion
Panel Chair – TBA

2:30 PM Nutrition Break

3:00 PM Suicide...the facts, the reality and the challenges. Military veteran suicide is an ongoing phenomenon regarding a high rate of suicide among military veterans in comparison to the general public. Veterans are not only more likely to have suicidal ideation often associated with PTSD and depression, but are more likely to act on a suicidal plan. How can research and practical application help stem this disturbing trend?

Presentation and Discussion Leader - TBA

3:30 PM Panel Presentation on Suicide – Panel format presentations followed by questions and discussion.

Panel Chair and Discussion Leader - TBA

5:00 PM Closing Remarks

Professor Cherrie Short, Associate Dean, Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

6:30 PM Gala Reception and Dinner – hosted by Dean Marilyn Flynn, Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work and Dean Jack Knott, Sol Price School of Public Policy

May 19, 2017

7:30 PM – light breakfast

8:30 AM Disability and Compensation Discussion

Setting the scene – what are the parameters and why does it matter? Does it effectively compensate for considerable loss of post service working time as a result of active service exacerbations or illnesses including post-traumatic stress disorder. What are the successes and what needs to change? How can research provide clearer focus, fill gaps and promote proactive, sustainable compensation and opportunity?

Discussion Leader- Professor John Romley – Sol Price School of Public Policy

9:00 AM Panel Presentation on Disability and Compensation – Panel format presentations followed by questions and discussion.

Panel Chair and Discussion Leader – TBA

10:30 AM Nutrition Break

11:00 AM Overview of successful transition to civilian life – how veterans view themselves and how they are viewed by their communities. What are the most successful strategies for reintegration and finding ways to measure activity effectiveness that enhance veteran identities and well-being. What is the role of research in ensuring success for veterans and their families?

Presenter and Discussion Leader – Dr. David Pedlar – Director of Research, Veteran Affairs Canada

11:30 AM Panel Presentations on Successful Transition to Civilian Life - Panel format presentations followed by questions and discussion

Panel Chair and Discussion Leader – TBA

1:00 PM – Closing Remarks – Key symposium findings and next steps.

Adjourn

1:30 pm – Light Lunch and Departure