

For Immediate Release:  
 Charles C. Thomas Publishers  
 December 2018



*Major Seamone is a unique expert with blended lived experience, practice experience, and research knowledge. His book showcases his vast experience and knowledge about veterans involved in the criminal justice system. Through in-depth case examples, empirical data, and real-life stories, the book provides a rare important informational guide on how we can better serve our nation's veterans.*

*-Jack Tsai, Ph.D.  
 Clinical Psychologist, Department of Veterans Affairs  
 Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Yale University*

***RESCUING SOLDIERS OF MISFORTUNE* by Evan Seamone, First comprehensive sourcebook of problems AND solutions that have followed many Veterans' transition from warriors to civilians in Criminal Justice-- from World War I to the Cold War, Iraq and Afghanistan.**

When Evan R. Seamone deployed as an Army lawyer in Iraq (2005-6), he became concerned about veterans in the criminal justice system after seeing many young soldiers facing harsh penalties because they suffered mental health symptoms after dedicated service. Now working with Harvard Law School's Veterans Legal Clinic, Seamone helps obtain benefits for veterans who have been entangled in the military and civilian legal systems. He wrote **RESCUING SOLDIERS OF MISFORTUNE: A Full Spectrum Approach to Veterans in The Criminal Justice System from Arrest to Reentry** (Charles C. Thomas Publishers) to acknowledge historical lessons vital for mental health professionals, law enforcement, corrections, the courts, and anyone seeking to help veterans with a range of solutions, especially for those in conflict with the law.

The book details common pathways to criminal offending by military veterans, which may relate more to training and conditioning than combat trauma. One major contributor is the impact of the military's warrior indoctrination process. Basic training deliberately changes one's values and perceptions in major ways that cannot be reversed. There is also the military's comprehensive programs that provide soldiers with healthcare, housing expenses, and other living costs. While they free their focus, young soldiers can also be deprived of the opportunity to learn crucial skills, such as budgeting, needed to succeed in civilian life.

Many young veterans are also impacted for generations to come by the modern day “scarlet letter” of the less-than-honorable discharge, characterizations that military members can receive for acts of misconduct. Often these common offenses, that result in “bad paper”, have no parallel in the civilian world. Seamone describes how a 19-year-old can be deemed ineligible for medical care, though he suffers from horrible wounds of war, and that his less-than-honorable discharge can place his family at risk because of continual exposure to his untreated symptoms.

The book draws an important distinction between veterans who face a heightened risk of engaging in violent behavior and criminal involvement, and societal myths that portray significant populations of veterans as diseased and prone to committing crimes. Contrary to the media-supported Whacko-and Violent-Veteran models, the majority of veterans do not have mental health disorders. Even among those who do, the vast majority do not commit violent or other criminal offenses. The challenge is to address the small but still significant population of veterans who face these overlapping difficulties.

**RESCUING SOLDIERS OF MISFORTUNE** also relates solutions that are beneficial to all involved. When VA programs are allowed in prisons or jails, law enforcement benefits—even those who may not be veterans themselves. When police officers in Chicago, some of whom were veterans, learned the symptoms of PTSD, they were able to de-escalate both incidents in their own lives and encounters with veterans in the community. In incarcerated settings, veterans bring attributes, such as shouldering responsibility, following rules, loyalty to their group first, and pride in a mission, that make targeted programming more effective and safer. When incarcerated veterans are linked with community mentors, both the veterans and the community benefit. The tremendous effect of this partnership was recognized after World War I, when the American Legion teamed with the Veterans Bureau to identify incarcerated veterans throughout the nation and assist in providing treatment instead of punishment. The theme continued during World War II when the Indiana State Farm at Greencastle developed a program that matched incarcerated veterans with mentors in the nearby community. And Veterans Treatment Courts, which develop individualized treatment plans to assist veterans in the community, have continued this best practice of linking participants with mentors.

Seamone explains the how the tacit agreement between the military and the public sector (the military fights war and civilian society assumes the burden of reintegration) has broken down.. Too often, the military’s ambivalence to the future treatment needs of young offenders creates major problems in society for generations. Yet there are many ways the military could aid the veteran before he leaves the base, such as suspending a “bad paper” discharge so benefits are intact and allowing probation for military crimes. Civilian organizations also need to be involved in the active duty stage. Because they have specialized expertise in responding to veterans in the criminal justice system, a landslide of negative consequences can be prevented.

**RESCUING SOLDIERS OF MISFORTUNE** offers a complete range of solutions for the treatment of veterans who are caught in the criminal justice system. It details both the different

pathways to criminal offenses by veterans and specific solutions. It also explains how veterans involved in criminal justice may be entitled to benefits they have never received. These resources and tools can transform lives. The unique mission and duty of this book is to integrate those who have served and given all to our nation. Though physically back home, too many veterans are still fighting their wars.

Marketing: Cindy Marcy  
advertising@ccthomas.com

Publicity: Susan Weinstein  
swpubrel@aol.com