

**THE NEW DUPAGE VETS CENTER IS SCHEDULED TO BE
OPERATIONAL BY MID OCTOBER 2009.**

The Vet Center location and staff is listed below:

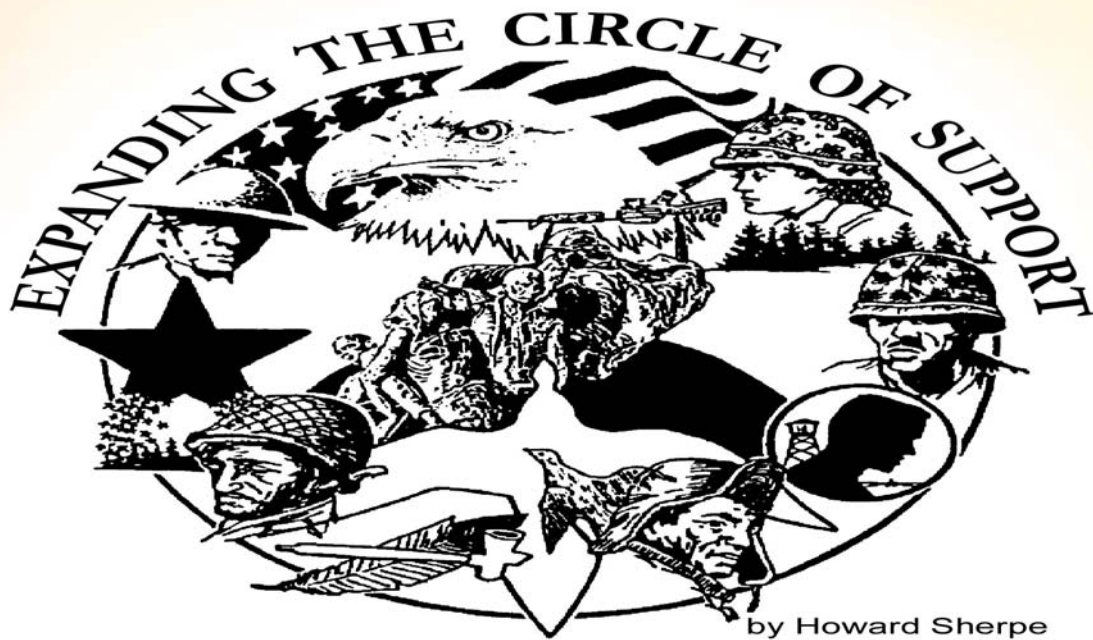
**750 Shoreline Drive
Aurora, IL 60504
(south of Ogden Ave./RT 34 and west of 75th ST)**

**Contact the Oak Park Vet Center at 708-323-3225 for more information
until communications are installed at the new DuPage Vet Center:**



**Team Leader: Bob Waechter
Social workers: Heidi Jenson
Machell Rodabaugh**

**An excellent history and profile of Vet Centers including eligibility requirements,
and services is described below.**



Vet
Center

HISTORY OF THE VET CENTER PROGRAM

The Vet Center Program was established by Congress in 1979 in recognition that significant numbers of Vietnam veterans were experiencing readjustment problems. Vet Centers were established as community based counseling arms of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Madison Vet Center opened its doors in November of 1981. It is located at 706 Williamson Street. In 1991, following the Persian Gulf War, Congress extended eligibility to veterans who served during other periods of armed conflict post Vietnam. Those periods include Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, and the Persian Gulf. In

1996, Congress extended eligibility to veterans who served in World War II, the Korean War and Somalia. In addition, veterans who were victims of sexual harassment or trauma while in the military are eligible for services at the Vet Center.

For the men and women who proudly served their nation. Your sacrifices and efforts have earned you the support of your country. You are eligible to obtain assistance from a Department of Veterans Affairs Vet Center in your local community.

SERVICES _____

NOTE: All services are free to eligible veterans and their families.

- **Individual readjustment counseling**
- **Group readjustment counseling**
- **Marital and family counseling**
- **Referral for benefits assistance**
- **Liaison with community agencies**
- **Job counseling and placement**
- **Substance abuse information and referral**
- **Community education**

ELIGIBILITY _____

War Zone Veterans - all eras including:

WORLD WAR II - Three eligible categories - European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign-Medal (7 Dec. 1941 to 8 Nov. 1945), Asiatic - Pacific Campaign Medal (7 Dec. 1941 to 2 Mar. 1946), or American Campaign Medal (7 Dec. 1941 to 2 Mar. 1946)

AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINES – In oceangoing service during the period of armed conflict, 7 Dec. 1941 to 15 Aug. 1945

KOREAN WAR - 27 June 1950 to - 27 July 1954 (eligible for the Korean Service Medal)

VIETNAM WAR - 28 Feb. 1961 to 7 May 1975

LEBANON - 25 Aug. 1982 to 26 Feb. 1984

GRENADA - 23 Oct. 1983 to 21 Nov. 1983

PANAMA - 20 Dec. 1989 to 31 Jan. 1990

PERSIAN GULF - 2 Aug. 1990 to -

SOMALIA - 17 Sept. 1992 to -

OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR, OPERATION JOINT GUARD, & OPERATION JOINT FORGE - Veterans who participated in one or more of the three successive operations in the former Yugoslavia (Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia, aboard U.S. Naval vessels operating in the Adriatic Sea, or air spaces above those areas).

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM - Veterans who serve or have served in military expeditions to combat terrorism on or after September 11, 2001 and before a terminal date yet to be established.

Includes **OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM & OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.**

SEXUAL TRAUMA AND HARASSMENT COUNSELING - veterans of both sexes, all eras Vet Center services

BEREAVEMENT COUNSELING - Bereavement counseling is offered to parents, siblings, spouses and children of Armed Forces personnel who die in the service to our country. Also eligible are family members of Reservists and National Guardsmen who die while on federally activated duty.

MISSION_____

Currently there are 232 Vet Centers nationwide whose mission is to provide a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to assist veterans and family members overcome the readjustment problems associated with war and personal trauma.

CONTRACT SERVICES_____

Eligible veterans who reside in remote areas away from a local Vet Center may be authorized to receive counseling from a private agency. Details are available by contacting the closest Vet Center.

STAFF_____

Counselors come from many clinical disciplines such as psychology, social work, psychiatry, and substance abuse, but also include special trauma. Sixty percent of the counselors in the program are combat veterans themselves.

CONFIDENTIALITY_____

Treatment records are confidential and secured in locked files. Records are released only with the veteran's authorization.