



Durham VA Medical Center  
508 Fulton Street  
Durham, NC 27705  
News Release  
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For Immediate Release  
May 10, 2010

**VA program reaches Veterans not currently in VA care  
“Families at Ease”: 1-866-947-8018 weekdays 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA** – The Durham Veterans Affairs Medical Center has launched a new program to help Veterans and their families get the assistance they need – and take advantage of the benefits they have earned.

The *Families at Ease* program is designed to engage combat Veterans who are reluctant to seek help, or who may be unaware that they need it. “We’re directing the campaign toward families because loved ones are often in the best position to see changes in the Veteran and influence him or her to seek help,” said Susan Watkins, who is coordinating the Durham case manager responders.

VA’s most recent effort, this program reaches out to this new generation of combat Veterans, who are eligible for health care upon discharge or demobilization for five years and possibly longer for service-related conditions. Watkins said, “VA has a range of programs available for Veterans, and it’s really important for them to take advantage of what they have earned.”

Durham VA staff members hope to connect with concerned family members and Veterans who have not yet sought care by providing outreach to gatherings such as Yellow Ribbon events, Veteran and family health fairs, faith-based health ministries and other forums.

The objective is to educate them about health care services available and encourage them to take advantage of the benefits they have earned. For more information about Families at Ease, contact the Public Affairs Office at (919) 286-6903.

The Durham VA served more than 51,000 Veterans in 2009 and operates outpatient clinics in Hillandale, Raleigh, Greenville and Morehead City. The Durham VAMC collaborates closely with Vet Centers located in Raleigh, Greensboro and Greenville, North Carolina.



Their buddies got them through the horrors of war. Getting through the return home is where you come in.

When a loved one returns from military deployment troubled by anything from anger to sleep problems, a happy reunion can become a stressful situation. VA has resources to help your Veteran get the treatment and support he or she needs. It's all in complete confidence, and it's all to get your family back on track. Peace of mind is worth fighting for.

For more information, please contact  
**866-947-8018**  
**Families AT EASE**

Department of Veterans Affairs Contact VA – in complete confidence 866-947-8018 www.mrecc.va.gov/FamiliesAtEase/