

Ex-military?



Still serving?

The Army Test

“Have the actions or behaviour of a service person had, or been likely to have, an adverse impact on the efficiency or operational effectiveness of the Army?”

Have the actions adversely affected ...

Standards, effectiveness or reputation?

Confidence in a serviceman, his integrity or suitability?

Command relationships?

Personal relationships of others?

Morale, discipline, trust or unit cohesion?

The Army as a corporate body?

Applies to **everyone** - At all times - Regardless of Rank

Military establishment nearby?

If you have a local military base:

Get to know the Padre

Get to know the Welfare Officer

Get to know the 'chain of command'

Veterans - Applause or cause for concern?



When you think 'military'

What do you think?

A GOOD NIGHT OUT?



A PUNCH UP WAITING TO HAPPEN?



MODERATE DRINKERS?



Where have they probably been?

- Northern Ireland
- Bosnia
- Iraq
- Afghanistan

On the Streets - What do we do?

- **Deal** with the immediate situation
- **Engage** to assess other needs
- **Signpost** client to agencies and help
- **Link** them together (or refer them directly)
- **Send** them off sorted and safe!

The majority returning to 'Civvy Street' do so successfully.

WHAT OF THOSE WHO DON'T?

2010: 20,000 veterans are in the criminal justice system, with 8,500 behind bars, almost one in 10 of the prison population.

Alcohol: For those serving in Germany, the biggest threat came not from the East but from alcoholism developed during the long hours off duty with a double vodka costing 24p!

A Strange World: Army veteran (22 years service)

"You've never had to go hand and foot looking for anything, because it's all been done for you. Again, it depends on how long you've served. You come out and it's like a different planet... it's like being in the planet of the apes."

Abandoned: Army veteran (10 years service)

"Once you were out the gates, that was you done. You were left to fend for yourself."

Unemployed: *"Where am I going to get a job? If there's no work for civvies, there's no work for ex-servicemen."*

Homeless?



Army veteran (24 years service, medically discharged 2010)

“When you’re still in the Army, you can’t put yourself in for a house and you can’t do the paperwork until you’re out of the Army.”

British Army - Be the Best

The Military Covenant:

'...Soldiers will be called upon to make personal sacrifices - including the ultimate sacrifice - in the service of the Nation. In putting the needs of the Nation and the Army before their own, they forego some of the rights enjoyed by those outside the Armed Forces. In return, British soldiers must always be able to expect fair treatment, to be valued and respected as individuals, and that they (and their families) will be sustained and rewarded by commensurate terms and conditions of service...'

For more information on the Military Covenant, talk to John, a former Royal Engineers sergeant. He can be found on the steps of Charing Cross Station most nights.

He'll tell you all about it...



The Housing Act

1996 Housing Act

'priority need' in England (and Wales) includes:

- a pregnant woman
- dependent children
- vulnerable through old age, mental illness, handicap, physical disability or other special reason
- made homeless (or threatened with homelessness) as a result of an emergency such as flood, fire or other disaster

2002 Homelessness (Priority Need for Accommodation) (England) Order

expanded in 2002 to include those:

- 16 and 17 years old
- under 21 years old (been in local authority care between 16 and 18)
- 21 and over - vulnerable as a result of leaving local authority care
- vulnerable as a result of leaving the armed forces
- vulnerable as a result of leaving prison
- vulnerable as a result of fleeing domestic violence (or threat of same)

Homeless crisis: Shocking figures reveal number of rough sleepers has soared in the last five years

00:01, 4 FEB 2015

UPDATED 16:24, 1 APR 2015

BY MARTIN BAGOT

The information comes as the Mirror revealed how Darren Offord, brother of a Tory MP, was sleeping rough and he blamed the Government's policies



Daily Mirror / Phil Harris

Street life: Darren Orford, brother of Tory MP Mathew, blames the Government for his predicament

Who are we talking about?

Rough sleepers

Often these are 'one nighters' – seen once and then gone! Those seen on several occasions - but not enough to be living on the streets.

Intermittent rough sleepers

Includes rough sleepers who appear periodically for very short periods (street drinkers and beggars fit in here); those who return to the streets for less than the 3 weeks period.

Living on the streets

To decide whether someone is 'LOTS' we use time on the streets (over a three week period) and the number of times found 'bedded down' (five or more contacts).

If a person is seen bedded down six times, during one week, or over a greater period than 3 weeks – rough sleeper applies.

Lies, Damned Lies and Statistics

Crisis

2010/11 estimate 4,000 to 8,000 rough sleepers on any night: Government statistics for same period 2,000!

CHAIN (St Mungos)

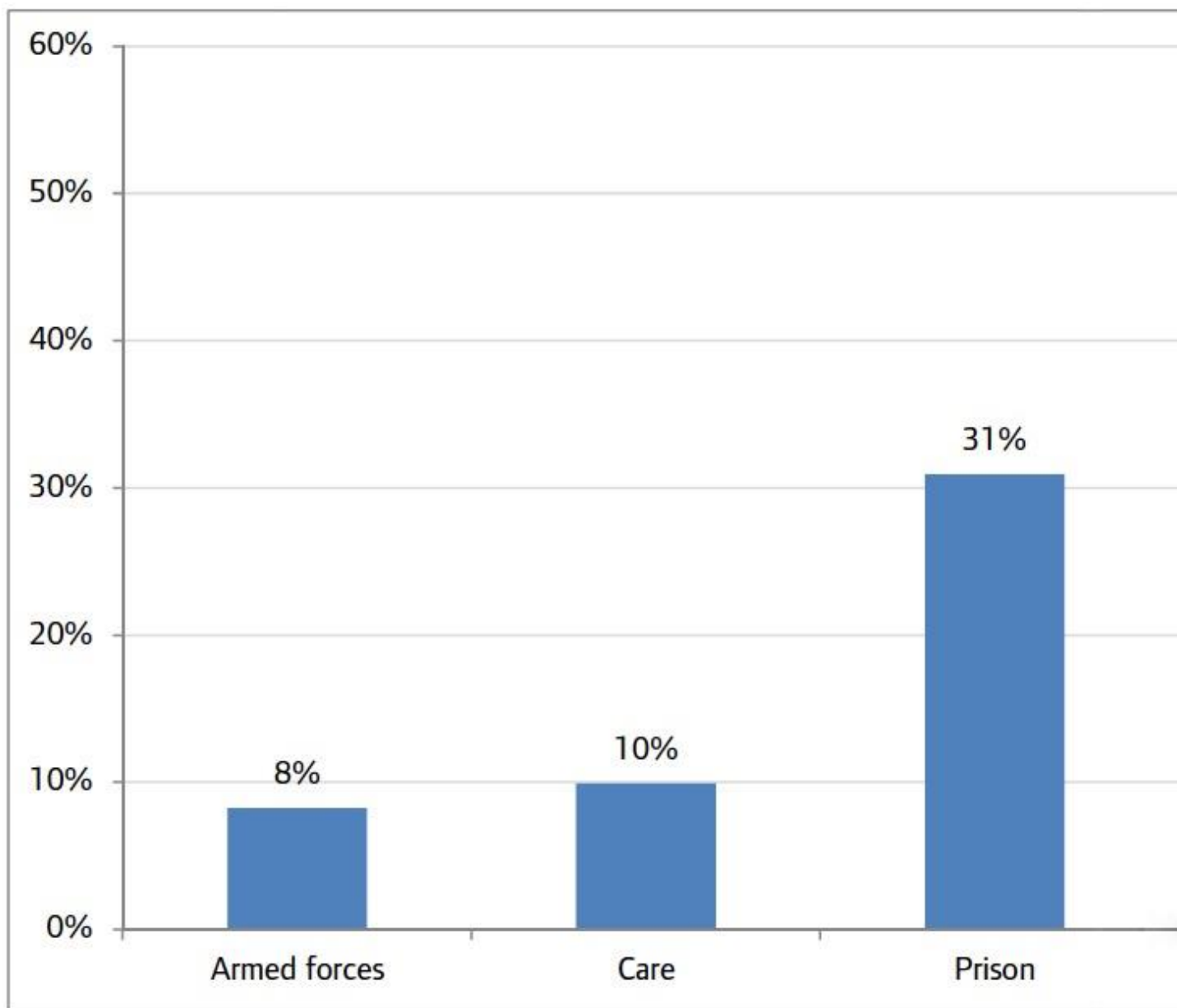
For the same period estimated a real population of 6,500 rough sleepers per night in London.
The concern is 'returners' !

The Telegraph (26 Feb 2015)

'Rough sleeping rises 55 per cent under Coalition'

Annual snapshot of statistics, released by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), shows that 2,744 people were found to be sleeping rough on any one night in the country in autumn 2014 - an increase of 14%

London: 742 sleeping rough (25% of national figures)
An increase of 37% on previous year!



Rough sleepers: armed forces, care or prison

sample: 1,867

Mental Health Issues?



Mental Health Risks: Still Serving

A study of 10,000 serving personnel (83% regulars; 27% reservists) found **lower than expected levels of PTSD.**

Common mental disorders and alcohol misuse most frequently reported mental disorders among UK armed forces personnel. In particular, **levels of alcohol misuse overall were substantially higher than in the general population.**

The main findings were:

- 4% reported probable post-traumatic stress disorder
- 19.7% reported other common mental disorders
- 13% reported alcohol misuse
- regulars deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan significantly more likely to report alcohol misuse than those not deployed
- reservists were more likely to report probable post-traumatic stress disorder than those not deployed
- regular personnel in combat roles were more likely than were those in support roles to report probable post-traumatic stress disorder
- experience of mental health problems was not linked to number of deployments.

Fear NT, Jones M, Murphy D et al (2010). What are the consequences of deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan on the mental health of the UK armed forces? A cohort study. The Lancet (2010) 375 (9728): 1783–1797

Mental Health Risks: Having Served

Estimated to be **5,000,000** veterans in UK; an additional **20,000** leave the forces each year - their healthcare transfers from military to the NHS!

Around 0.1% of regular service personnel discharged annually for mental health reasons (that's 20). That said, some develop mental health problems after leaving, many will be experiencing PTSD. Until recently we knew little about these veterans. We do know is that just half of those experiencing mental health problems sought help from the NHS; **those that did were rarely referred to specialist mental health services.**

Veterans' mental health problems may be made worse or caused by post-service factors, such as the difficulty in making the transition to civilian life, marital problems, and loss of family and social support networks. Younger veterans are at high risk of suicide in the first two years after leaving service. Ex-service personnel are also vulnerable to social exclusion and homelessness, both of which are risk factors for mental ill health. Alcohol misuse is also high.

PTSD

Post- Traumatic Stress Disorder is a fairly common mental illness.

PTSD usually occurs after a person has undergone a traumatic event.

Diagnosed with PTSD **only if** traumatic event actually occurred.

Examples of a traumatic event include:

military combat,

car accident,

house fire, etc.

These events often lead to psychological issues.

PTSD - Signs and Symptoms

- Flashback
- Nightmares
- Feeling Alone
- Angry Outbursts
- Feeling guilty or anxious



PTSD - Getting Help



PTSD - Getting Help - recent leavers

Discharged service personnel can access Defence Mental Health Services **for up to 6 months after leaving the armed forces.**

It is important that they register with a local GP **as soon as possible** after leaving the forces.

Getting Help and Information

SUPPORT LINE: Every area of need is to be found here
http://www.supportline.org.uk/problems/armed_forces.php

BRITISH LEGION (LEGION LINE) Tel: 0808 802 8080199

Monday - Friday: 8am - 8pm

Works to safeguard the welfare, interests and memory of
serving , and served, UK Armed Forces personnel.

Need help or advice?

minister_stf@btinternet.com

Blog: Vic the Vicar

QUESTIONS?