



In the aftermath of the 911 terrorist attacks Our Nation's young men and women answered the call to arms that led them to wars on two fronts in both Afghanistan and Iraq. These wars have lasted over a decade and have taken the lives of many men. The wars have also left mental and emotional scars—the invisible wounds of war—in many of our young veterans whether they realize it or not. It is of no surprise that many of these brave young men and women want to continue to selflessly serve their country when they return home.

Many young war veterans take up employment in the fire service. Here they continue to put their lives on the front line protecting their communities just as they protected their nation. It is estimated that 11% to 20% of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) Veterans suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). An additional 7% to 30% of members in the fire service suffer from PTSD from on the job experiences. These men and women will continue to be placed in high-stress environments throughout their careers.

As veterans and firefighters ourselves, our organization, Fire Fighters Military Veterans (FFMV), recognize these issues on a personal level. We have modeled our organization's approach by offering high-quality training and educational courses, a peer support network, and peer support meetings, on combating PTSD, substance abuse, and suicide—from the inside, not from the outside looking in. The FFMV will use all of its resources to do its very best to help our brother and sister fire fighter military veterans to the best of our ability.

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