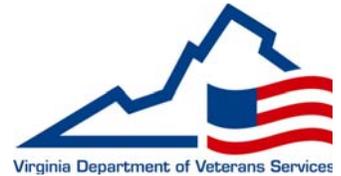


# The Virginia Department of Veterans Services



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## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 10, 2009

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### ***Virginia Department of Veterans Services Releases Progress Report on the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program***

Commissioner Vincent M. Burgess and Executive Director of the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program Catherine A. Wilson have jointly released the 2009 Progress Report on the VWWP. Authorized and funded in 2008, the Departments of Veterans Services, Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, and Rehabilitative Services, and the Adjutant General of the Virginia National Guard have worked together to establish the program and expand its reach across Virginia. Commissioner Burgess said, “the VWWP Team, our state agency partners, veterans service organizations, including the Joint Leadership Council which sponsored this program, have made great strides in developing a structure to connect veterans and their families to services for combat stress and traumatic brain injury.”

Since July 1, 2008, the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program has

- Established 3 Regional Offices that cover Northern, Western and Central and Southern Virginia
- Funded five regional consortia of community mental health, brain injury and rehabilitative services specialists as well as Veterans Administration and military resources to connect veterans and families with local services for assistance
- Initiated a statewide needs assessment to learn about the gaps in services for veterans and their families who struggle with combat stress or traumatic brain injury
- Established a powerful Executive Strategy Group to explore partnerships and resources that can assist Virginia veterans, and
- Initiated steps to reach out to veterans and their families to encourage them to seek help.

Commenting on the tremendous progress in just one year of operation, Executive Director Wilson said, “I am confident that we will continue this momentum and demonstrate a record of success that adds unprecedented value to the quality of the lives of Virginia’s veterans, service members and their families in the years to come.”

This report is being distributed electronically only and is available at [www.VirginiaforVeterans.com](http://www.VirginiaforVeterans.com), click Publications and Forms. To obtain a printed copy, contact the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, 804-371-4675 or e-mail [VWWP.ExecAsst@dvs.virginia.gov](mailto:VWWP.ExecAsst@dvs.virginia.gov).

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*Serving those who served.*