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# News Release

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## **ARMY WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAM**

The Lebanon VA Medical Center welcomes Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2) Advocate John Boylan, IV, CPT RES USAR USARC. AW2 Advocates are located throughout the country where there are large concentrations of AW2 Soldiers, Veterans at VA facilities, Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs), and most military installations. AW2 Advocates provide:

- Personalized local support, for as long as it takes, regardless of their location or military status.
- Assistance for day-to-day issues in recovery, as well as longer term decisions, such as choosing to remain in the Army or medically retiring.
- Support throughout the entire Wounded Warrior Lifecycle.

Lebanon VA Medical Center's Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) team has been in place since 2003 and is comprised of a program manager, social work case manager, two nurse case managers and one program support assistant. This five person team provides outreach, case management and care coordination for all OEF/OIF Veterans within Lebanon's 13-county catchment area. Of the 7,441 eligible OEF/OIF Veterans in this area, 3,966 (53%) are currently using VA services. This is higher than current national utilization rate of 49%.

As nearly 65% of OEF/OIF Veterans within Lebanon's catchment area are Guard/Reservists (4,766), the OEF/OIF team places emphasis on outreach and assistance to these populations. These include a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which allows for information sharing between Lebanon and PA State Department of Military and Veterans Affairs as well as frequent briefings at unit locations, an RN case manager who spends part of her work week at Fort Indiantown Gap (National Guard headquarters) and a newly developed OEF/OIF Outreach Clinic at Fort Indiantown Gap.

We extend our warm welcome to Mr. Boylan in joining our family of caregivers at Lebanon VA Medical Center. We are confident that our Veterans will be well served with our joint efforts between the AW2 and OEF/OIF programs.

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