



# Faces of Combat, PTSD and TBI: One Journalist's Crusade to Improve Treatment for Our Veterans

*Eric Newhouse*

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## **Faces of Combat, PTSD and TBI: One Journalist's Crusade to Improve Treatment for Our Veterans**

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Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Eric Newhouse issues a call to help America's returning warriors in his latest book, *Faces of Combat, PTSD and TBI: One Journalist's Crusade to Improve Treatment for Our Veterans*. His concern is that one-third to one-half of the 1.6 million men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan can be expected to return home with one or all three emotional disorders: post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), or major depression. But the Veterans Administration is already overloaded in treating soldiers from previous conflicts, primarily Vietnam vets who never received the help they needed and deserved.

*Faces of Combat* shows how the suicide of a previously deployed National Guardsman galvanized Montana officials to become a model state in assessing the mental health of its soldiers, taking additional steps that should become the norm nationwide.

Soldiers tell their heartbreaking stories, what happened to them in battle and what happened when they came home. They explain their uncontrollable rage, alcoholism, nightmares, flashbacks, divorce, joblessness and homelessness. They talk about the battlefield reactions to civilian provocations that are landing too many of them in jail.

A female combat photographer, Jamie Bender, talks about the damage that resulted from taking pictures in a field littered with body parts and being ordered not to cry at the memorial services for four of her dead friends. Her photographs illustrate this book. Other female soldiers discuss the trauma of being raped by fellow American soldiers.

Finally, *Faces of Combat* evaluates the VA's conventional treatment, which is generally inadequate even if available, and suggests some alternative treatments that appear to be working in private practice. It also provides lists of resources for vets across the country.

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