

MONTANA'S VETERANS COURTS

MARCH 20, 2019

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MISSOULA, MONTANA



GREAT FALLS

MISSOULA

BOZEMAN

BILLINGS

WHAT IS A TREATMENT COURT ?

A Treatment Court is a judicially-supervised collaborative court docket that combines treatment for substance use disorders and, often, mental health challenges with careful monitoring and supervision as an alternative to standard sentencing.

VETERANS TREATMENT COURTS

- **Most Veterans return home strengthened by their military experience.**
- **Veterans Courts are for Veterans whose untreated substance use disorders and often combat-related mental health challenges have led to involvement in the criminal justice system.**
- **Program at least one year long.**
- **Participants are high risk for re-offense and high needs for services.**
- **Treatment is required, generally from VA Clinics or Vet Centers.**
- **Frequent, observed and random drug testing required.**
- **Participants are usually assigned a Mentor.**

VETERANS COURT MENTORS

- **Volunteer Veterans from community**
- **“Trusted Friend,” not counselor.**
- **Annual training plus monthly meetings.**
- **Application process includes criminal background check.**

MISSOULA VETERANS COURT PARTICIPANTS 2011-2017

- **63 Participants**
- **3 Female**
- **50 Caucasian**
- **8 Native American**
- **3 Hispanic**
- **2 African American**

MISSOULA VETERANS COURT PARTICIPANTS 2011-2017

- **Military Branch**

- **Army – 47, Marines 7, Navy 7, Air Force 2, CG 1**

- **Combat Zones**

- **Iraq 1 tour 26, Iraq 2 tours 3, Iraq 3 tours 1,
Afghanistan 1 tour 8, Afghanistan 2 tours 1,
Afghanistan 3 tours 1, Afghanistan 5 tours 1,
Vietnam 4, Other Combat 8, No Combat 20**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Justice for Vets, National Association of Drug Court Professionals, <https://nadcp.org>**
- **Montana Drug Courts: An Updated snapshot of Success and Hope, 2019**
<https://courts.mt.gov/portals/189/drugcourt/report/2019drugcourt-report.pdf>
- **Bringing Treatment Courts to Scale in Montana 2018**
<https://mthcf.org/resources/treatment-courts-report/>

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