



# TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

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# News Release

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## MVPN awarded Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Award

**AUSTIN** – Texas Veterans Commission Military Veteran Peer Network (MVPN) was awarded the Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Award during the 20th Annual Awards Ceremony held April 17.

MVPN was awarded in the Reentry and Integration category for the work it does preparing Veterans to reintegrate into their community following their incarceration at the Travis State Jail Veteran Reentry Dorm which houses Veterans who have 90 to 120 days left in their sentence.

MVPN staffers provide rehabilitative programming at the dorm that focuses on preparing Veterans with information that encourages personal growth and community readiness. They also offer a platform for Veteran offenders to address personal issues such as traumatic experiences, stress management and recognizing behavioral triggers.

"We're extremely honored to be recognized for what we do for Veterans who are incarcerated," said Sean Hanna, MVPN director. "Many of these individuals have experiences that their fellow citizens can't understand and we want to prepare them as best as we can to conduct themselves in a meaningful way while they return to their communities."

MVPN is an affiliation of servicemembers, Veterans and family members who train in peer support and mental health awareness in order to better advocate and care for Veterans and their peers, as peer interactions represent the core mission of MVPN. In 2014, MVPN volunteer coordinators reported more than 62,000 peer interactions and referrals, though the actual number is expected to be higher as MVPN relies on anonymity in order to establish trust with Veterans.

May is mental health awareness month and if you or someone you know is in need of mental health resources, please seek out a mental health professional.

To learn more about MVPN or to volunteer, visit <http://www.milvetpeer.net/>.

### Texas Veterans Commission

The mission of the Texas Veterans Commission is to advocate for and provide superior service to Veterans and their families in the areas of disability claims assistance, employment services, education benefits and grant funding. Over 200 skilled counselors in 75 cities provide one-on-one guidance to Veterans and their families to ensure they receive all of the benefits to which they are entitled. For more information about the Texas Veterans Commission services click here: <http://www.tvc.texas.gov/Home.aspx>.

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