HISTORY OF THE VET CENTER PROGRAM
The Vet Center Program was established by Congress in 1979 in recognition that significant numbers of Vietnam veterans were experiencing readjustment problems. Vet Centers were established as community based counseling arms of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Madison Vet Center opened its doors in November of 1981. It is located at 706 Williamson Street. In 1991, following the Persian Gulf War, Congress extended eligibility to veterans who served during other periods of armed conflict post Vietnam. Those periods include Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, and the Persian Gulf. In 1996, Congress extended eligibility to veterans who served in World War II, the Korean War and Somalia. In addition, veterans who were victims of sexual harassment or trauma while in the military are eligible for services at the Vet Center.

ELIGIBILITY__________________________
War Zone Veterans - all eras including:
War II
   December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946
Korean War
   June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955
Vietnam War
   February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975
Vietnam Era veterans not in the War Zone
   August 8, 1964 to May 7, 1975
   (Eligible until January 1, 2004)
Lebanon
   August 25, 1982 to February 26, 1984
Granada
   October 23, 1983 to November 21, 1983
Panama
   December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990
Gulf War
   August 2, 1990 to
Somalia
   September 17, 1992 to
Operation Joint Endeavor, Operation Joint Guard, Operation Joint Forge – Vet Center eligibility has been extended to veterans who participated in one or more of three successive operations in the former Yugoslavia (Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia, aboard U.S. Naval vessels operating in the Adriatic Sea, or air spaces above those areas)
Global War on Terrorism
Sexual Trauma and Harassment Counseling
   Veterans of both sexes and all eras

MISSION____________________________
Currently there are over 200 Vet Centers nationwide whose mission is to provide a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to assist veterans and family members overcome the readjustment problems associated with war and personal trauma.

SERVICES____________________________
Individual readjustment counseling
Group readjustment counseling
Marital and family counseling
Referral for benefits assistance
Liaison with community agencies
Job counseling and placement
Substance abuse information and referral
Community education

NOTE: All services are free to eligible veterans and their families.

CONTRACT SERVICES_________________
Eligible veterans who reside outside a fifty mile radius from a Vet Center may be authorized to receive counseling from a private agency. Details are available by contacting the Vet Center.

STAFF________________________________
Counselors come from many clinical disciplines such as psychology, social work, psychiatry, and substance abuse, but also include special trauma. Sixty percent of the counselors in the program are combat veterans themselves.

CONFIDENTIALITY____________________
Treatment records are confidential and secured in locked files. Records are released only with the veteran’s authorization.
or the men and women who proudly served their nation. Your sacrifices and efforts have earned you the support of your country. You are eligible to obtain assistance from a Department of Veterans Affairs Vet Center in your local community.

VET CENTER LOCATION_______________

Vet Center
706 Williamson Street
Madison, WI 53703
1-608-264-5342
Fax # 1-608-264-5344
Toll Free 1-800-842-6355

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