

Resources for Wounded Warriors with Major Traumatic Limb Loss

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Many resources are available for service members who experience combat-associated major limb loss. Navigating the print, internet and in-person information and services is key. This article identifies sources of information for individuals with major limb loss as follows: (1) resources for military personnel, (2) resources from the Department of Veterans Affairs, (3) other resources for veterans, (4) resources for family members, and (5) resources in the public domain. Five detailed tables identify some of the agencies, contact information, and services available in each of the five categories.

Keywords: amputation, benefits, combat, limb loss, OIF/OEF, prosthetic resources, traumatic amputation, veterans, Vietnam, wounded service members

Service members and veterans who experience major limb loss are provided assistance in recovery and rehabilitation, but are often frustrated when it comes to finding resources to help them along the way. There are over 850 service members and veterans from OIF/OEF [1] and over 2500 from Vietnam [2] with major limb loss. Many organizations are available to provide assistance and resources to these men and women. The needs of the service members and veterans vary by level of limb loss, severity of other injuries and co-morbidities, stage of rehabilitation, need for financial support, benefits, and many other factors. Fortunately, many agencies established services for service members and veterans with major limb loss.

This article identifies sources of information for individuals with major limb loss as follows: (1) resources for military personnel, (2) resources from the Department of Veterans Affairs, (3) other resources for veterans, (4) resources for family members, and (5) resources in the public domain. Five detailed tables identify the agencies, contact information, and services available for each of the five categories. These resources are considered helpful by the participants of the *Survey for Prosthetic Use* [3] and the Expert Panel members, are known by the authors to support service members, veterans, and others with limb loss, and are in the public-domain. This list is not all-inclusive; resources and organizations change rapidly.

Resources for Military Personnel

Numerous support systems are in place for service members with traumatic limb loss while on active duty—notably, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, DC; Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, TX; and Naval Medical Center, San Diego, CA. Military and civilian organizations and agencies provide a broad spectrum of services. Several programs are described below. Additional resources for the military are found in Table 1.

Army Career and Alumni Program

The Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP) (<http://www.acap.army.mil/>) was created by the Army to provide transition assistance to soldiers and family members separating or retiring from active duty with ACAP Centers located on most major Army installations. The program is mandated by Congress and part of Army/DOD policy. ACAP provides pre-separation counseling, employment workshops, VA briefings, employment assistance, tools for writing resumes and cover letters, advice, and support.

ACAP's Disabled Transition Assistance Program (DTAP) is offered for service members who are leaving military service due to disability. This program encourages and assists service members with their decisions about the VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service. DTAP facilitates applications for vocational rehabilitation benefits and services. Group sessions explain eligibility, benefits, and availability of ed-

Table 1
Resources for Military Personnel

Military Resource	Description
America Supports You http://www.AmericaSupportsYou.mil	A Department of Defense program, launched in 2004, that provides opportunities for citizens to show their support for the U.S. Armed Forces and to communicate that support to the members of the Armed Forces at home and abroad.
Army Career and Alumni Program http://www.acap.army.mil/	The Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP) provides transition assistance to soldiers and family members separating or retiring from active duty with advice, support, pre-separation counseling, employment assistance, VA briefings, tools for writing resumes and cover letters, and a Disabled Transition Assistance Program.
Hope For The Warriors™ http://www.hopeforthewarriors.org	A nonprofit civilian organization, established in 2006, to build hope beyond recovery with numerous programs such as the award-winning "Warrior's Wish," recreational outings, athletic events, transitional housing, financial support for immediate needs, support groups, and a rehabilitation center.
Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund http://www.semperfifund.org	Established May 2004, the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that has provided over 10,000 grants totaling over \$24 million to assist wounded OIF/OEF heroes and families. Financial support is provided for family travel to the bedside of wounded Marines, mortgage payments, other immediate financial needs, and perpetuating needs, such as modified transportation, home modifications, and specialized equipment.
Military in-Step http://www.amputee-coalition.org/military-instep/	A partnership with the Army Patient Care program and Amputee Coalition of America, Military in-Step is a guide for adapting to limb loss with over 40 articles to help with rehabilitation, common problems, military benefits, sports and recreation resources (organized by sport type).
Military OneSource http://www.militaryonesource.com 1-800-342-9647	An online library and resource center provided by the Department of Defense at no cost to military members and their families on education, benefits, housing, legal advice, moving information, caregivers, finances, health, career, parenting and more. Consultants, counseling, and discussion groups are also available.
My Army Benefits http://www.myarmybenefits.us.army.mil	Official Army benefits website serving the regular Army, Army National Guard, Army Reserve, family members, and retirees. My Benefits section produces personalized survivor and retirement benefit reports for active duty soldiers and family members with a complete financial forecast of investments, insurance, and service member group life insurance. It also provides a "what if" capability that projects how life events, such as getting married, having children, or retiring at a projected date can affect finances.
TurboTAP (Transition Assistance Program) http://www.transitionassistanceprogram.com	TurboTAP provides information for service members transitioning from the military and is a Department of Defense website, supported also by the Departments of Labor and Veterans Affairs. The website supplements the services of the Transition Assistance Offices located on major military installations. Topics include career changes, entrepreneurship, healthcare, education, personal finances, relocation, life insurance, loans, and VA benefits.
U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program https://www.aw2.army.mil	An Army program focusing on the most severely injured with a wide range of resources, personal assistance in recovery, and help obtaining benefits.
U.S. Military Services	Official websites of the U.S. military services:
National Guard	http://www.ngb.army.mil
United States Air Force	http://www.af.mil/
United States Army	http://www.army.mil/
United States Coast Guard	http://www.uscg.mil
United States Marine Corps	http://www.usmc.mil/
United States Navy	http://www.navy.mil/

Table 1 (Continued)*Resources for Military Personnel*

Military Resource	Description
Yellow Ribbon Fund http://www.yellowribbonfund.com	Yellow Ribbon Fund, Inc. is a private, nonprofit organization providing volunteer services, transportation and lodging to injured service members and their families. Created in 2005 for injured military while recuperating at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and National Naval Medical Center.

DOD = Department of Defense, OIF/OEF = Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom,
VA = Department of Veterans Affairs

educational and vocational counseling. DTAP sessions for hospitalized or convalescing service members are coordinated by the VA Regional Office.

Hope For The Warriors

Established in 2006, Hope For The Warriors (<http://www.hopeforthewarriors.org>) is a civilian, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to enhance quality of life for wounded U.S. service members and their families with short- and long-term care, and to ensure that fallen warriors are not forgotten, nor their families left in need. Their programs include the award-winning "Warrior's Wish," recreational outings, athletic events, transitional housing, financial support for immediate needs, support groups, professional development, and a rehabilitation center.

Military OneSource

Military OneSource (<http://www.militaryonesource.com>) has services and information for military personnel and their families who need help with child care, personal finances, emotional support, relocation information, education, elder care, legal advice, and other special circumstances. Face-to-face, phone, and online counseling by master's-level consultants offer confidential support and practical solutions, 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. Online resources include a library, financial calculators, self-assessment tools, Webinars (interactive online seminars), monthly newsletters, discussion boards, and podcasts on life issues, including stress management, meal planning, depression, families, and relationships. Military OneSource is a civilian organization under contract with the Department of Defense and has no cost for active-duty, Guard, or Reserve service members and their families.

U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program

The U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program (<https://www.aw2.army.mil>) assists and advocates for wounded soldiers and their families throughout their lifetimes, unconstrained by location or rehabilitation timelines. The Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2) embodies the Warrior Ethos: "We will never

leave a fallen comrade." Initially established in April 2004 as the Disabled Soldier Support System for the most severely wounded, injured or ill soldiers returning from OIF/OEF, AW2 now serves more than 2,300 soldiers and their families. Focusing on those most severely injured, AW2 provides services such as helping wounded soldiers remain in the Army through education and application assistance, career planning beyond the Army, education choices, non-medical benefits, obtaining VA and Army benefits, family healthcare, financial counseling for buying a home, local resources, life coaches, and receiving awards earned during military service. AW2 advocates are located throughout the country at major Military Treatment Facilities and VA medical centers. AW2 assistance requires meeting eligibility requirements (described on their website). Their online resources for wounded service members with limb loss include financial assistance, employment opportunities, home improvement assistance, access to assistive technologies including computers, assistance to military family members, outdoor recreational activities, and mobility devices such as Segways™.

Resources from the Department of Veterans Affairs

Of the 25 million veterans currently alive, nearly three of every four served during a war or an official period of hostility [4]. About a quarter of the nation's population (approximately 70 million people) is potentially eligible for VA benefits and services because they are veterans, family members, or survivors of veterans [4]. The goal of the VA is to provide excellence in patient care, veteran's benefits, and customer satisfaction. The VA provides an abundance of resources, a few of which are described below, with more listed in Table 2.

The Department of Veterans Affairs' website (<http://www.va.gov>) is the starting point for links to VA benefits, VA healthcare, facility locations, employment, education, home loans, Home Improvements and Structural Alterations program, automobile modifications, and more. The online version of "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents" is a compre-

Table 2*Resources from the Department of Veterans Affairs*

VA Resource	Description
Department of Veteran Affairs http://www.va.gov 1-800-827-1000	The main website for the Department of Veterans Affairs with links to VA benefits, locations, jobs, VA data, public affairs, Home Improvements and Structural Alterations program, automobile modifications, healthcare benefits, and more.
Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/fedben.pdf	Online version of the brochure, "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents," a comprehensive guide to VA benefits, with contact numbers and websites.
VA Compensation and Pension http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/index.htm	Links to compensation, VA benefits summaries, health and dental insurance and special OEF/OIF page for topics such as home loans, education, PTSD.
VA Crisis Intervention Hotline http://www.marion.va.gov/services/Veteran_s_Crisis_Intervention_Hotline.asp 1-888-899-9377	Crisis hotline established by the VA Heartland Network to assist veterans who may be dealing with a mental health crisis or difficult issue in their lives. Also aids family or friends who are assisting a veteran in crisis.
VA Education Benefits http://www.gibill.va.gov/	Education assistance programs as provided by the "GI Bill" to veterans, service members, and some dependents of disabled or deceased veterans wishing to pursue an education
VA Facilities Locator and Directory http://www1.va.gov/directory/guide/vetcenter.asp	Location of VA facilities by zipcode or map.
VA Health Care Eligibility & Enrollment http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/	Eligibility, enrollment, and coverage changes for VA healthcare.
VA Health Care – Veterans Health Administration http://www1.va.gov/health/	Overview of the VA healthcare programs.
VA Home Loan Guaranty Services http://www.homeloans.va.gov/	Current updates on home loans for veterans.
VA Life Insurance Programs http://www.insurance.va.gov	Life insurance programs for service members and veterans.
VA My HealtheVet http://www.myhealth.va.gov/	My HealtheVet is the portal to individual VA healthcare and concerns.
VA National Center for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder http://www.ncptsd.va.gov/ncmain/	Information on PTSD, such as coping with war, resources for families, the effects of serving in Afghanistan and Iraq, diagnosis and treatment, and PTSD Information Center link.
VA National Programs and Special Events http://www1.va.gov/opa/speceven/#games	National annual events for veterans including Winter Sports Clinic, Wheelchair Games, Summer Sports Clinic, Golden Age Games and Creative Arts Festival.
VA Polytrauma System of Care http://www.polytrauma.va.gov	Care for veterans with multiple injuries and locations of polytrauma facilities.
VA Prosthetics & Sensory Aids Service http://www.prosthetics.va.gov	Information on prosthetic devices and all other adaptive equipment and technologies provided to VA healthcare beneficiaries.
VA Returning Service Members (OEF/OIF) http://www.oefoif.va.gov/	Service members from OIF/OEF can use the portal for "Returning Service Members" for answers to questions and timely information.
VA Veterans Service Organizations http://www1.va.gov/VSO	Online database of chartered and unchartered veterans service organizations.
VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/index.htm	Vocational rehabilitation services for veterans with service-connected disabilities, including independent living, educational/vocational counseling, small business information, translating military skills into occupational skills, and employment through VetSuccess.gov.

OIF/OEF = Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom, PTSD = posttraumatic stress disorder

hensive guide to VA benefits, with contact numbers and websites (<http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/fedben.pdf>). Veterans may also call 1-800-827-1000. Veterans Service Representatives are available to work one-on-one with veterans and their families. The VA Crisis Intervention Hotline (1-888-899-9377) assists veterans who may be dealing with a mental health crisis or difficult issue in their lives. The hotline also aids family or friends who are assisting a veteran in crisis.

Veterans Health Administration – Veterans Healthcare System

The Veterans Health Administration provides healthcare to veterans transitioning into the Veterans Healthcare System (<http://www1.va.gov/health/index.asp>). A wide range of healthcare services are provided and many websites offer information. Eligibility, enrollment, and coverage changes for VA healthcare are described (<http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/>). Service members from OIF/OEF can use the portal for "Returning Service Members" (<http://www.oefoif.va.gov/>). My HealthVet (accessed from <http://www.myhealth.va.gov/>) is the portal to individual healthcare and concerns.

VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment

VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/>) provides vocational rehabilitation services for veterans with service-connected disabilities, including independent living, educational/vocational counseling, small business information, translating military skills into occupational skills, and employment through VetSuccess.gov.

VA Prosthetics & Sensory Aids Service

The VA Prosthetics & Sensory Aids Service (<http://www.prosthetics.va.gov>) provides adaptive equipment, assistive technologies and medical devices, such as artificial limbs, home and vehicle adaptations, wheeled mobility devices, and adaptive sports equipment, to VA healthcare beneficiaries. The website provides information about the availability of adaptive equipment and technologies, upcoming events, important announcements, and links to new technologies, new prosthetic devices, the *VA Benefits Handbook*, and *Veterans for America Survival Guide*.

VA Polytrauma System of Care

Polytrauma is defined as two or more injuries to physical regions or organ systems, one of which may be life threatening, which result in physical, cognitive, psychological, or psychosocial impairments and functional disability (such as traumatic brain injury, hearing loss, major limb loss, fractures, burns, and visual impairment). Care for returning service members and veterans with these injuries is provided at four

polytrauma centers and 17 additional network sites by teams of healthcare professionals who develop individual rehabilitation plans to maximize recovery. The website (<http://www.polytrauma.va.gov>) has information on admission criteria, family support, polytrauma-care news, Frequently Asked Questions, and a locator for VA Polytrauma Rehabilitation Centers and Polytrauma Network Sites.

Other Resources for Veterans

Many organizations outside of the Department of Veterans Affairs, provide support to veterans. Several are described here, and more are listed in Table 3.

American Veterans

American Veterans (AMVETS) (www.amvets.org) is a volunteer-led organization, open to anyone who is currently serving or who has honorably served in the U.S. Armed Forces from World War II to the present. AMVETS has assisted veterans and sponsored numerous programs that serve the country and its citizens for over 60 years. Their national network of trained national service officers, accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs, provides advice and prompt action on compensation claims at no charge to the veteran. Additionally, this organization offers professional advice on veterans benefits and is involved with legislative efforts on Capitol Hill. Other AMVETS members contribute to the quality of life in their local communities. Their website features news for veterans, lists of resources, and a career center.

Vietnam Veterans of America

Since 1978, Vietnam Veterans of America (<http://www.vva.org>) has been dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families, through advocacy for all issues important to Vietnam veterans, creation of a positive public perception, community service, pursuit of an accounting for POW/MIAs, and support for the next generation of warriors. A congressionally chartered, not-for-profit corporation, it was founded on the principle, "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another." Their hotline is available 24 hours/day, 7 days/week: 1-800-273-8255.

Veterans for America

Veterans for America (<http://www.veteransforamerica.org>), a nonprofit organization, also known as Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, is an advocacy and humanitarian organization seeking to ensure that the needs of service members and veterans from OIF/OEF are met, focusing on traumatic brain injuries and psychological traumas. Resources include the free 599-page *Survival Guide*, a step-by-step road map for navigating the bureaucracies and services that aid vet-

Table 3
Other Resources for Veterans

Veterans Resource	Description
American Veterans http://www.amvets.org (301) 459-9600	Volunteer-led organization, founded over 60 years ago, to support veterans and provide community service. A network of trained national service officers accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs helps veterans with their benefits. Volunteers also work on legislative issues. Website has links to resources and news updates for veterans.
American Veterans with Brain Injuries http://www.avbi.org	Non-profit organization, begun in 2004 as a web-based peer-support network and information resource to support families of service members and veterans who have suffered Traumatic Brain Injury.
Disabled American Veterans (DAV) http://www.dav.org 877-I AM A Vet (877-426-2838)	A nonprofit organization founded in 1920 to provide free support for veterans and their families. National Service Officers assist veterans in filing claims with the VA, free-of-charge. DAV also educates veterans and their families benefits and services, helps homeless veterans transition to a productive lifestyle, organizes volunteers to drive vets to and from VA medical facilities, offers disaster relief, publishes a magazine, hosts events such as the Winter Sport Clinic, and advocates for legislation for veterans and their benefits.
Military Order of the Purple Heart http://www.purpleheart.org (703) 642-5360	A veteran service organization which assists all veterans—not just members, as well as widows and orphans, with VA claims and appeals, through education and outreach to rural, urban, handicapped, destitute, and homeless veterans.
National Veterans Foundation http://www.nvf.org 1-888-777-4443 (hotline)	A non-profit 24-hour hotline and website staffed by veterans from Vietnam, the Cold War, Desert Storm, Bosnia, Iraq, and Afghanistan who are specially trained in crisis information and referral services, for veterans and their families. Outreach services provide veterans and families in need with food, clothing, transportation, employment, and other resources.
Paralyzed Veterans of America http://www.pva.org 1-800-424-8200	Paralyzed Veterans of America, a Congressionally chartered veterans service organization founded in 1946, seeks to maximize the quality of life for veterans with Spinal Cord Injury and Disease (SCI/D). It advocates for and provides information on SCI/D health issues, SCI/D research and education, veterans benefits and issues, accessible design in architecture and construction, legal issues, sports and recreation.
Segs4Vets http://www.segs4vets.org	A program providing Segways to severely injured veterans through the non-profit organization, Disability Rights Advocates for Technology.
U.S. VETS http://www.usvetsinc.org	Nonprofit organization dedicated to helping homeless and at-risk veterans.
Vets Coming Home http://www.vetscominghome.com	Website offering resources, comfort and aide to veterans who returning home. A clearinghouse with links to books, counseling resources, federal and state agencies, PTSD groups and other veterans groups
Veterans for America http://www.veteransforamerica.org	Nonprofit organization, also known as Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, is an advocacy and humanitarian organization to ensure that the needs of service members and veterans from OIF/OEF are met, focusing on traumatic brain injuries and psychological traumas. Resources include a 599-page Survival Guide to help navigate bureaucracy.
Veterans and Families Foundation http://www.veteransandfamilies.org	A 501(c)(3) nonprofit community service and support organization to aid veterans and their families in the homecoming transition by helping veterans to decompress from war and deployment, both mentally and emotionally, and to transition back into family and civilian life.
Veterans of Modern Warfare http://www.vmwusa.org/	A new, nonprofit, membership organization dedicated to meeting the needs of the most recent war veterans who served from 1990 to present, through benefits access, seamless transitions, healthcare and advocacy. Emphasis is on timely communication and camaraderie.
Vietnam Veterans of America http://www.vva.org hotline: 1-800-273-8255	Since 1978, a congressionally chartered, not-for-profit corporation dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families, through advocacy for all issues important to Vietnam veterans, creation of a positive public perception, serving the community, and support for the next generation of warriors.

erans, as well as advice and strategies for dealing with difficult issues such as harassment and caregiving. Their Wounded Warrior Outreach Program sponsors one-on-one visits by OIF/OEF service-member liaisons to troops suffering from psychological and neurological combat injuries, in order to bring trends to military leaders.

Disabled American Veterans

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) (<http://www.dav.org>) is dedicated to creating better lives for disabled U.S. veterans and their families, through a variety of free services. The DAV's National Service Officers assist and represent veterans in filing claims with the VA—free of charge—for disability compensation and pension, vocational rehabilitation, home loan guaranty, and any other benefit program.

The DAV also educates veterans and their families on benefits and services, helps homeless veterans transition to a productive lifestyle, organizes volunteers to drive vets to and from VA medical facilities, offers disaster relief, publishes *DAV Magazine*, hosts events such as the Winter Sports Clinic, and advocates for legislation for veterans and their benefits.

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Paralyzed Veterans of America (<http://www.nvf.org>), a Congressionally chartered, veterans service organization founded in 1946, seeks to maximize the quality of life for veterans with Spinal Cord Injury and Disease (SCI/D). It advocates for and provides information on SCI/D health issues, SCI/D research and education, veterans benefits and issues, accessible design in architecture and construction, legal issues, sports, and recreation.

Resources for Family Members

Families often require assistance immediately after a member of their family is wounded and may not know where to turn. Participants in the Survey for Prosthetic Use found the following organizations useful for family support. A detailed list for families, including transportation assistance programs, is found in Table 4.

Iraq War Veterans Organization, Inc.

The Iraq War Veterans Organization (<http://www.iraqwarveterans.org>) supports veterans and family members from Operation Iraqi Freedom, Global War on Terror, and Operation Enduring Freedom. Information is provided for active military and their families on pre-deployment, deployment, and post-deployment issues. The website has links to information on VA health care, VA benefits, readjustment after deployment, education, employment, military discounts,

PTSD issues, support-chat forums, family support, and other community-building resources including a "Military Matchmaker."

National Military Family Association

The National Military Family Association (NMFA) (<http://www.nmfa.org>) was organized in 1969 as the National Military Wives Association by a group of wives and widows seeking financial security for survivors of uniformed service personnel and retirees. Their efforts resulted in the Survivor Benefit Plan. Since then, NMFA has been at the forefront of advocacy for improvements in the quality of military family life. NMFA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) association with support from the seven uniformed services and works regularly on common concerns with The Military Coalition, an umbrella organization of thirty-six military-related associations. NMFA educates the public, the military community, and Congress on the rights and benefits of military families and advocates for an equitable quality of life for those families with Congress and DOD agencies. NMFA's accomplishments, in conjunction with The Military Coalition, include improvements to medical and dental benefits, education of dependents, services for military children with autism, military housing allowances, relocation coverage, spousal employment, retiree and survivor benefits.

Resources in the Public Domain

Many public organizations are dedicated to helping wounded service members, veterans, their families, and others with limb loss. Details on a few are described below, with more listed in Table 5.

Amputee Coalition of America

The Amputee Coalition (ACA) (<http://www.amputee-coalition.org/>) of America is a national, nonprofit consumer educational organization representing people who have experienced amputation or are born with limb differences. The ACA network includes amputees, their friends and family, support groups, professionals, limb-loss-related agencies, and educational organizations. The ACA was incorporated in 1989 and is governed by a Board of Directors, the majority of whom are amputees.

The ACA believes that education enables those with limb loss to play a central role in decisions about their care, services, and outcomes, a role that is crucial to achieving their highest potential and self-fulfillment. In order to empower the individual with limb loss, the ACA provides educational resources that include *inMotion* magazine, booklets, fact sheets, videotapes, and *Military in-Step* (in cooperation with the United States Armed Forces Amputee Patient Care Program). Their National Limb Loss Information Center (par-

Table 4
Resources for Family Members

Family Resource	Description
Air Charity Network http://www.aircharitynetwork.org 1-877-621-7177	Air Charity Network™ is a national nonprofit organization that provides free air transportation to distant healthcare facilities or for other crises. Volunteer pilots donate flights through independent member organizations, organized by geographical area.
Family Information Services http://www.familyinfoserv.com/crisis.html	Family Information Services has resources for professionals who help families deal with crises. Website has library on topics such as trauma, death, violence, grief, and talking to children about crises.
Iraq War Veterans Organization http://www.iraqwarveterans.org/family_support.htm	A civilian organization, the Iraq War Veterans Organization was created to organize and represent Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans. The website has links to information about VA healthcare, readjustment after deployment, education, employment, military discounts, PTSD issues, support links, chat forums, family support and deployment information.
Military Family Network http://www.emilitary.org	A private organization that supports military families and increases their readiness and well-being by connecting them with their communities and services.
National Military Family Association http://www.nmfa.org	A civilian nonprofit 501(c)(3) association founded in 1969 with programs to educate military families, the public, and the Congress on the rights and benefits of military families and to advocate an equitable quality of life for those families.
U.S. Family Health Plan http://www.usfhp.com	One of the military health system's healthcare options in seven areas of the country for eligible family members of active duty families, military retirees, and eligible family members.
USA Together https://app01.usatogether.org/	A civilian-based organization uses the power of the internet to help service members who have suffered life-altering injuries. Injured service members register their specific situation with USA Together, and contributors then donate to specific service members through the website.
Veterans Airlift Command http://www.veteransairlift.org 952-582-2911	Nonprofit organization providing free air transportation to wounded service members, veterans and their families for medical and other compassionate needs through a national network of volunteer aircraft owners and pilots. Priority is veterans of OIF/OEF, with other veterans as capacity allows.

tially supported by Center for Disease Control and Prevention) provides resources on diverse topics including surgery, new amputees, statistics, financial help, prosthetics, infection, and helping children cope with parental limb loss. Links direct amputees to other websites, organizations, and prosthetic manufacturers.

The ACA also advocates on behalf of people with limb loss through government legislation, community outreach, and the dissemination of accurate information about the U.S. population of amputees to government, industry, and the general public. ACA promotes full implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act and informs policy makers of the issues of amputees.

The ACA promotes peer support through an online internet bulletin board, a toll-free hotline, guidelines for starting support groups, and a National Peer Network. A database of trained and experienced peers enable connections by phone, fax, e-mail, postal service, or personal visits. The ACA provides training seminars to develop the objectivity, listening skills, and appropriate techniques that will enhance the possibility

of successful communication. Trained peers are usually people with limb loss who have transitioned successfully to their new life. In addition, the ACA works collaboratively with support groups to provide peer training, training manuals, funding sources, and educational materials.

Wounded Warrior Project

The purpose of the non-profit organization, Wounded Warrior Project (<http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org>), is to honor and empower wounded warriors by raising public awareness and support for the needs of severely injured service members, helping wounded service members to aid and assist each other, and providing programs and services such as career planning, family services, a rehabilitative cycling program, transition training, and advocating for positive changes in veterans benefits and policy. Their core values are fun, integrity, loyalty, innovation, and service.

Table 5*Resources for People with Limb Loss in the Public Domain*

Limb Loss Resource	Description
Above Knee Amputee http://abovekneeamputee.com	Website maintained by above-the-knee amputees and their friends to help above-knee amputees achieve success with their prosthesis and related issues. Support includes dealing with emotional issues, message boards, links, and tips. Membership provides access to the prosthetist rating page.
Active Living Magazine http://www.activelivingmagazine.com	Active Living Magazine features articles on adapted activities, travel resources, and tools for maintaining an active life with an amputation or other disability. Requires subscription.
Adaptive Sports Foundation http://www.adaptivesportsfoundation.org/	Nonprofit organization which, since 1984, has provided both winter and summer sports instruction to children and adults with cognitive and physical disabilities.
American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists http://www.oandp.org	For-profit trade association founded in 1970 assisting orthotic and prosthetic facilities, manufacturers, and suppliers. Membership required, but Journal of Orthotics and Prosthetics is available at this site.
American Amputee Foundation http://www.americanamputee.org/	Nonprofit educational organization, established in 1975 as a national information clearinghouse and referral center serving amputees, their families, and care providers. Some of the information is free; newsletter and additional information available to members only.
American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association http://www.aopanet.org	For-profit national trade association founded in 1917 with services and products for orthotic and prosthetic professionals. Requires membership.
Amputee Coalition of America http://www.amputee-coalition.org/ 1-800-267-5669	A national, nonprofit, consumer educational organization representing people who have experienced amputation or are born with limb differences and empowering them through educational resources, legislative advocacy, and a National Peer Network. Resources include inMotion magazine, limb loss news, the National Limb Loss Information Center, booklets, fact sheets, videotapes, online internet bulletin board, toll-free hotline, peer training, and links to other websites, organizations, and prosthetic manufacturers
Amputee Coalition of America—en español http://www.amputee-coalition.org/nllic_spanish.asp	Same information as Amputee Coalition website, but offered in Spanish.
The Amputee Network http://homepage.mac.com/birdhousestudios/AmputeeNetwork.htm	Website to educate amputees, their families and friends, with the primary objective of helping with prosthetic rehabilitation. Site offers stories of amputees, a blog, and monthly featured links.
Amputee Resource Foundation of America, Inc. http://www.amputeeresource.org/	Non-profit, web-based information resource funded through public donations with resource links, articles, tips for finding a prosthetist, published articles, and a link to "Amputees in Hollywood."
Arm-Amp.Com http://www.arm-amp.com	A website run by people with upper limb amputations, featuring profiles of people with upper limb amputations, tips, suggestions, chat room, and links.
Arm Amputee Program, National Rehabilitation Hospital http://nrhrehab.org/Patient+Care/Programs+and+Service+Offerings/Outpatient+Services/Service_Page.aspx?id=121 202-877-1875	A private, nonprofit program providing prosthetic training for service members with upper limb amputations in the District of Columbia.
The Care Planner Network http://www.careplanners.net/index.asp	A nonprofit organization dedicated for professionals in life planning and case management.
Challenged Athletes Foundation http://www.challengedathletes.org (858) 866-0959	A unique nonprofit organization, established in 1997, to help people with disabilities pursue an active lifestyle through physical fitness and to support the athletic greatness inherent in all people with physical challenges through grants for training, competition and equipment needs. Operation Rebound specifically supports service members and veterans.

Table 5 (Continued)*Resources for People with Limb Loss in the Public Domain***Limb Loss Resource****Description**

Charleston Amputee Support Team http://www.charlestonamputeesupportteam.com	Civilian support team for amputees in the Charleston, South Carolina area, offering support group meetings, events, and links to other services available; part of Amputee Coalition of America.
Digital Resource Foundation for the Orthotics and Prosthetics Community http://www.drpop.org	Nonprofit organization with a mission to develop computer-based information resources and communication for the worldwide orthotics, prosthetics and rehabilitation community. Online resources are a Humanitarian Database connecting communities of need with the professionals and organizations that can help and a Virtual Library of orthotics and prosthetics reference materials, available free to users worldwide.
Disabled Sports USA http://www.dsusa.org	A nonprofit, 501(c)(3), organization established in 1967 by disabled Vietnam veterans to serve the war injured through community-based chapters offering a variety of recreation programs to anyone with a permanent disability. Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project supports severely wounded service members from the Iraq and Afghanistan conflict and the Global War on Terrorism.
Fashion Magic Apparel http://www.fashionmagic.bc.ca	For-profit company selling custom clothes to fit with a wheelchair or with specific needs of people with limb loss.
The Given Limb Foundation http://www.givenlimb.org	Nonprofit organization established in 2007 to help improve the lives of persons throughout the world with limb loss or diminished use of their limbs, from service members to victims of land mines. Supports new initiatives, including a tool kit for minor repairs for prosthetic devices.
Helping a Hero http://www.helpingahero.org/ 1-888-786-9531	Nonprofit organization, providing support for severely injured military personnel. Scholarship support, new homes, recreational, etc.
Hemipelvectomy and Hip-Disarticulation Amputee Support http://www.hphdhelp.org/	Private, voluntary site for support of people with hip disarticulation and hemipelvectomies through peer support/communication, physical fitness, education, hints, and prosthetic/adaptive-technology information.
Mix Match Shoes http://www.mixmatchshoes.com/	For-profit company selling single shoes or a pair of shoes in different sizes.
National Amputee Golf Association http://www.nagagolf.org	Association started by twelve WWII amputees, incorporated in 1954, and supported by the Professional Golf Association and the U.S. Golf Association. Sponsors golf programs such as First Swing to teach adaptive golf to people with physical disabilities, brings golf to rehabilitation centers and hospitals for amputees, organizes tournaments, and publishes a magazine.
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/tbi	U.S. government (National Institutes of Health) website with information and links on traumatic brain injury, including educational booklets, publications, organizations, research, and clinical trials.
National Limb Loss Center http://www.amputee-coalition.org/nllic_about.html	See "Amputee Coalition of America" above.
National Peer Network http://www.amputee-coalition.org/npn_about.html 1-888-267-5669	See "Amputee Coalition of America" above. A peer network to connect people with limb loss with trained peers and support groups.
O&P Digital Technologies http://www.oandp.com	Website providing comprehensive information and services for orthotics and prosthetics professionals, focusing on web/software development and new technologies.
O&P Online Library http://www.oandplibary.org	Virtual library for orthotics and prosthetics community in partnership with O&P Digital Technologies.
Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing http://projecthealingwaters.org	Nonprofit organization which introduces fly fishing to service members and veterans with disabilities to aid in their physical and emotional recovery.

Table 5 (Continued)*Resources for People with Limb Loss in the Public Domain***Limb Loss Resource****Description**

Team River Runners http://www.teamriverrunner.org	Nonprofit, all-volunteer organization, established in 2004 by kayakers in the Washington, DC area to help active-duty military and veterans find health, healing, and new challenges through whitewater boating on the Potomac River, in partnership with The Wounded Warrior Project and Disabled Sports USA.
Warriors & Quiet Water Foundation http://warriorsandquietwaters.org	Nonprofit corporation providing rehabilitative recreation through flyfishing on Montana's rivers and streams primarily for wounded service members still in the military hospital system.
Wounded Warrior Outreach Program http://www.veteransforamerica.org/our-programs/	Wounded Warrior Outreach Program, run by the Veterans for America nonprofit organization, sponsors one-on-one visits by OIF/OEF service-member liaisons to troops suffering from psychological and neurological combat injuries, in order to bring trends to military leaders.
Wounded Warrior Project http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org	Wounded Warrior Project is a nonprofit organization that empowers severely injured service members through peer support, community involvement and awareness, and programs and services such as career planning, family services, a rehabilitative cycling program, transition training, and advocating for positive changes in veterans benefits and policy.

Conclusion

This paper presents examples of the wide selection of resources available to support service members, veterans, and their families who are experiencing the challenges involved in recovering from major limb loss. A large variety of military and veterans benefits and organizations are available that assist in healthcare, transportation, housing and automobile modifications, emotional support, exploration of innovative prosthetic device technologies, recreation, and community building. It is hoped that this paper acts as a portal for service members, veterans, and their families to find the support they may need and to realize the wide diversity of resources that are available to them.

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The resources named in this article are recommended by the participants of the *Survey for Prosthetic Use* and by members of the Expert Panel. Our focus is government, voluntary, and nonprofit agencies. We recognize that these resources are dynamic and ever changing, and that this list is not exhaustive. Inclusion of any organization or website in this paper does not constitute official endorsement by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Department of Defense (DOD), or any of the authors, and is for informational purposes only.

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Endnotes

Abbreviations:

ACA = Amputee Coalition of America
 ACAP = Army Career and Alumni Program
 AMVETS = American Veterans
 AW2 = Army Wounded Warrior Program
 DAV = Disabled American Veterans
 DOD = Department of Defense
 DTAP = Disabled Transition Assistance Program
 NMFA = National Military Family Association
 OEF = Operation Enduring Freedom
 OIF = Operation Iraqi Freedom
 PTSD = Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
 SCI/D = Spinal Cord Injury and Disease
 VA = Department of Veterans Affairs

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