



# Alabama Executive Veterans Network Commission

Ala**Vet**Net

**Honor. Family. Community.**

*Opening Doors for Alabama Servicemembers,  
Veterans and their Families*



# Alabama Executive Veterans Network

## AlaVetNet

### □ Governor's Executive Order 42

**On December 30, 2013, Governor Robert Bentley created the Alabama Executive Veterans Network Commission through Executive Order 42, which commits Alabama to providing the best possible services to our Nation's Servicemembers, Veterans and their Families.**



# Alabama Executive Veterans Network

## AlaVetNet

### □ Purpose

**To leverage existing network resources and to explore opportunities to expand service capacity to Servicemembers, Veterans and their Families.**



# Alabama Executive Veterans Network

## AlaVetNet

### □ VISION

**A community centric solution developed through collaboration whereby state, federal, city, county and local entities partner and exponentially impact support to Servicemembers, Veterans and their Families.**

### □ MISSION

**Maximize the collective impact of community resources (civilian and government) to Servicemembers, Veterans and Families in order to build resilience and foster a Community Network that is both sustainable and relevant.**





# Alabama Executive Veterans Network

## AlaVetNet

□ **AlaVetNet is comprised of 18 State Agencies.**

- Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs
- Alabama Department of Mental Health
- Alabama National Guard
- Alabama Department of Labor
- Alabama Department of Education
- Alabama Department of Corrections
- Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
- Alabama Department of Post Secondary Education
- Alabama Commission on Higher Education
- Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services
- Alabama Department of Public Health
- Alabama Medicaid Agency
- Alabama Law Enforcement Agency
- Alabama Department of Human Resources
- Alabama Department of Transportation
- Office of the Chief Justice
- Office of the Attorney General
- Serve Alabama



# Alabama Executive Veterans Network

## AlaVetNet

□ AlaVetNet is a coordinated system of services focusing on the following key areas:

- Health
- Education
- Employment
- Homelessness
- Legal Assistance
- Family Services



# Alabama Executive Veterans Network

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### □ Strategic Plan

**To enhance the state's ability and desire to meet the needs of its Servicemembers, Veterans and their Families by increasing access to services by closing gaps in the system, building the system's capacity, increasing interagency communication, collaboration and incorporating evidence-based best practices.**





# Alabama Statistics



**Deployments**



**Unemployment**



**PTSD/TBI**



**Incarceration**



**Homelessness**



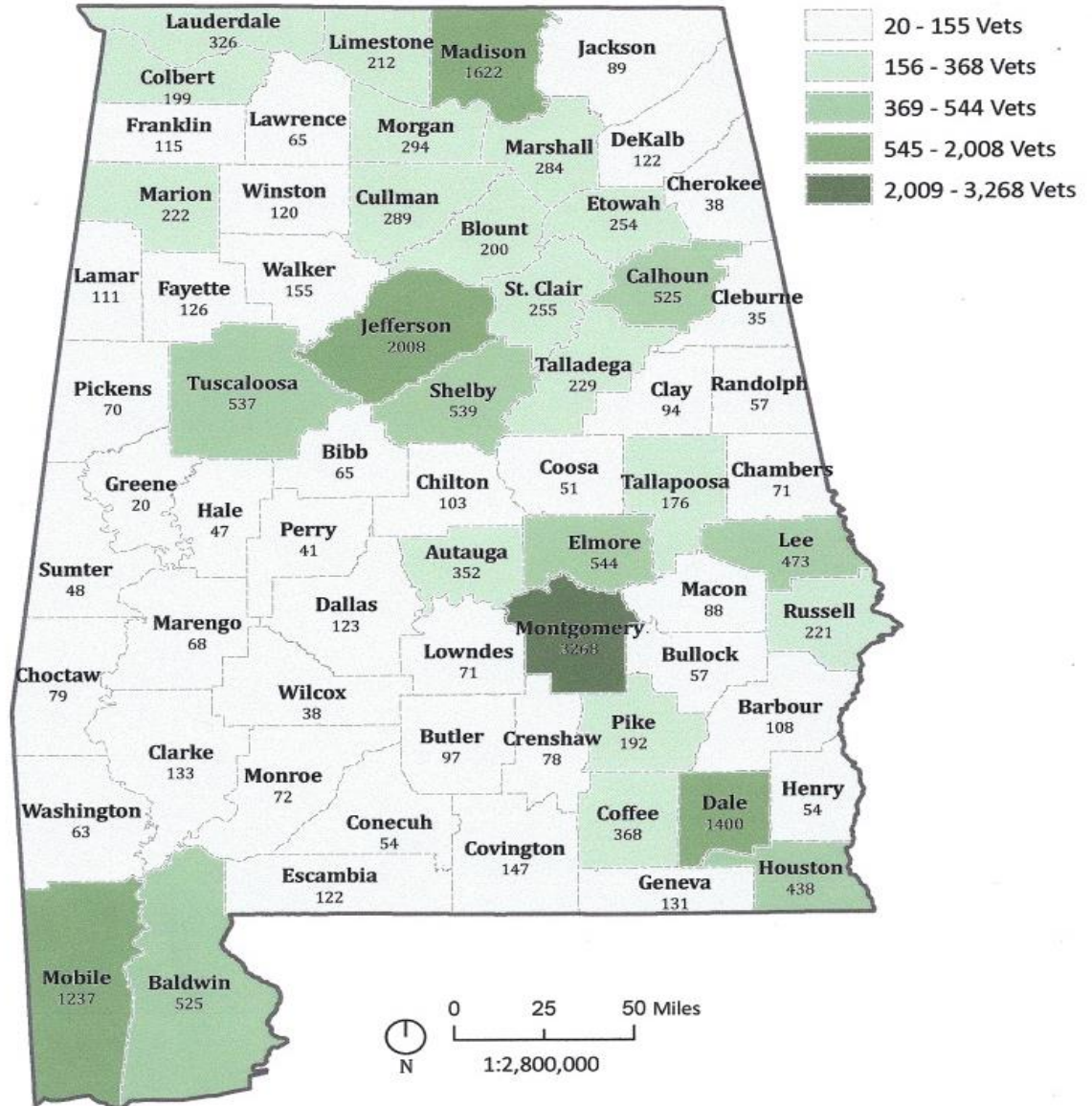


## **Veteran Snapshot – Alabama**

- ❑ **Deployed – 20,471 (3,546 Active Duty; 11,337 National Guard; 5,688 Reserve)**
- ❑ **Dependents - 85,186 (35,684 Active Duty; 49,502 Reserve/National Guard)**
- ❑ **33% (one-third) reported divorce, dangerous driving, increased substance use, and increased anger control problems since deployment.**
- ❑ **Spouse Abuse – 6,767 (2008); 7,476 (2009); 8,411 (2010)**
- ❑ **Child Abuse – Incidents per 1000 children. 4.8 (2008); 4.8 (2009); 5.7 (2010).**



### Estimated # of Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans Deployed by County Since September 2001

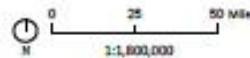
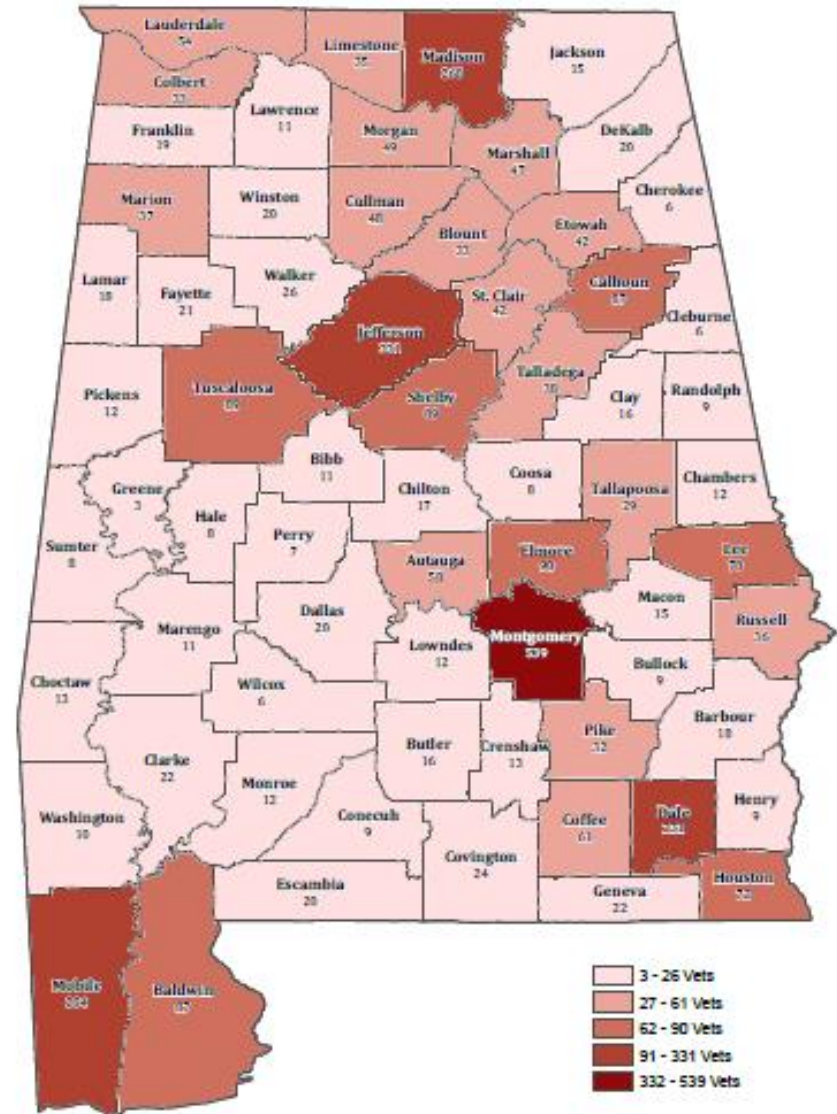


An Estimated 20,500 OIF/OEF Veterans are reintegrating back into Alabama communities.



**PTSD Estimate (2001-2013)**  
**16.5% of Total Veterans**  
**Per County (3,373 Veterans)**

**Estimated # of Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans Deployed by County with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder\***



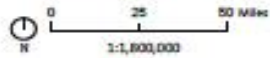
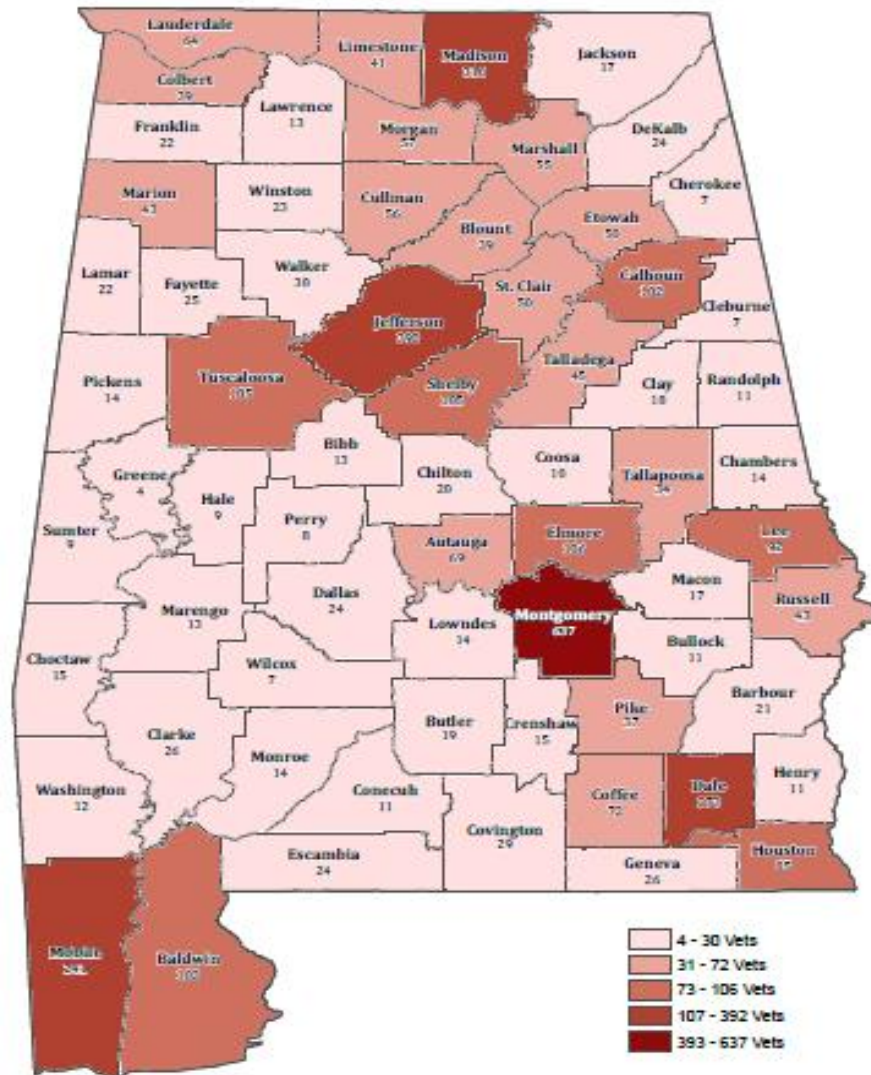
\* PTSD Estimate - 16.5% of Total Veterans per County  
 Reference: Treatment for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder  
 in Military and Veteran Populations Initial Assessment,  
 Institute of Medicine, July 2012





**TBI Estimate (2001-2013)**  
**19.5% of Total Veterans per**  
**County ( 3,997 Veterans)**

**Estimated # of Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans  
 Deployed by County with Probable Traumatic Brain Injury\***

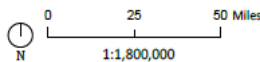
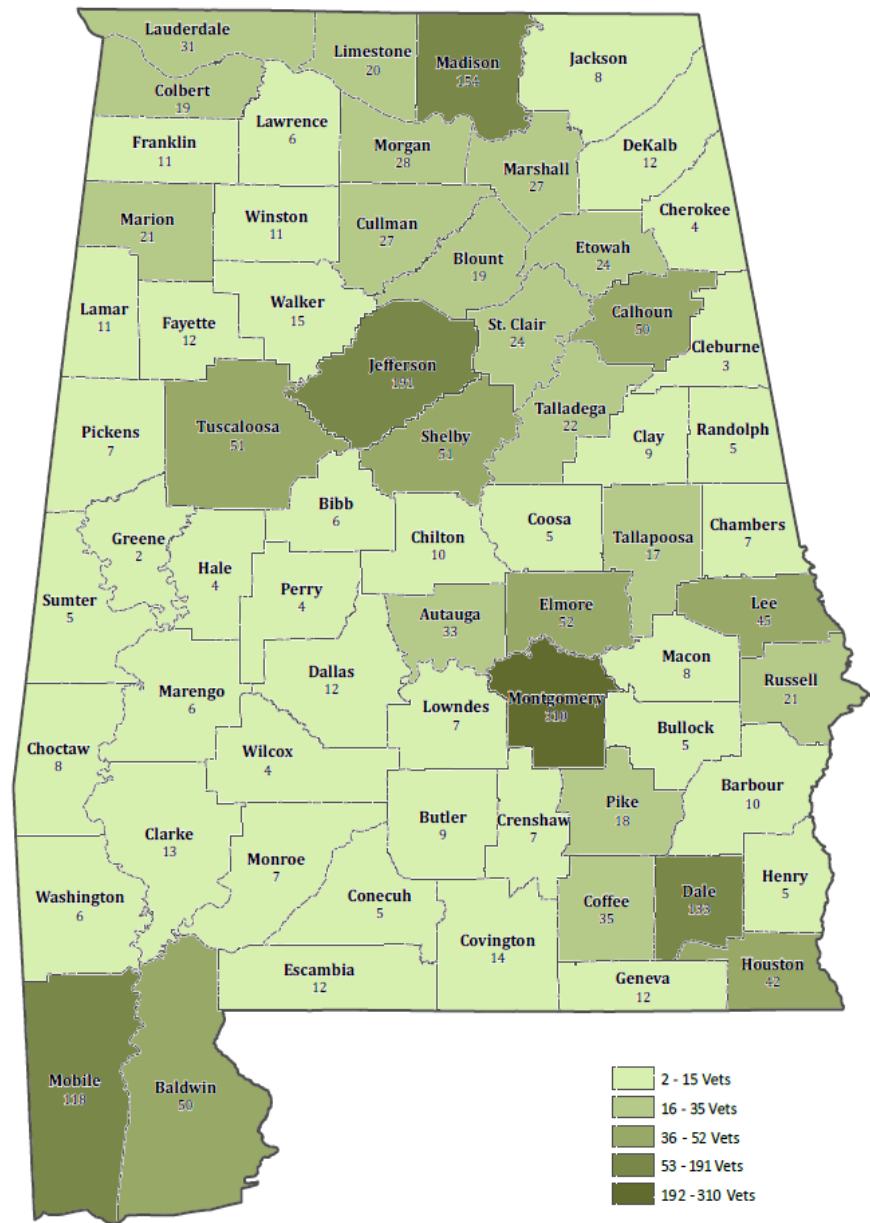


\*TBI estimate - 19.5% of Total Veterans per County  
 Reference: Tarlehan, T., Jaycox, L. Invisible Wounds of War: Psychological and Cognitive Injuries, their Consequences and Services to Assist Recovery, Rand Corporation, 2008





## Unemployment Estimate 7.6% of Total Veterans Per County



\*Unemployment estimate - 9.5% of Total Veterans per County



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- Based on an ADVA Feasibility Study, Alabama has an estimated **750** Homeless Veterans.



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### Incarcerated Veterans

- According to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), 8% to 10% of America's prison population are Veterans.
- Alabama's total state prison population is 31,115. Based on BJA's estimate, some 2,489 to 3,100 Veterans are incarcerated in Alabama state prisons. (Does not account for veterans incarcerated in county/city jails, or federal prisons in Alabama.)



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### Goals and Objectives

- ❑ **Expand the Alabama Veterans Treatment Court Program**
- ❑ **Provide Pro Bono Legal Assistance to Veterans and their Families**
- ❑ **Reduce Veterans Unemployment to below 5%**
- ❑ **Establish a Coordinated Access System of Homeless Veteran Services**
- ❑ **Partner with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Mental Health Summits in 2014 and Beyond**
- ❑ **Host the “Gateway of Hope” Conference September 2014**
- ❑ **Host Employer and Small Veteran Business Outreach Summit in 2015**
- ❑ **Develop an 24/7 Service Resource for Servicemembers, Veterans and their Families through Connect Alabama 211**
- ❑ **Support the Integration of Services in Every County Through the Alabama County Extension Services**





# Alabama Executive Veterans Network

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### Executive & Legislative Considerations

- ❑ **Encourage New Industry to Set a Veteran Employee Percentage of 12% or higher**
- ❑ **Create a Governor's Veterans Friendly Employer Recognition Award Program**
- ❑ **Establish a Veteran Promotion Point System for Disabled Veterans Employed by the State**
- ❑ **Offer In-State Tuition to all Student Veterans and Encourage Neighboring States to Offer the Same Education Benefit**
- ❑ **Promote and Encourage the Establishment of Student Veteran Centers on Alabama College and University Campuses**



# Alabama Executive Veterans Network

## AlaVetNet

**“Alabama is a strong pro-military state, and it is important to help our military members whenever we can. These brave men and women will return home to their families, and we owe it to them to help ease their return into their communities. AlaVetNet will work to address ways to streamline the access of services for military members, veterans and their families in key areas. Because of the sacrifice of those who serve our country, we can continue to live in a free society.”**

**Governor Robert Bentley**



# QUESTIONS?





# AlaVetNet

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