



Creative Forces: NEA Military Healing Arts Network is a partnership of the **National Endowment for the Arts** and the **Department of Defense** that serves the unique and special needs of military patients and veterans who have been diagnosed with traumatic brain injury and psychological health conditions, as well as their families and caregivers.

Creative Forces

- places creative arts therapies at the core of patient-centered care in military medical facilities
- makes community arts programming available in the states or regions where clinical sites are operating
- invests in research on the impacts and benefits of these innovative treatment methods

CLINICAL

The NEA is providing funding for creative arts therapists including, art and music therapists, and creative writing instructors, as well as program support at 12 military medical facilities located throughout the country. In these clinical settings, creative arts therapists work with military patients and veterans who have been diagnosed with traumatic brain injury and psychological health conditions.

COMMUNITY

The NEA is working closely with its network of state, local, and regional arts agencies and nonprofit partners in each state or region where clinical sites are located to develop community-based arts programs that allow patients to continue exploring art practices as part of their healing process. In addition to military service members, these programs will be available for veterans, families, and caregivers to access arts programming.

CAPACITY

The NEA is creating an online toolkit and resources to help communities understand how to support service members, veterans, and their families through arts programming. This includes guidance on how to build deeper connections across civilian and military populations. The NEA is also investing in research on the impacts – biological, psycho-social, behavioral, and economic – of these arts-based interventions.

**As of October 25, 2016,
these are the Creative
Forces clinical sites:**

- National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE) Walter Reed, MD
- Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER), AK
- Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, CA
- Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, NC
- Fort Hood, TX
- Fort Belvoir, VA
- Madigan Army Medical Center, WA

BENEFITS OF HEALING ARTS

Surveys and evaluations at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE) Walter Reed Bethesda showed that

- 85% of military patients said art therapy was helpful to their healing
- 79% of military patients who attended one music therapy group requested follow-up music therapy sessions

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

As part of the NEA's mission to increase access to the arts for all Americans, Creative Forces enables more service members, veterans, and military families to benefit from creative arts therapies and community arts activities. Americans for the Arts is working with the NEA to provide administrative support for Creative Forces.

The NEA has been collaborating with the Department of Defense for more than a decade, offering creative writing workshops, performing arts programs, the Blue Star Museums military appreciation program, grant funding for projects that reach veterans, and the current Creative Forces: NEA Military Healing Arts Network initiative.

