

## Getting Started with a Military Ministry

1. Work with clergy, Vestry and interested parishioners to prayerfully discern your congregation's call to military ministry. Consider:
  - Your local context and proximity to military members/veterans
  - Your existing strengths and resources
  - The activities/ministries you already have in place that may apply (i.e. Prayers of the People, Daughters of the King, Bible studies, Vacation Bible School, etc.)
2. Identify the military/veterans in your congregation or those with connections to the military (parents, grandparents, etc.). What are their needs?
3. Identify the military units and medical facilities, including veteran nursing homes, in your community; for help talk to your county's Veteran Services Office, and the local American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars about needs in your community.
4. Add the military to your Prayers of the People.
5. Use the Military Ministry Diocesan Calendar to identify days or months to specifically recognize the military/veterans and associated family members; e.g. Memorial Day.
6. Review the Military Ministry section of the DWTX webpage, especially the Military Ministry Toolkit, which offers a number of ideas for ministry.
7. Read the Military Ministry Diocesan newsletter; contact MMCPs in other churches who are doing things you find interesting.
8. Develop your ministry; consider these suggestions:
  - Adopt a clear purpose statement
  - Set specific, measurable goals
  - Identify projects
  - Get the congregation involved
  - Build community partnerships
9. Educate yourself and your church on moral injury and post-traumatic stress disorder; consider:
  - Reading *Post-Traumatic God: How the Church Cares for People Who Have Been to Hell and Back* by Episcopal priest, the Reverend David W. Peters, or:
  - *Soul Repair: Recovering from Moral Injury after War* by Rita Nakashima Brock
  - Visiting the Department of Veterans Affairs' National Center for PTSD website to learn about post-traumatic stress disorder (<https://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/index.asp>)
10. Contact the Military Ministry Diocesan Committee for support, facilitating discussions within your congregation, and other assistance.