

**STATEMENT OF**  
**DANA DiGIACOMO**  
**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**  
**REENTRY SERVICES DIVISION**  
**FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS**  
**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**BEFORE THE**  
**UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

**AT A HEARING ENTITLED**

***"PROGRAMS FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED VETERANS"***

**PRESENTED**  
**APRIL 15, 2026**

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Chairman Moran, Ranking Member Blumenthal, and distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on behalf of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) regarding efforts to support incarcerated veterans.

BOP appreciates the Committee's continued interest in ensuring incarcerated veterans receive appropriate services, programming, and reentry support.

BOP recognizes that veterans represent a distinct population within the federal correctional system. BOP currently houses approximately 7,652 veterans, many of whom experience service-related physical and mental health challenges, as well as difficulties transitioning from military to civilian life.

This population spans all security levels, with the majority classified as low- and medium-security offenders. Many maintain strong family connections, and a high percentage have attained a high school diploma or its equivalent. These characteristics underscore both the needs and the potential of this population, reinforcing the importance of targeted programming and reentry planning.

BOP's efforts are guided by Program Statement 5242.01, *Management of Inmate Veterans*, which establishes the framework for identifying, tracking, and supporting incarcerated veterans.

Veteran identification begins at intake, where staff verify service history through available documentation, including presentence investigation reports and military discharge records. This information is entered into BOP systems and maintained within a centralized veterans database, allowing for consistent tracking and service delivery across institutions.

BOP utilizes a structured, three-tiered service delivery model to support incarcerated veterans throughout their time in federal custody.

Tier One services provide self-help resources and informational support in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). These services assist veterans in understanding and accessing benefits, including healthcare and compensation programs. Institutions also facilitate Compensation and Pension examinations to determine eligibility for service-connected benefits.

Tier Two services expand this support through structured outpatient workshops and support groups. These groups are designed to meet weekly or periodically throughout the quarter, depending on the facility, and cover a range of needs, from physical wellness to resilience training. Examples include Soldier On Peer Support Groups, Service Fit Wellness Groups, and Veterans Resilience Support Groups. These services are particularly impactful in facilities with larger veteran populations, ensuring participants can build peer networks, share experiences, and develop skills that will serve them both during incarceration and beyond.

Tier Three services represent the most intensive level of support through the Veterans Education Transitional Services Unit. This residential program provides a structured, community-based environment focused on education, skill development, and peer engagement. Facilities such as the federal correctional institution in Englewood, Colorado, and the developing unit at the federal correctional institution in Seagoville, Texas, demonstrate BOP's commitment to expanding these efforts.

BOP requires staff training on the unique needs of incarcerated veterans, including military culture, available benefits, and service delivery expectations. Institutions are responsible for ensuring veterans have access to appropriate resources and reentry planning support.

Collaboration is a cornerstone of this work. BOP partners closely with the VA and the Department of Labor. Through memoranda of understanding and coordinated efforts, these agencies provide reentry outreach, compensation examinations, career training, and supportive services. These partnerships allow veterans to access resources that not only address their immediate needs but also help them plan for long-term success. The goal is clear: to ensure that every veteran, regardless of their current circumstances, has access to the support and guidance they need to reintegrate successfully, pursue meaningful employment, and continue contributing to their communities. Veterans transitioning to residential reentry centers or home confinement also are provided opportunities to engage with VA representatives to ensure continuity of care and access to benefits upon release.

In addition, veteran-specific programming furthers the goals of the First Step Act by encouraging participation in recidivism-reduction programs and productive activities, strengthening support networks, and improving reentry outcomes.

Veterans Treatment Court Programs are routinely utilized by state, local, and tribal jurisdictions to treat substance use disorders as well as post-traumatic stress and other mental health disorders for justice-involved veterans. While BOP does not have a role in these programs, the continuity of care throughout the criminal justice system is key, and BOP is supportive of such treatment. BOP offers both substance use and mental health treatment for all inmates in its custody, including veterans. This voluntary participation is frequently based on judicial recommendations, and BOP is always happy to engage in initiatives to continue the work initiated in Veterans Treatment Courts.

Supporting incarcerated veterans is both a policy priority and a serious responsibility. BOP remains committed to ensuring individuals in our custody have access to the tools, resources, and support necessary to successfully return to their communities.

BOP appreciates the opportunity to provide this written statement and looks forward to continued collaboration with the Committee on these important efforts.