



Bexar County Commissioners Court

San Antonio, Texas 78205
210.335.2555 | 210.335.2926/fax

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Contact: Monica Ramos
210.335.2742/o
210.289.5751/m

MEDIA RELEASE

Bexar County to create Military Transition Center

Bexar County has announced plans for the creation of a Military Transition Center in efforts to improve our services to the ones who serve us. The County's Military Transition Center (BCMTC) will provide one year transitioning and acclimation services to not only veterans but also to a members of the military preparing to exit the armed forces, a key population that is most under served.

In a partnership with our local military leaders, Bexar County will station Military Service Officers (MSOs) inside the gates of local facilities. These officers will contact outgoing members of the military approximately six months before discharge to assist with job placement, education, housing, health, and other needs as requested. The MSO will follow up with each veteran with a monthly contact to track the progress against milestones.

Precinct 3 County Commissioner Kevin Wolff stated, "This bold new plan gets to the heart of the issue. As a veteran myself, I remember all too well the difficulties of transitioning to civilian life, applying for a job, finding an apartment and such. This office will help to address those issues before they separate from the military so they have those tools in place when they step foot outside those gates."

The BCMTC aims to assist existing case management non-profit organizations and other veteran service providers by increasing the efficiency and accessibility of their services. BCMTC will be located off base and staffed with an Executive Director and 10 MSOs. Bexar County's existing Veterans Service Office will integrate into this new structure.

Precinct 2 County Commissioner Paul Elizondo, who championed the need for this office and helped to secure the funding approval stated, "As a former Marine, I hold my fellow service members in the highest regard. They have risked their lives for us and deserve no less than the very best when their time of service comes to an end."

"I always have and always will do whatever I can to assist our dedicated military men and women to gain access to all the benefits and services they deserve," concluded Commissioner Elizondo.

Bexar County's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 has allocated approximately \$250,000 for this program. The program will take effect at the start of the fiscal year, October 1, 2017.

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