

Most returning soldiers readjust after a few months. But the general estimated that at least 20 percent turned to heavy drinking or drugs—typically “the first signal that there is something wrong.”

Across the military, the precise dimensions of the problem are elusive, especially since the different branches largely keep their own statistics. Many studies do not distinguish between servicemembers who have seen battle and those who have not. What is more, behavior becomes far harder to track when servicemembers leave the military.

Even so, a variety of surveys, as well as anecdotal evidence and rising alarm in many military communities, indicate growing substance abuse among recent combat veterans. Of particular concern are members of the National Guard and reserves, as well as recently discharged servicemembers, who can lose their bearings outside the camaraderie and structure of the military.

In the Army, which has the bulk of the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Pentagon's most recent survey of health-related behavior, conducted in 2005 but released last year, found that for the first time in more than 20 years, roughly a quarter of soldiers surveyed considered themselves regular heavy drinkers—defined as having five or more drinks at least once a week. The report called the increase—to 24.5 percent in 2005, from 17.2 percent in 1998—“an issue of concern.”

Perhaps the best monitor of recent combat veterans' mental health is the Pentagon's postdeployment survey. Reflecting concern about heavy drinking, the latest report, published last November, introduced a question about drinking habits. Of the 88,235 soldiers surveyed in 2005 and 2006, three to six months after returning from war, 12 percent of active-duty troops and 15 percent of reservists acknowledged having problems with alcohol.

While drug use decreased substantially after 1980, when the military cracked down, it has increased slightly in the Army and the Marines since 2002, the behavioral survey said. Experts say that, in some cases, troubled combat veterans are more prone to use drugs after leaving the military.

In general, studies find that drinking is more prevalent in the military than in the civilian population; the behavioral survey reported that heavy drinking among 18- to 25-9-year-old men in the Army and the Marines was almost twice as common as among their civilian counterparts.

Heavy drinking or drug use frequently figures in what law enforcement officials and commanders at military bases across the country say is a rising number of crimes and other examples of misconduct involving soldiers, marines and recent veterans.

“Alcohol and drug use starts a cascade of worse problems,” said Dr. McCormick, the task force member, who recently retired as director of mental health for the state veterans affairs system in Ohio. “It's like throwing gasoline on fire.”

Most cases involve low-level misconduct. From 2005 to 2006, for example, “alcohol-related incidents”—mostly drunken or reckless driving and disorderly conduct—more than tripled at Fort Hood, Tex., according to information released to the Pentagon task force. Other statistics showed a similar pattern throughout the Army, a task force member said.

The Marines, filled with young men drawn by the corps' hard-charging image, have traditionally had the military's highest drinking rates. While the behavior survey showed a slight decrease in heavy drinking after

2002, it showed an increase in binge drinking. The Marines also reported a rise in alcohol-related incidents.

Sometimes, though, substance abuse becomes a factor in major crimes. This year, a New York Times examination of killings in this country by veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan found that drinking or drug use was frequently involved in the crimes.

34TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATING THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 2008

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate the 34th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus.

On July 20, 1974, Turkish military forces invaded the island of Cyprus in violation of international law. Turkish troops occupied the northern part of Cyprus, and established a heavily-armed force that continues to control nearly 37 percent of the island. As a result of the illegal Turkish invasion and occupation, nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots were forcibly expelled from their homes and approximately 5,000 Cypriots were killed. On today's anniversary of the invasion, we mourn those who lost their lives in the invasion, and condemn the ongoing occupation.

Just as Congress recognizes the anniversary of the Turkish invasion we must come together and support the Cypriot goal of reunification under a single internationally recognized government, a government that has its own international personality, and respects human and fundamental freedoms for all Cypriots. We must condemn the illegal invasion and work towards stopping the ongoing military occupation that is a gross violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Cypriots.

I am encouraged by the recent partnership expressed by Greek President Christofias and the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mr. Mehmet Talat. The opening of Ledra Street in Nicosia, a key thoroughfare through the last divided capital, and the progress made in the July 8 agreement, which calls for the implementation of specific confidence-building measures such as establishing bicomunal working groups and technical committees to examine and discuss issues affecting the day-to-day lives of the people of Cyprus, have been outstanding. A great deal more, however, must be done.

Again, I would like to express my support for the continued efforts to find a solution to this ongoing conflict and hope to see a unified Cyprus in the near future.

TRIBUTE TO VICE ADMIRAL PAUL E. SULLIVAN

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Vice Admiral Paul E. Sul-

livan, United States Navy, who is retiring after more than 34 years of faithful service to our nation, culminating in his service as the 41st Commander of the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA).

A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Sullivan held several key leadership positions over the course of his distinguished career, including the NAVSEA Deputy Commander for Ship Design Integration and Engineering, the Program Manager for the *Virginia*-class Submarine Program, and the Program Manager for the SEAWOLF Submarine Program. He also served aboard USS *Detector*, at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, at the Supervisor of Shipbuilding Conversion and Repair in Connecticut, at the Program Executive Office for Submarines, and on the staff of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition.

Vice Admiral Sullivan's initiative, vision and wise counsel were of extraordinary value to the Department of the Navy, during a period of drastic global change. Leading the Navy's largest Echelon II Command, he oversaw 53,000 employees and reformed NAVSEA's business practices to align a \$29 billion annual budget with the Navy's top priorities.

A leader in the acquisition community, Sullivan adeptly stewarded NAVSEA's associated Program Executive Offices through the design, contracting, construction, testing, and delivery of the *San Antonio*-class Amphibious Transport Dock program, the *Virginia*-class submarine program, the *Freedom*-class Littoral Combat Ship program, the *Lewis and Clark*-class Dry Cargo Ammunition program, the *Zumwalt*-class DDG 1000 program, the *Gerald R. Ford*-class Next Generation Carrier program and the USS *George H.W. Bush*.

Under his leadership in fleet maintenance, 13 aircraft carriers, 46 submarines, and 4 large surface ships were delivered back to the fleet after being overhauled in naval shipyards, and over 140 private sector availabilities on surface combatants were completed.

A champion of the importance of diversity, he implemented an entirely new command-wide policy, including new outreach, hiring practices and mentoring programs. He also instituted a scholarship program at Historically Black Colleges and Universities with a steady state enrollment of 44 students. In recognition of his efforts, he was presented the Navy Human Resources Equal Employment Opportunity Nathaniel Stinson Award.

It is through the commitment and sacrifice of Americans like Vice Admiral Sullivan that our nation is able to continue upon the path of democracy and strive for the betterment of mankind. I am proud, Madam Speaker, to thank him and his family for his honorable service to our nation in the United States Navy. I wish him “fair winds and following seas” as he concludes a distinguished naval career.