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Sharon Einbinder of Rockaway Township, a former Marine who served in Iraq, suffers from the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder, including panic attacks, hallucinations and sleepwalking. BOB KARP/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BATTLES RAGE FOR MANY

Jobs, health effects of war concern veterans

By Lorraine Ash @LorraineVAsh

This week, the Daily Record examines the difficulties tens of thousands of veterans face, from health issues to job searches, after returning from war. ¶ Marine Corps Chief Warrant Officer 2 Sharon Einbinder knew something was wrong a day after she returned home in 2006 from a six-month tour in Iraq. ¶ After arriving at Norfolk, Virginia, with her unit, HMM-774, a medium helicopter squadron, she drove seven hours overnight to her apartment in Rockaway Township. ¶ “I swear to God, I kissed my stairwell,” said Einbinder, now 49. “A day later, I went to Walmart in Ledgewood to get shampoo and other items. I walked into the store and felt like it was closing in on me. All of a sudden, I felt really nervous and my fingers tingled. I grabbed some shampoo and thought, ‘I’ve gotta get out of here.’”

A woman behind Einbinder in the checkout line admired her Harley-Davidson jacket and asked to see the tailoring on the front. Einbinder snapped at her.

“I’m like, ‘Well, do you see? Do you see?’” the Marine recalled. “I’m not like that at all. The woman apologized. I quickly paid for my shampoo and ran out of the store. I sat in my truck for 15 minutes, just shaking and wondering what was wrong with me. I even felt weird around my parents. I didn’t want to see any of my friends.”

For Einbinder, the post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, diagnosis came quickly at a Veterans Affairs satellite office in the hospital where she worked as an audiologist. During her tour of duty, she said, she’d never slept more than three hours a night.

Eight years after Einbinder returned home, she is on disability and still receives professional treatment in her private battle with PTSD and the panic attacks, social phobias, hallucinations, sleepwalking — and even sleep-driving — that come with it.

PTSD is only one of many formidable and ongoing challenges veterans face when they return home from the decade-long wars. Others include dealing with respiratory illnesses from military burn pits, retraining for civilian jobs, dealing with negative civilian attitudes and, for female veterans, living with the after-effects of having served in what was for them historically dangerous situations.

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the longest sustained American military operations since the Vietnam War, have sent 2.6 million men and women into service. A total of 6,819 were killed and



Einbinder does a test run with pilots in a CH-46E helicopter.

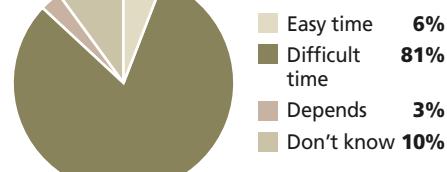
PHOTO COURTESY OF SHARON EINBINDER

ONLINE

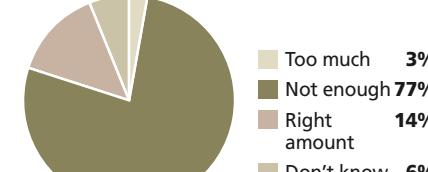
To read the Veterans Returning Home series, visit DailyRecord.com

Veterans and jobs

Are veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan having an easy time or a difficult time finding jobs?



Is the country doing too much, not enough, or the right amount to help Iraq and Afghanistan veterans return to the work force?



Source: Monmouth University/Asbury Park Press poll

Chief counters: We don't profile

Mendham Twp. lawsuit filed by 16-year officer

By Peggy Wright
@peggywrightDR

MENDHAM TWP. — Rebutting a lawsuit that claims police officers are ordered to target young drivers for tickets, Police Chief Steven Crawford on Tuesday defended his department as a law-abiding force that does not profile motorists based on age, race or ethnicity.

Instead of taking a customary position of “no comment on pending litigation,” Crawford called a news conference to rebut allegations made in a lawsuit filed last month by 16-year township Officer Robert Wysokowski, 43. Crawford was joined by 11 of his 14 officers at the conference, which he said was held to reflect only the position of the police force, not the Township Committee, which also was sued by Wysokowski.

“The allegations have affected the morale of the agency and, quite frankly, have cast a cloud over the department. We do not profile young drivers. We do not have ticket quotas. We do not profile drivers based on age, race or ethnicity. My officers are extremely proactive,” Crawford said.

“My officers need someone to stand

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Mendham Twp. Police Chief Steven Crawford (right) and Edward Bilinkas, an attorney. BOB KARP/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Program combating heroin ODs expanding

By Bob Jordan
@BobJordanAPP

TRENTON — The opportunity to prevent a drug overdose death a month ago is having a lasting impact on Frank Moschella, a young Toms River police officer.

And Moschella concedes that timing was everything. He wouldn’t have been able to effectively intervene prior to the recent launch of a program at the Jersey Shore that has equipped police officers and first responders to administer the antidote Narcan to overdose victims.

“I had a gentleman who had overdosed, a gentleman who had been known to use narcotics, especially heroin,” Moschella said. “I was able to save his life and give him another opportunity at life.”

“Hopefully he’ll make better choices and better decisions.”

Moschella and others from law enforcement and addiction specialists attended a news conference Tuesday at the Rescue Mission of Trenton, where Gov. Chris Christie announced that the effort to help reduce the number of her-

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