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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM OREGON PARTNERSHIP*****

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Oregon Partnership Reaches Out to Returning Soldiers and Veterans

For the men and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, it is crucial that we recognize the symptoms and signs of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, depression, and substance abuse.

Oregon Partnership, (OP) the state's leading non-profit focusing on substance abuse prevention and suicide intervention, is working with the Oregon National Guard to offer trainings and support, and to further its outreach to returning soldiers and veterans through their 24-Hour Crisis Lines. Increased call volume from returning soldiers has led OP to step up efforts to help the men and women in the armed forces.



Dr. James Sardo answers questions from the audience about PTSD at OP's recent Veterans Panel Training

"We are doing all we can to help," said Leslie Storm, Oregon Partnership Crisis Lines Director. "And we want them and their families to know we are here for them."

Oregon Partnership's Training and Education Center recently hosted a panel of experts to provide needed information and insight for providers, families and caring citizens.

To learn more about the Oregon Partnership Crisis Lines visit www.orpartnership.org

The Veteran's panel included:

James M. Sardo, Ph.D., Program Co-Manager, Substance Abuse Treatment Program and the PTSD Clinical Team, Portland Veterans Affairs Medical Center. In Iraq, Sardo provided a range of mental health services while attached to the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group.

Robert Tell, LCSW., Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Portland Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Tell has served as an individual, family and group psychotherapist and was an outpatient therapist at the University of Chicago Hospital Department of Psychiatry.

Chaplain (Major) Scott Delbridge, Chaplain, Oregon National Guard. Delbridge has served as an Army Chaplain for the past 17 years and was deployed for 16 months to Iraq and Kuwait. He will deploy to Iraq again next year, serving as the chaplain for the Special Troops Battalion of the 41st IBCT.