



National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

1608 K Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006

K. Robert Lewis, Chairman - Connecticut

Peter S. Gaytan, Director - Maryland

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VA Changes PTSD Nomenclature

Background

— On April 23, 2009, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced a minor change in nomenclature. The designation for PTSD, previously written as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, will now be written Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. The acronym PTSD will remain unchanged.

This action is designed to bring VA nomenclature in line with the currently used medical terminology in standard sources such as the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (4th ed.1994) (published by the American Psychiatric Association); the Merck Manual of Medical Information (2nd edition 2003); and Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary (31st Edition 2007). No substantive changes are intended by these amendments.

The American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division should ensure that future publications and documentation is in line with this present medical and VA accepted terminology.

PETER S. GAYTAN, Director
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