

# SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED





Patriot Connect is a SMECO program designed to help veterans and active military personnel who may be having a difficult time transitioning back into the community.

As reports in the media indicate, the high incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among returning military personnel has been at the root of an increased number of suicides. Nationally, as many as 22 veterans commit suicide every day, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

For returning vets who may be unable to cope, dealing with a termination notice from SMECO could be the last straw. So we are reaching out to the men and women who have served our country in an effort to help prevent an unnecessary tragedy.

## **FOR SMECO CUSTOMERS:**

Eligible veterans or active military personnel in need of assistance may be granted an extension.

For additional assistance, contact SMECO's Patriot Connect resource team. SMECO is working with local agencies that provide services to veterans and military personnel, as well as organizations that provide funds to support veterans, because these agencies can help promote SMECO's Patriot Connect program to the people who need it.

## **HOW CAN SMECO HELP?**

Our goal is to help someone who is suffering from a stress disorder get one step closer to a normal life. By making it easier for people with PTSD, combat stress, or related trauma to accomplish everyday tasks, we hope to help customer-members—people who have risked their lives in service to our country—with reintegrating into the community.

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