



# Join us in a Free Near-Death Experience Sharing Group for Military & Veterans provided by ISGO, IANDS Shared Groups Online!

### **OUR WISSION**

Our Military and Veteran Near-Death Experience Sharing Group is a safe place to discuss your near-death experience (NDE) and or spiritual transformative experience (STE) with other service members. Offering unconditional acceptance, validation, education and support for your experience.

### **OUR WEETINGS**

Monthly An ISGO Zoom meeting will be held every month.

Meetings are confidential. If you wish to remain anonymous or to listen only, just disable your camera and microphone. Visit isgo.iands.org to see when the next meeting will be held.

### WHY ATTEND?

- Open only to military members and veterans
- · Unconditional acceptance and support
- Learn about other service members' experiences
- Offer support to those sharing their experience for the first time
- Enjoy a safe and secure place to anonymously process your experience

### **HOW TO REGISTER**

- Have a zoom set up and installed (zoom.us)
- Visit <a href="https://isgo.iands.org/my-account/">https://isgo.iands.org/my-account/</a> to create an ISGO account (For help setting up your free ISGO account go to <a href="https://isgo.iands.org/faq">https://isgo.iands.org/faq</a>.
- Go to "Meetings & Courses"
- Find event and select "RSVP NOW"
- To register for free, at checkout enter the coupon code: freedom
- You will receive an email with a link to join the meeting (when the day/ time arrives)
- 10 minutes prior meeting time, log into your ISGO account
- Go to your email, then click the join meeting or click the "join event" from your account order details

### WEET FACILITATOR DIANE CORCORAN, COL (RET) ARWY, PH.D, RN

Dr. Corcoran served as a nurse from the Vietnam War to Desert Storm. In 1969, she cared for a 19 yr. old wounded Vietnam combat soldier who wanted to share his NDE on the battlefield, but was extremely worried that no one would believe him. Instinctively, Diane listened to his account with care and compassion. Though the term NDE was not yet coined, she knew that his extremely emotional experience had a profound life changing impact on him. Since that day, she has dedicated her life to educating the international medical community about NDE and provided validation, education and support for active military and veteran experiencers. Dr. Corcoran served as a former President of the International Association for Near-Death Studies (IANDS) and continues to serve as a Board of Director. In addition, she is the founder of Corcoran Consulting and The Vet NDE Project providing validation, education and support for those who

# NDE'S AMONG WILITARY WEWBERS AND VETERANS

### 48% OF COMBAT VETERANS HAVE NDE PER DR. DAVID HUFFORD'S STUDY

- No one will understand or believe me. I don't fully understand it myself.
- I don't want to be labeled or viewed as crazy.
- The troop must work as one, disclosing would throw a wrench in that.
- My compadres will not trust me to do what's right in a must-kill or be-killed situation.
- I'll be dismissed or demoted due to a perceived mental disorder.
- Family and friends will not believe me, and this will cause them to pull away.
- I don't trust that anyone around me will believe that my experience was real.

### "AW I ALONE OR CRAZY?" NO!! YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

Near-death experiences have been reported throughout history and across cultures. A 1993 Gallup Poll estimated that 12 to 15 million Americans had personally experienced an NDE. A review of three decades of both retrospective and prospective research established an NDE incidence rate of 10-20% of survivors within the general public who have had a close brush with death (Zingrone & Alvarado, 2009). NDEs have been documented to occur equally in people of every demographic, including both sexes and all ages, levels of education, cultures, and belief systems (Holden et al.,



### **WILITARY CULTURE WAKES IT NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO DISCLOSE NDES**

Commanders have great authority in the military. If you go to your commander and say, I need to talk to you privately about this experience it could be a difficult conversation. It's a culture in which consequences can happen and because of a lack of knowledge about NDEs within the military culture, it may end a soldier's career.

The military depends on structure and discipline, and this often runs counter to common aftereffects of NDEs. Common effects include changed attitudes and beliefs, such as a philosophy of nonviolence, extreme appreciation of nature, high empathy and affection, and different priorities for time management.

The aftereffects are often not conducive to the culture or staying in the military because most NDErs become more altruistic and less rule based.

# **ABOUT NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES**

### WHAT IS A NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE?

A NDE is a profound, life changing, intensely emotional experience that usually occurs during a clinical crisis and has common characteristics and aftereffects. It is not a dream, hallucination, or mental illness (Greyson, 1983). There are no predictive variables to identify who will have an NDE. They happen to people of all ages, all religions, social-economic groups, cultures and educational backgrounds. They occur for a variety of reasons such as accidents, near-drownings, illnesses, combat, surgical procedures, and childbirth.

Experiencers may have mixed feelings following their event, such as anger, grief, depression, confusion, euphoria or joy. Recall of their NDE may vary, ranging from immediate total recall to having no recall of their NDE. Nevertheless, NDErs often display some of the common aftereffects following their experience. Research has established a set of common NDE characteristics and long-term aftereffects shown in Table 1 (Atwater, 1994, 2019; Greyson, 1983).

### COMMON NDE CHARACTERISTICS

- A feeling of peace and joy
- · Experiencing an altered sense of time
- A feeling of being surrounded by light and love
- Out of the physical body
- · Visions of the future
- Having a life review
- Senses are more vivid than usual
- Being in another world
- Encounter with beings or deceased relatives
- Feeling detached from the body
- Visions of the future
- Enhanced knowledge
- · Seeing beautiful flowers
- Moving through a tunnel



### **COMMON NDE AFTEREFFECTS**

- Returning to a body that is filled with pain
- Less materialistic
- Disappointed to be revived
- Heightened sense of purpose
- Increased appreciation for life
- Love of nature
- More intuitive
- No longer fears death
- More altruistic

- May have trouble with connecting to family
- · Sensitivity to loud noises, light, and violence
- Significant changes in values, purpose and behavior
- Sensitivities to medicines
- Sensitivity to light and sound
- Energy surges up and down the body
- Electrical sensitivity
- Physical change

### HOW DO PEOPLE REACT WHEN THEY HAVE AN NDE?

A person who has had a near-death experience has mixed feelings such as anger, grief, depression, confusion, or joy. Some will remember their NDE immediately, others may have the aftereffects and not remember the experience. Some reactions include:

- Fear that the NDE signifies a mental disorder
- Disorientation because reality has shifted \* Euphoria, feeling special or "chosen"
- Loneliness, since no one around them can fully understand the experience
- Withdrawal to ponder the experience
- Changes in their sense of purpose, values, and relationships.

# THE PERSON NEXT TO WE WAS DYING: WE THOUGHT THEY WERE HALLUCINATING, BUT WHAT THEY DESCRIBED SOUNDS LIKE AN NDE. COULD THIS BE TRUE?

People who are dying frequently describe seeing a wonderful light or a landscape they want to enter. They may talk with people who are invisible to everyone else, or they may look radiant and at peace. Such "deathbed visions" may be related to NDEs. In Nearing Death Awareness (coined by Margaret Callanan), dying people may be aware of the presence of deceased loved ones who are there to reassure them.



### **GAP OF CARE SUIVINARY**

Disbelief of NDEs Leads to a "Medical & Spiritual Gap of Care" for Combat Soldiers. By Lilia Samoilo

An injured soldier, having just had a Near Death Experience (NDE), awakens in the hospital, confused and very emotional about an experience they do not understand. They may be traumatized from bodily injuries and in pain. They recall vivid memories of their life-changing NDE event and need answers to their many questions, seeking comfort and support. Reporting this to their medical provider, their questions are typically casually dismissed or go unanswered, leaving them with the impression to not discuss their NDE further and left in an emotional limbo.

They may become fearful that they will not be believed, or that they will be rejected, ridiculed, mischaracterized as "mental" or misdiagnosed as psychotic and treated with unwarranted drug therapies, which can produce serious side effects. In addition, they may worry that discussing their NDE might make them at risk to lose their security clearance and benefits.

Wounded soldiers, feeling vulnerable, place their trust in the medical staff and clergy to care, comfort and support them regarding their life-altering NDE. Unfortunately, more times than not, their NDE account is dismissed or trivialized by the very medical personnel sworn to heal them. Instead, they may be given sedatives or other drugs, to help cope with any perceived stress associated with their "so-called" NDE.

The first line of defense to assist patients who have had an NDE should take place at their bedside in the hospital, by medical personnel or clergy trained to deal with patients who have experienced an NDE. But that is just not the case, producing a patient "gap of care."

NDEs are not typically accepted as a "real" event among the medical community and clergy. They are oftentimes considered to be non-factual; an illusion produced by post-traumatic stress, or perhaps a lack of oxygen etc. The denial of the NDE being a "real" event leads to this "gap of care." This lack of validation of the NDE account can have a damaging impact on the soldier's psyche, causing them to lose confidence in expressing their NDE. They are left on their own to "work it out" and often revert to conditioned responses taught during combat training, suppressing their feelings deep inside, which complicates their PTSD.

The impact of this crucial "gap of care" should not be marginalized. It is not merely a missed opportunity to help resolve concerns the soldier may have about their NDE. The "gap of care" is traumatizing to the soldier, exacerbating an already devastating, life-changing injury, including PTSD, and magnifying feelings of confusion, fear, isolation and hopeless despair, with little to no way out.

NDEs are a real experience to the soldier and must be validated as such.

### **ARTICLES**

The Gap of Care: Disbelief of NDEs to a Gap of Care for Wounded Soldiers and Veterans



### **BOOKS: WILITARY & VETERANS NDES**

Harris, Shilo (Ret) US Army Staff Sgt & Overby Cox, Robin (2015). **Steel Will: My Journey through Hell to Become the Man I Was Meant to Be**. Aba, MI, Baker Books. This is a story of a God who shapes us into the people he wants us to be. And in that way, this is the story of all of us. Anyone whose life has been touched by tragedy and loss, especially military families dealing with PTSD, TBI, amputations, and other realities of wartime service, will find strength, encouragement, and inspiration in this moving memoir.

Johnson, James (Ret) Assistant US Navy Secretary (2001). **Beyond Defeat: The "Johnny" Johnson Story**. Nampa, Idaho, Pacific Pr Pub Assn. The provocative autobiography of an American patriot who used the weapon of love to conquer hate and live... Beyond Defeat.

Krackau, Genny (2018). Beyond The Explosion: Stories of the Light. Christian Faith Publishing, Meadville, PA. In this book you will read what each service member experienced in battle while they describe in detail their war experience including the NDE, OBE and STE, the after-affect, and about the war. Every story is unique and personal. These are the experiencer's words, thoughts and feelings as dictated to the author. Genny also has been active in IANDs.

McDonald, Rev. William Jr. (.2015). Warrior: A Spiritual Odyssey. An autobiography of a Spiritual Warrior and Vietnam Vet. A book of Miracles, the Mystical, Angels, ESP, Visions, Near-Death and Out -of- Body experiences and the Supernatural! McDonald describes his tour of duty in Vietnam and how he was "kept" safe no matter how powerful the storm.

Musick, Stephen R. & Pastor, Paul J. (2017). **Life After Heaven: How My Time in Heaven Can Transform Your Life on Earth**. Penguin Random House. After a deadly medical mistake sent a Navy sailor to the presence of Jesus, he returned from his near-death experience with new eyes to see the kingdom of heaven in this life. Now he wants to help you experience heaven on earth today.

Ritchie, George, Jr. MD & Sherrill, Elizabeth (1978). **Return From Tomorrow**. Waco, TX: Chosen Books. A classic. The account that inspired Raymond Moody to inquire ito the phenomenon that he eventually named the "near-death experience".

Ritchie, George, Jr. MD & Sherrill, Elizabeth (1991). **Return From Tomorrow**. Ada, MI: Chosen Books. In 1943, A US Private, at age 20, "died ", in an Army hospital for nine minutes. He experienced one of the most amazing visions of the after-life ever recorded. Awarded the Campus Life Mark of Excellence.

Ritchie, George, Jr. MD & Stevenson, Jan MD (1978). **My Life After Dying: How 9 Minutes in Heaven Taught Me How to Live on Earth.** Newburyport, MA: Hampton Books. Dr. Ritchie tells what happened to him after his NDE, including the real miracles he experienced in his years of practice as a physician and psychiatrist. Included here are powerful stories of physical and emotional healing that were informed by those nine minutes on "the other side."

Sudman, Natalie (2012). **Application of Impossible Things: A Near–Death Experience in Iraq**. Ozark Mountain. An amazing story of a female civilian employee of the Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq. She was riding in a truck with other men when a road-side bomb destroyed the vehicle. She vividly recounts her Near-Death Experience when she went out of the body to the spirit world.

Vandenbush, Bill (2016). **If Morning Never Comes: A Soldier's Near-Death Experience on the Battlefield**. "If Morning Never Comes" takes you on a journey where the tragedy of war nearly destroys a young man and introduces him to a spiritual force that guides him on his path through life. This book teaches the lessons of how to overcome overwhelming odds and find purpose in life, while entertaining the reader with it's compelling story.



### NDE & STE SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

- International Association for Near Death Studies (IANDS)- IANDS.org
- Corcoran Consulting corcoranconsulting-nde.com
- For Counseling: ACISTE (American Center for the Integration of Spiritually Transformative Experiences) https://aciste.org

### **WILITARY & VETERANS' NDES & STES ACCOUNTS**

### Ret. Navy CPO Flight Engineer Tony Woody

Vet NDEs & their after-effects <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3aAk8AKRQg&feature=youtu.be">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3aAk8AKRQg&feature=youtu.be</a> Tony tells his story, "Meeting the Light." <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vijNhS1DuSU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vijNhS1DuSU</a>

### Army Vietnam Vet Rev. Bill McDonald

Soldier's NDEs & STEs & the Gap of Care for Soldiers who have had them. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37idLO9xLoc

### Ret. Army Glenn Brymer: A Soldier's NDE

In 1971 Glenn had an incredible NDE while serving in the U.S. Army while stationed in Germany at the Czechoslovakian border. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFRepLaGLU4

### Ret. Army Staff SGT Shilo Harris: A Vet's NDE

Shilo had an amazing spontaneous NDE recall while taping the video. Prior to the interview, he was unaware of having had a NDE and was suffering from the aftereffects of an NDE.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRGWKZARmso

### **VET NDES.STES & GAP OF CARE EDUCATION RESOURCES**

### Radio Show

### **Understanding NDEs, the Gap of Care of Combat Soldiers**

Lilia Samoilo and Dr. Corcoran discuss the Vet NDE Project and the term Lilia coined as the "Gap of Care," it's impact on soldiers and its solution on "We Don't Die" radio with Sandra Champlain.

https://m.youtube.com/watch?list=PLYcImA0dTamSGQGEx5QorqULMf mGzuvT&v=PL615hI3VjE

### **VIDEOS**

### NDEs and the Military Veteran's NDE Training Trailer

In this film, vets describe their NDE/STE and its impact on their lives, with leading researchers, scientists and medical professionals discussing the importance of validating the NDEs and STEs of patients, especially combat soldiers. **Trailer: Vet NDE Documentary,** *Understanding Veterans' Near Death Experiences (3:45 min).* 

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLBLa7ILiqM

### REFERENCE GUIDE

"Miracles in the Foxhole": IANDS Conference Veteran NDE Workshop Reference Guide (2019) Kindle Edition only.

A valuable resource guide developed by Workshop Presenter, Vietnam Vet Rev. Bill McDonald for IANDS Vet NDE Workshop on the topic of Vets NDEs and STEs. Contributors include IANDS president Ret. Army COL Diane Corcoran and numerous other facilitators from the workshop. Also provide is a listing of Vet NDE books as well as some information about a meditation technique that was taught at the West Point Military Academy and to troops stationed in South Korea.



### **ABOUT IANDS**

As an educational nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, the International Association for Near-Death Studies (IANDS) focuses most of its resources into providing the highest quality information available about NDE-related subjects. It is the only such membership group in the world. In addition to maintaining this information-rich website, IANDS publishes a peer-reviewed scholarly journal and a member magazine, sponsors conferences and other programs, works with the media, and encourages the formation of regional discussion and support groups. <a href="Iands.org">Iands.org</a>

### ABOUT CORCORAN CONSULTING

Headquartered in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Corcoran Consulting works with worldwide military personnel who have experienced Near-Death Experiences (NDEs). We offer educational support services to individual service members, rehab facilities, VA and military hospitals. We have an educational program designed specifically for the military environment. Retired Colonel Diane Corcoran will provide comprehensive training about near-death experience and how to identify and support service members. corcoranconsulting-nde.com

**ACISTE** (American Center for the Integration of Spiritually Transformative Experiences)

ACISTE (American Center for the Integration of Spiritually Transformative Experiences) was established in 2009 to support people who have spiritually transformative experiences (STEs). We welcome experiencers of diverse backgrounds and beliefs and address a wide variety of STEs. ACISTE is both a community of experiencers and a non-profit corporation. This website is your portal to that community and its many resources, which include experiencer forum, directories, coaches, directory of support/discussion groups. <a href="mailto:aciste.org">aciste.org</a>

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