

The Nitty Gritty of VA Caregiving Resources and Programs



The Motto of the VA:

**“To care for him who shall
have borne the battle and
for his widow and
orphan,”**

- Abraham Lincoln



Sometimes I think you have to march right in and demand your rights, even if you don't know what your rights are, or who the person is you're talking to. Then on the way out, slam the door."

- Jack Handey



Outline:

- **Primary Care Services**
- **Outreach Services**
- **In-home Services**
- **Funding Options**
- **Facility Placement Options**



**Most of the services/benefits
require that the Veteran have a
VA Primary Care Physician.**



Benefits of Primary Care:

- Zero to low co-pays for meds and appts
- Specialty Clinics
- Outreach / In-home services
- Extras



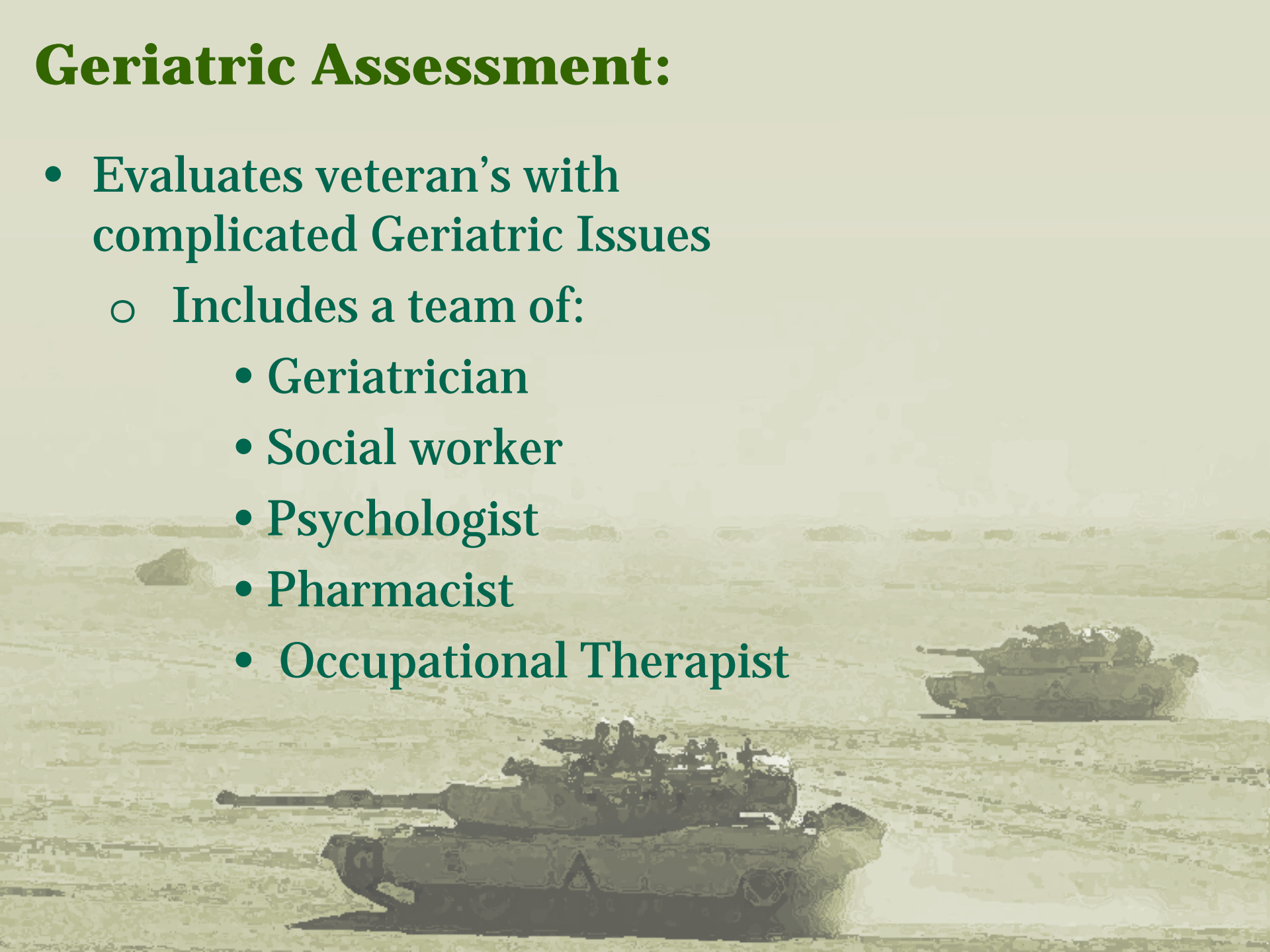
Specialty Clinics / Teams:

- **Women's Clinic**
- **Geriatric Clinic**
- **Geriatric Assessment**
- **Geriatric Med-Psych Clinic**
- **Palliative Care and Hospice**
- **HBPC**



Geriatric Assessment:

- Evaluates veteran's with complicated Geriatric Issues
 - Includes a team of:
 - Geriatrician
 - Social worker
 - Psychologist
 - Pharmacist
 - Occupational Therapist



I THINK A GOOD GIFT FOR THE PRESIDENT
WOULD BE A CHOCOLATE REVOLVER. AND
SINCE HE'S SO BUSY, YOU'D PROBABLY
HAVE TO RUN UP TO HIM AND HAND IT TO
HIM.

- JACK HANDEY



Geriatric Med-Psych Clinic:

- **Interdisciplinary Team:
Psychiatrist, Psychologist,
SW.**
- **Specializes in treating
psychiatric problems
amongst geriatric patients.
(vet has a history of bipolar
and now has dementia.)**



Palliative Care:

- **Emphasizes symptom control, while not necessarily eliminating all aggressive or curative therapies.**
- **Can be provided in Home, Community, or inpatient settings for persons in advance stages of an incurable disease.**



Hospice:

- **VA can pay for hospice if veteran doesn't have Medicare.
(applicable to vets under 65)**
- **30 day SNF contract for veteran's with 30 day or less life expectancy.**



Home Based Primary Care (HBPC)

- **Provides primary Care services in the homes of veterans with complex, chronic, disabling conditions for whom routine clinic-based care is not effective.**
- **HBPC Team includes: APRN, LCSW, RN, Dietitian, OT, Psychologist, Pharmacist, and a consulting MD.**



HBPC Eligibility:

- **Live within 30 min of VA – SLC Medical Center**
- **Have a caregiver, if determined necessary**
- **Complex, disabling medical condition (Specific dx)**
- **High risk, high utilizers of hospital / ER.**
- **Will be screened by program manager for appropriateness.**



OUTREACH:

- **HBPC**
- **GHELP**
- **OT / HOME SAFETY EVAL**



Geriatric High Risk Evaluation & Liaison to Primary Care (GHELP):

- **Geriatric Inter-disciplinary team**
- **Short-term management / support during transition times (i.e. hospital to home)**
- **To reduce un-necessary re-admissions**
- **May set up adaptive equipment, in-home services, change meds, etc.**
- **Must be 30 min from VA - SLC**



OT / HOME SAFETY EVAL:

- **Used if too far away for GHELP**
- **Or if Primary Care identifies need.**



In-Home Services:

- **Home Health Aide**
- **Homemaker**
- **Respite Care**



In-Home Services Eligibility:

- **Must see VA Primary Care Physician**
- **Dependent for some ADLs, most IADLs**
- **Services will prevent SNF admission.**
- **Not eligible if on Hospice**



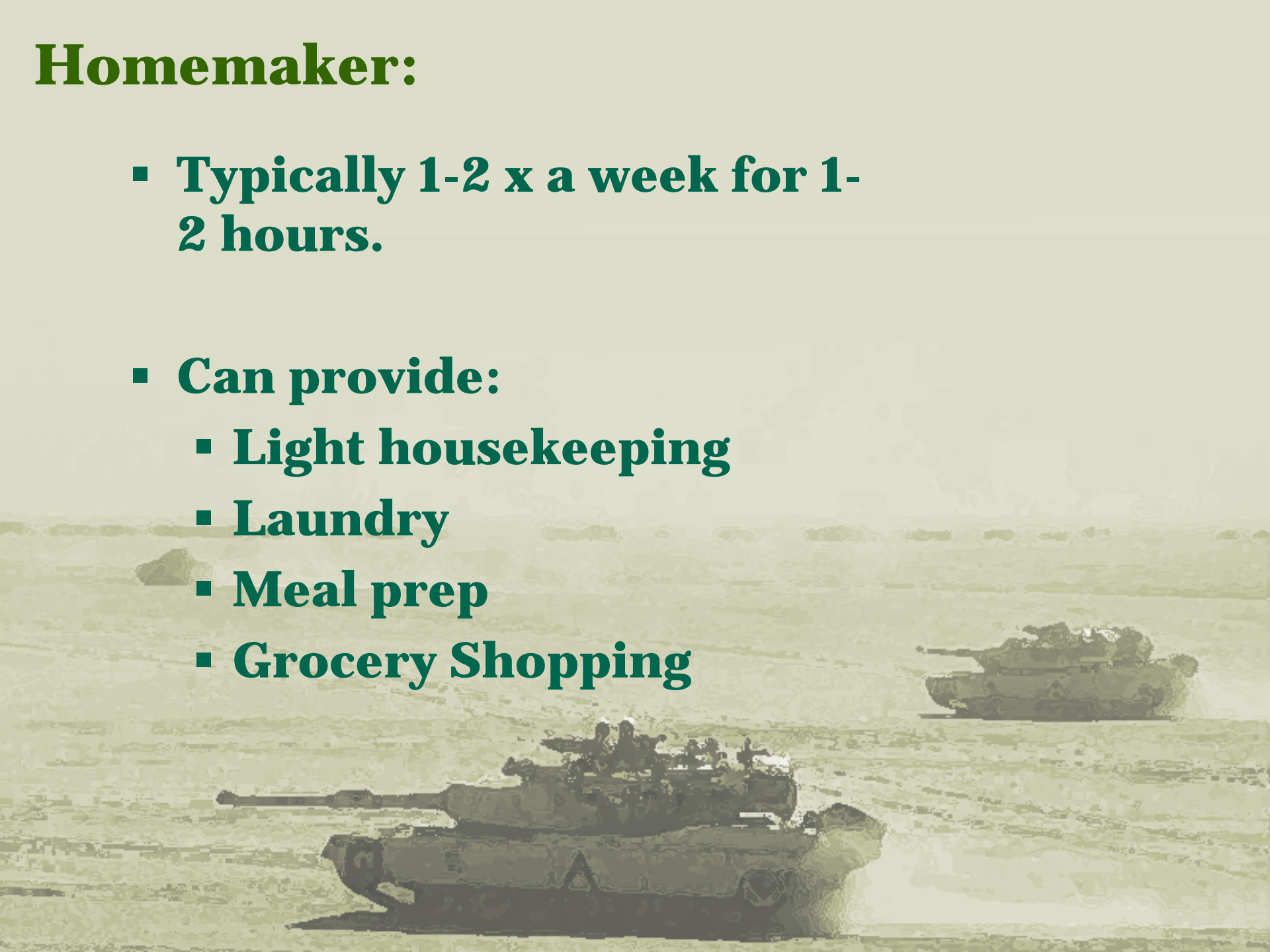
Home Health Aide:

- **Helps with bathing and dressing.**
- **Typically provided 3 x a week for 1 hour. Can be provided 7 x a week and even 2 x a day if there is a medical need (this is rare).**
- **There is no charge for this service. All veterans are eligible.**



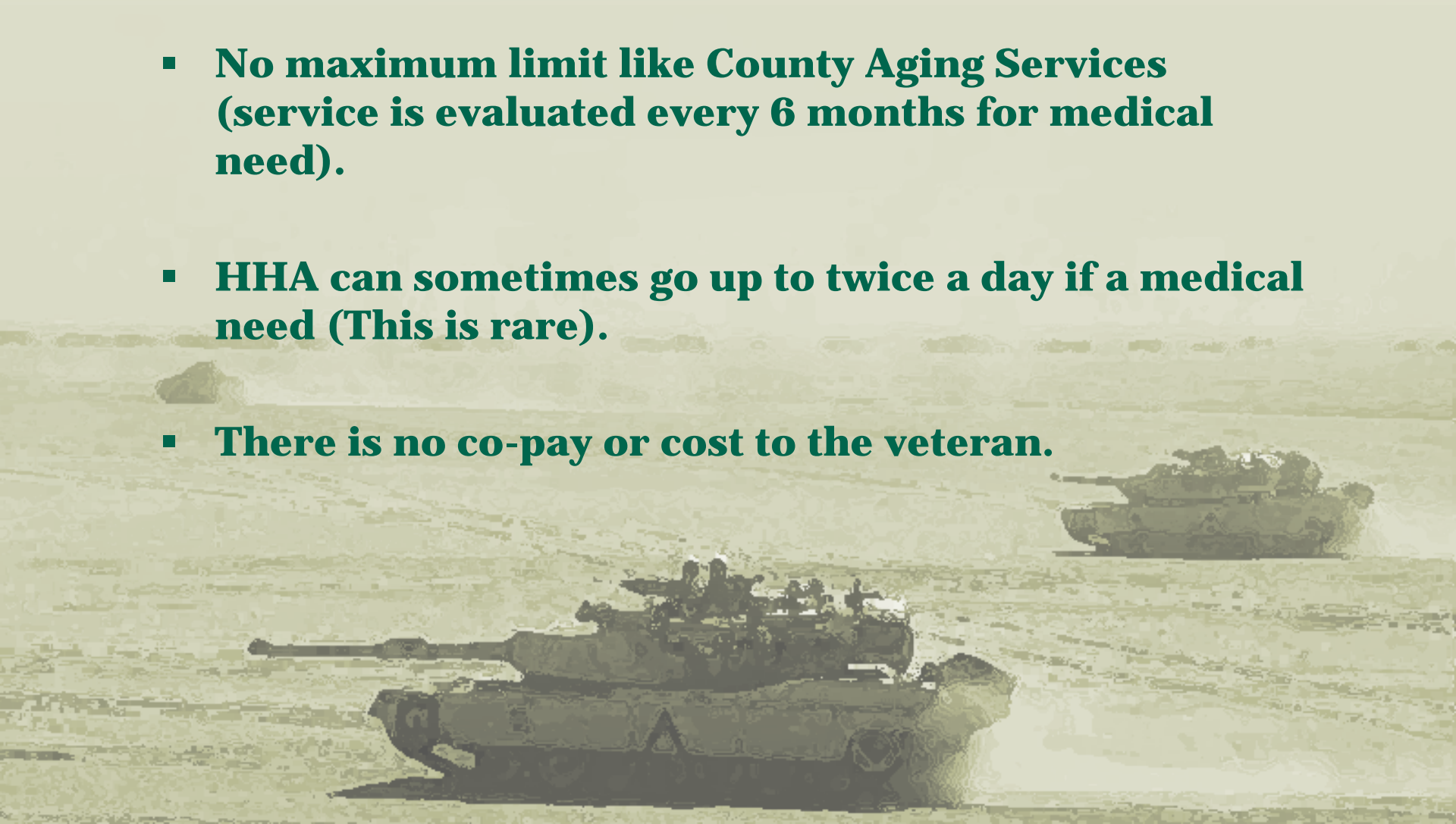
Homemaker:

- **Typically 1-2 x a week for 1-2 hours.**
- **Can provide:**
 - **Light housekeeping**
 - **Laundry**
 - **Meal prep**
 - **Grocery Shopping**



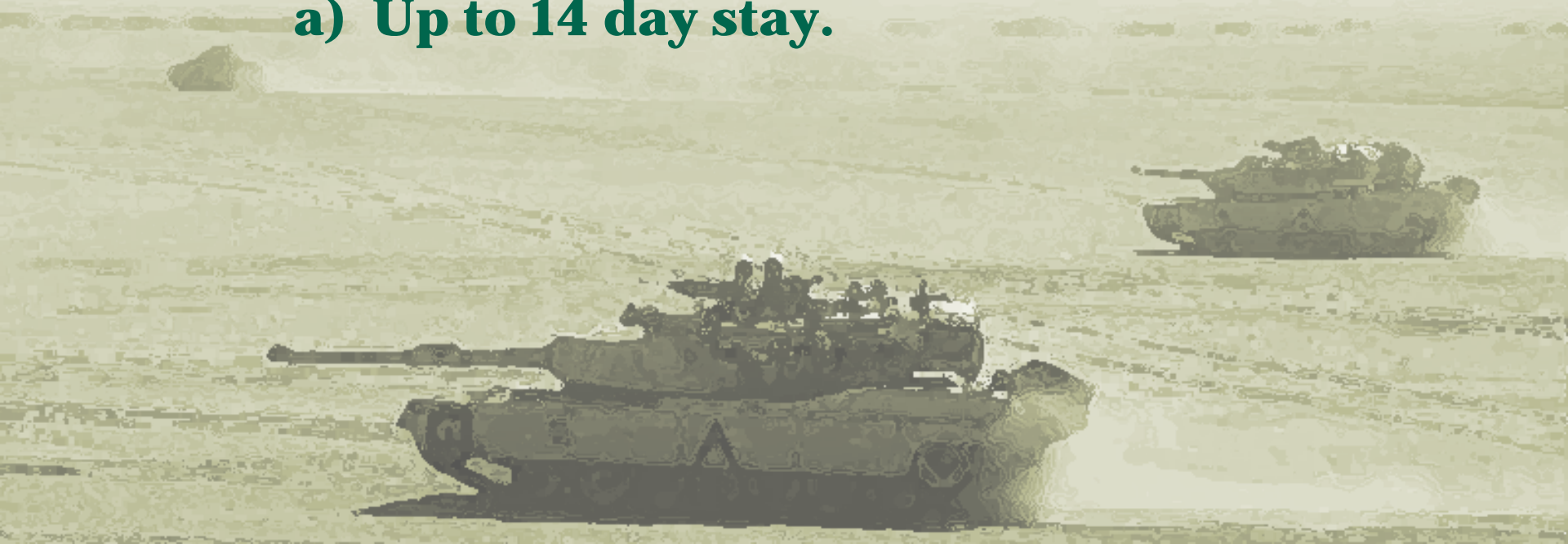
Benefits of VA in-home services:

- **Can continue after Medicare PT or hospice ends**
- **No maximum limit like County Aging Services (service is evaluated every 6 months for medical need).**
- **HHA can sometimes go up to twice a day if a medical need (This is rare).**
- **There is no co-pay or cost to the veteran.**



Respite Care:

- **30 days of respite per calendar year to be used 1 of 2 ways:**
 - 1. 1-6 hr home visit.**
 - 2. SNF placement**
 - a) Up to 14 day stay.**



RESPITE CONTINUED:

- **There may be a co-pay for days 22-30.**
- **Respite is NOT provided for a caregiving veteran (i.e. – veteran caring for his spouse).**



EXTRAS:

- **Transportation (DAV van)**
- **Some vet's may be reimbursed for travel expenses**
- **Adult Briefs can be provided by VA (at no cost)**
- **Freedom Alert– Emergency Alert (no fees)**
- **Wheelchairs**
- **Adult Day Care**



Adult Day Care (SLC, Clinton)

- **VA can cover Adult Day Care (ADC) up to 5 days a week depending on need and appropriateness.**
- **ADC provides care from approx 8am-5pm**
- **ADC can pick up veteran's at their home.**



Adult Day Care (SLC, Clinton)

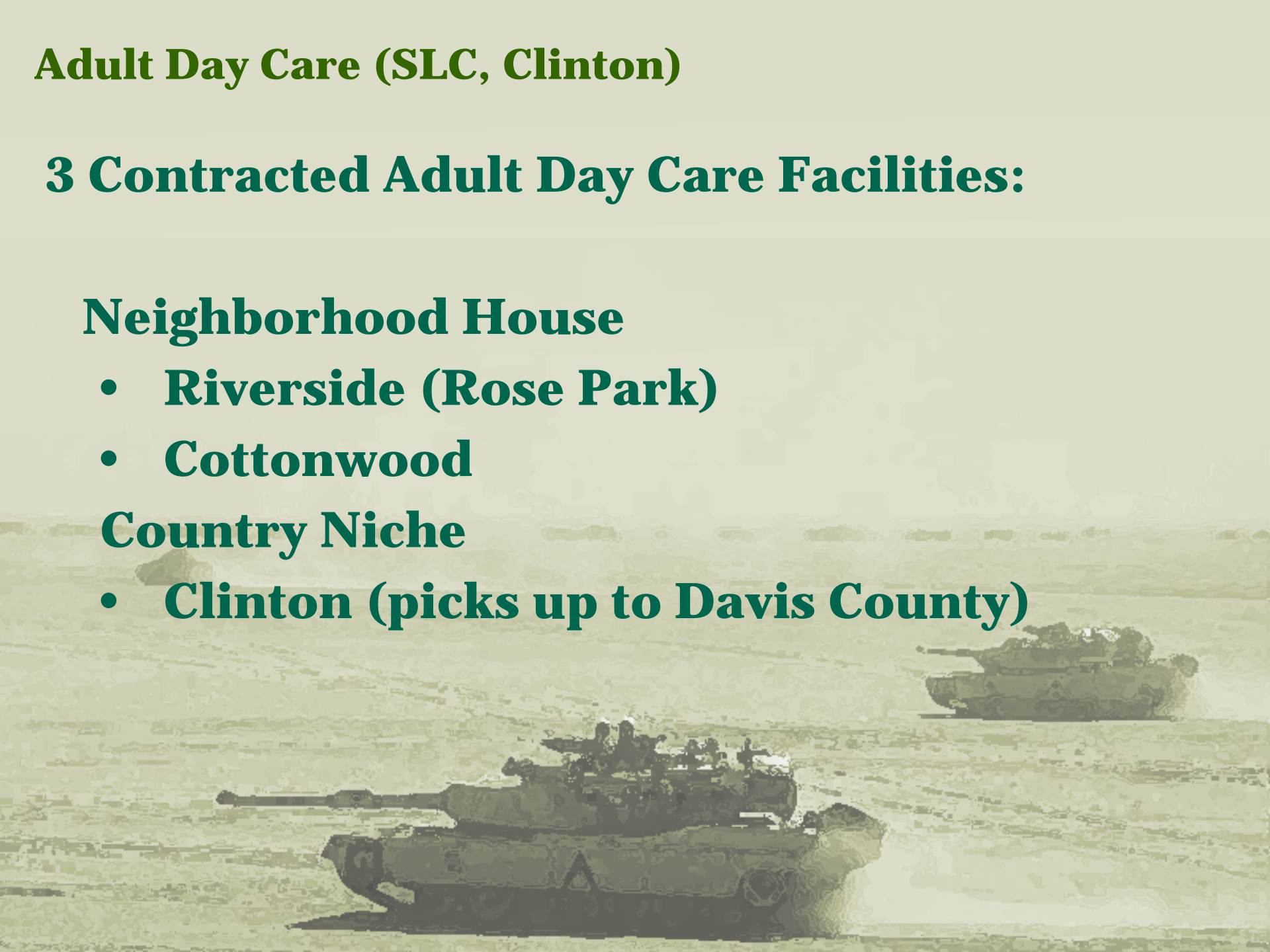
3 Contracted Adult Day Care Facilities:

Neighborhood House

- **Riverside (Rose Park)**
- **Cottonwood**

Country Niche

- **Clinton (picks up to Davis County)**



Funding Options / Benefits:

- **Service Connected Benefits**
- **Aid and Attendance**
- **HISA grant**
- **Burial Allowances**



Service Connected Benefits:

- **Two Groups**

- 1. Non-Service Connected to 60% SC**

- 2. Service Connected 60% and higher**

- **Group 1 – VA will not cover long-term SNF placement**

- **Group 2 – VA will cover 100% long-term SNF placement, and other benefits**



It's easy to sit there and say you'd like to have more money. And I guess that's what I like about it. It's easy. Just sitting there, rocking back and forth, wanting that money.

- Jack Handey



Aid and Attendance Benefit:

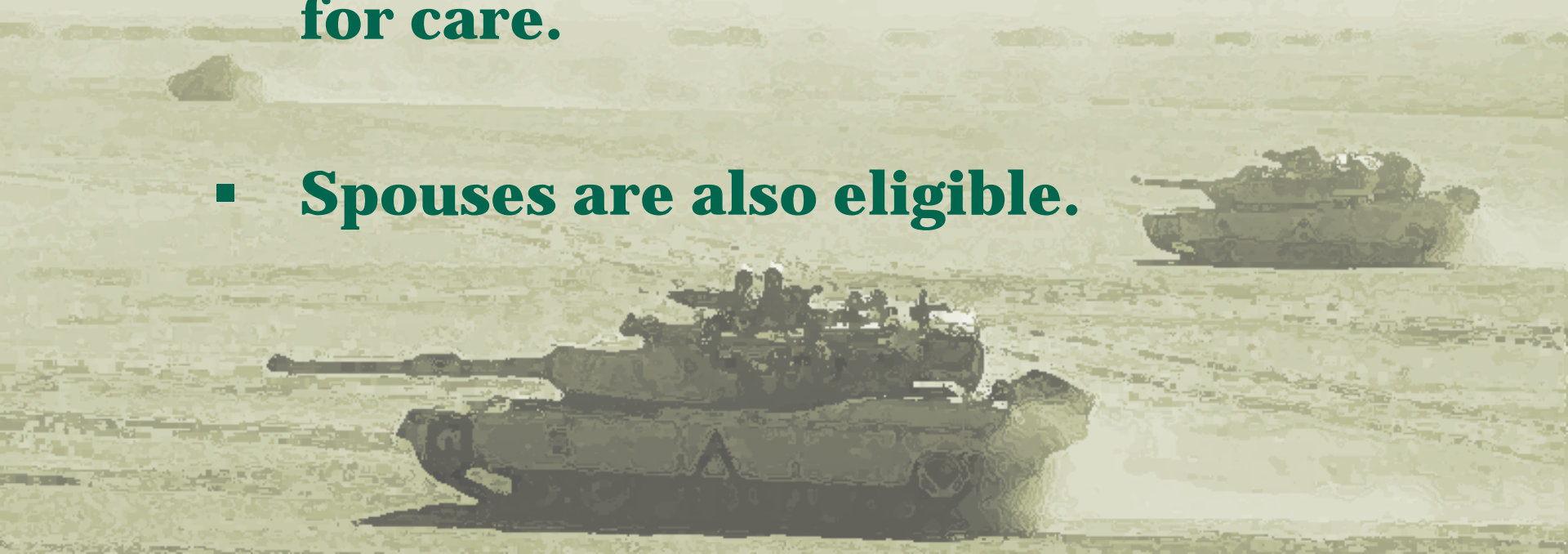
Can pay veteran or spouse \$1,000-1,700 a month for assistance with Caregiving.

- **These funds can pay:**
 - **A private caregiver / Agency**
 - **Assisted Living / SNF**
 - **Others (CRC, Medical Foster Home, etc.)**



Aid and Attendance Eligibility:

- **Served in Open Wartime period**
- **Be below income threshold**
- **MD certifies that they are dependent for care.**
- **Spouses are also eligible.**



How to Get Aid and Attendance:

- **Get Application at VA Regional Office (Bldg 50 at SLC VA) or call 1-800-827-1000.**
- **Get FREE assistance from Veteran's Service Organizations**
 - **Disabled American Veterans (DAV)**
 - **Veterans of Foreign War (VFW)**
 - **American Legion (AL)**



HOME IMPROVEMENT & STRUCTURAL ALTERATION (HISA):

- **Home improvements to provide access to the home or to essential lavatory and sanitary facilities.**
- ***Does not include improvements to lend comfort to the individual.***
- **50% Service Connected Veterans or those need help due to a service-connected condition may receive \$6,800 lifetime benefit.**
- **Non-Service Connected veteran may receive \$2,000 lifetime HISA benefit**



Playing dead not only comes in handy when face to face with a bear, but also at important business meetings.

- Jack Handey



Burial Allowances:

- ***Service-Related Death*** – VA can pay from \$1,500-2,000 toward expenses.
- ***Nonservice-Related Death***- VA can pay up to \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses and a \$300 plot-interment allowance.



Placement Options:

- **Community Residential Care**
- **Medical Foster Home**
- **Utah Veteran's Nursing Homes (SLC, Ogden)**
- **SNF via Service Connected Benefit**
- **Hospice 30 Day VA Contract**



Community Residential Care (CRC):

- **Assisted Living Level of Care**
- **Uses Private Group Homes and Assisted Living Facilities.**
- **Must be physically and mentally stable, and capable of performing ADLs with little assistance**



Community Residential Care (CRC):

- **Provides meals, supervision, transportation, help with ADLs, and med management**
- **Cost: \$900-1,500 depending on room preference and level of care.**



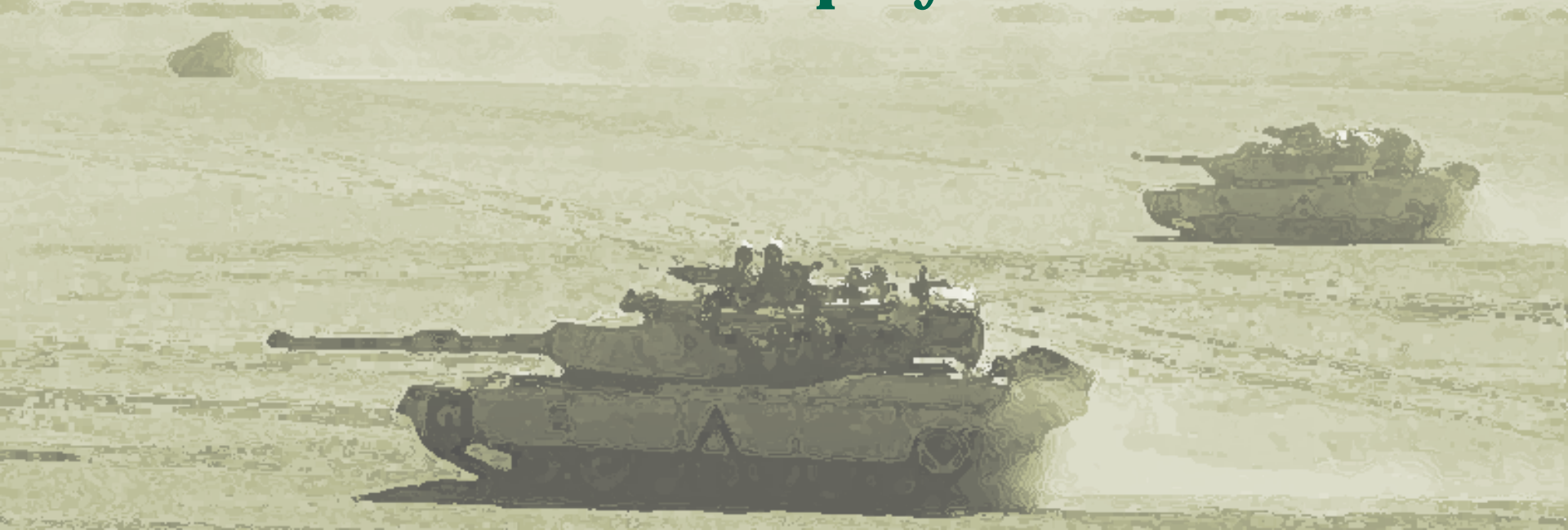
Medical Foster Home:

- **Alternative to Nursing Home Placement**
- **Provides SNF level care in private home**
- **Veteran's medical needs managed by HBPC.**
- **COST: \$1,500-3,000**



Service Connected Benefit for long-term SNF placement.

- **VA will cover the cost of a long-term VA contracted SNF for veterans:**
 - **70% Service Connected or higher.**
 - **60%SC and unemployable.**



Utah Veteran's Nursing Home:

- **Not run by the VA**
- **Cost: Approx \$2,000 – 2,700 a month for veteran, \$5000 a month for spouse.**
- **There are couples rooms available (spouse's cost is normal daily cost)**
- **There are waiting lists for SLC and Ogden**
- **4 Locations – SLC, Ogden, Payson, Ivins.**



WHAT THE VA CAN'T DO!

- **Daily Diabetes management**
- **Provide respite or in-home services for a caregiving veteran**
- **Provide custodial Care**
- **And other things, but I can't name them all.**



Children need encouragement. So if a kid gets an answer right, tell him it was a lucky guess. That way, he develops a good, lucky feeling.

- Jack Handey



Scenario I:

A homebound vet in SLC who needs help with bathing and dressing, grocery shopping and someone to clean his home. He is non-service connected.

Homemaker Service

Home Health Aide



Scenario II:

A veteran's private insurance has paid for 3 months of hospice, but runs out in a week. He doesn't have Medicare or Medicaid. He only has a few weeks life expectancy and his caregivers are burned out and looking for placement options.

You could have him go onto VA paid hospice (same coverage as Medicare), and if appropriate get a 31 day contract at a ECF.



Scenario III:

Veteran with dementia lives at home alone and is having increased falls and needs more supervision. His family wants to know placement options. His only income is \$900 a month from Social Security.

CRC program

Aid and Attendance Pension

- at home**
- in a ALF**
- at Utah Vet Nursing Home.**



Scenario IV

Veteran with dementia lives at home with his wife, who is experiencing caregiver burnout. She does not want to put him in a facility. How can the VA help her?

VA In-home respite care (1-6 hour breaks)

Adult Day Care



“The memories of my family outings are still a source of strength to me. I remember we'd all pile into the car - I forget what kind it was - and drive and drive. I'm not sure where we'd go, but I think there were some trees there. The smell of something was strong in the air as we played whatever sport we played. I remember a bigger, older guy we called "Dad." We'd eat some stuff, or not, and then I think we went home. I guess some things never leave you.”

- Jack Handy



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