

CALMING THE SAVAGE BEAST: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COMBAT PTSD AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Presenter: Anne Flickinger, RN, MSN, APRN BOISE VAMC

I. Introduction

A. Clip from film STOP LOSS

II. Defining combat PTSD, disorder primarily of avoidance

A. List of symptoms

B. How avoidance keeps the symptoms alive

C. Substance abuse as avoidance

III. Some available treatment modalities

IV. Is sobriety necessary to treat PTSD?

V. Pros and Cons

