

November 11, 2011

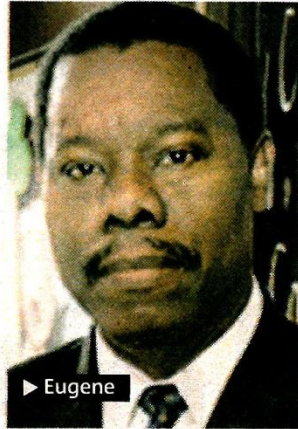
Once home, veterans face a 'perfect storm'

American soldiers face bullets and worse during war, but when they come home they often encounter a whole new set of obstacles.

Returning veterans from Afghanistan and Iraq face a "perfect storm" in New York — a terrible job market, housing shelters "busting at the seams" and a public unfamiliar with what they've been through, said Dr. Yves Ades, chief operating officer of Services for the UnderServed.

Homelessness confronts many vets adjusting to civilian life, said Councilman Mathieu Eugene, speaking at a city hearing this week on how to address the problem of veteran homelessness.

Multiple deployments in war are particularly tough,



► Eugene

Ades said.

"There's a lot of ruptures, with family, with friends, with employment," he said. "I don't think we as normal citizens understand the burden that exists, and how difficult it is." ● METRO/AB

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10,000 veterans are estimated to be homeless in the NYC area

717 In New York City, 717 veterans are living in city shelters, according to the Department of Homeless Services

260 Veterans are sleeping on the streets

10 The average length of stay in a shelter is 10 months

129 Veterans waiting for assigned housing now