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The three members of Vermont's delegation to Congress want the Army and National Guard to continue funding for a program that helps service members and their families after the soldiers return from Afghanistan, Iraq or other service.The Guard has used federal money for the program since 2006.

Guard officials say outreach specialists are dealing with veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse issues, and financial and other issues; and they're helping them obtain disability benefits.

Sens. Patrick Leahy, Bernie Sanders and Rep. Peter Welch have asked Army Secretary John McHugh and Gen. Craig McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, to designate funds to continue the program this year and to develop a plan to continue the program in the future.