

# PROPOSED



# COURAGE GAMES

May Your Courage Never Cease



# SITUATION

The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs is awarding up to \$8 million in grants to fund adaptive-sport programs for disabled veterans and members of the armed forces who have disabilities.

**Award Ceiling:** \$500,000

**Award Floor:** \$7,000

**Filing Date:** April 21st, 2017



# SITUATION

Florida Disabled Veterans

Cornell University Disability Statistics American Community Survey

U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

<b>Florida Veteran Disability Statistics</b>		<b>% In Florida</b>	<b>Forecasted Vet Pop Ages 17 to 85+ As Of SEP 2017</b>	<b>0% to 100% Disabled Vets In Florida (Estimate)</b>
<b>0% to 100% Disability</b>	<b>State Estimate</b>	<b>24.8%</b>	<b>1,508,709</b>	<b>374,160</b>
				<b>FL Disabled Vets (Est)</b>
	<b>Visual Disability</b>	<b>2.4%</b>		<b>8,980</b>
	<b>Hearing Disability</b>	<b>3.8%</b>		<b>14,218</b>
	<b>Ambulatory Disability</b>	<b>7.6%</b>		<b>28,436</b>
	<b>Cognitive Disability</b>	<b>5.1%</b>		<b>19,082</b>
	<b>Self Care Disability</b>	<b>2.8%</b>		<b>10,476</b>
	<b>Independent Living Disability</b>	<b>5.8%</b>		<b>21,701</b>
	<b>Remaining Vets Between 0% &amp; 100%</b>	<b>72.5%</b>		<b>271,266</b>
<b>Estimated Courage Games Participants</b>		<b>1.65%</b>		<b>6,160</b>



# GRANT APPLICATION

The Project Courage Foundation (PCF), a Florida based 501c3 corporation, supports and creates veteran initiatives through athletic, social, and entrepreneurial activities.

PCF will be submitting an application for the VA grant for an amount under \$500,000.



# MISSION

The mission of the Courage Games is to create adapted sports festivals in Florida for disabled veterans and disabled service members that allow them to easily “**commute to compete**”.



# OBJECTIVES

- Provide an easy commute to introductory “learn by doing” competitions in adaptive sports.
- Introduce innovative recreational activities for disabled veterans and service members.
- Include area recreation therapists, VA employees, and other appropriate individuals in the implementation and evaluation of each Courage Games.
- Facilitate the implementation of the Paralympic sport classification system.
- Initially provide flexible enforcement of classification rules in order to initiate the commencement of an active competitive lifestyle.
- Garner the support of student veteran groups, Disabled Veterans of America, private and public rehabilitation centers as well as other public and private veteran support groups.



# ELIGIBILITY

Veterans who receive a Veteran's Administration disability rating.

Disabled Active Duty service members assigned to various bases in the southeast United States or to an Army Warrior Transition Unit or Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Battalion.



# SPORTS

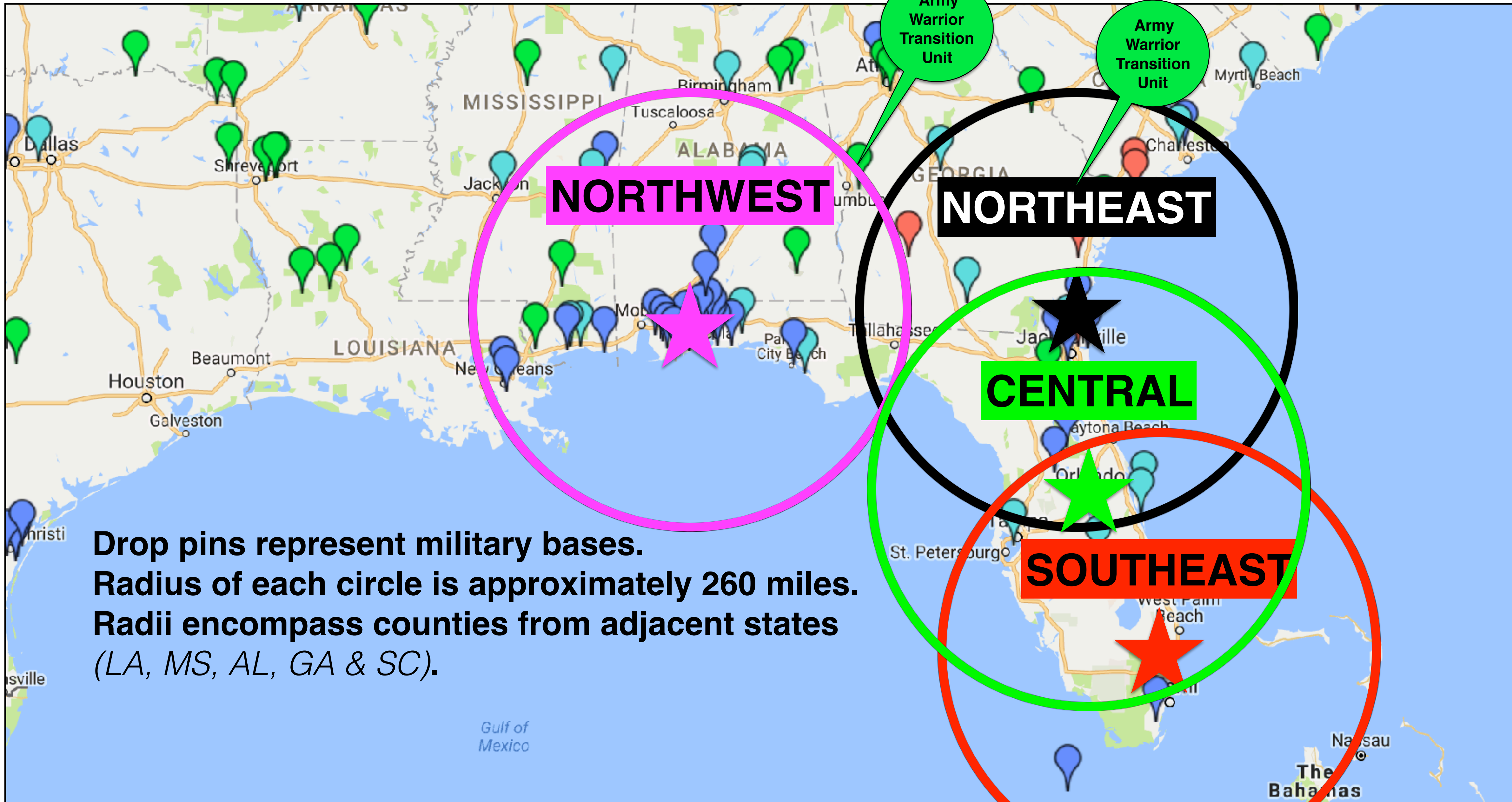
To accomplish its mission the Courage Games designs, plans and implements Games at four locations in Florida, the **Southeast, Northwest, Northeast**, culminating in **Central Florida** with the Courage Games Championship.





# COURAGE GAMES SITES

**COURAGE GAMES**  
May Your Courage Never Cease



**Drop pins represent military bases.**  
**Radius of each circle is approximately 260 miles.**  
**Radii encompass counties from adjacent states**  
*(LA, MS, AL, GA & SC).*



# DEFINITIONS

**STANDING** - sports for athletes who do **not** utilize their wheelchairs in the competition.

**SITTING** - sports for athletes who utilize their wheelchairs in the competition.

**UNIFIED** - all disabled veterans both male and female.

# CLASSIFICATION

**OPEN** - zero to little functional limitations

**MINIMUM** - athletes with paraplegia or leg amputations or who have a significant and permanent impairment of one or both legs and normal arm function.

**MAXIMUM** - Players in this class have an impairment affecting their arm and leg function with limited ability to throw a ball or grip a racket and to move in the wheelchair.

# SPORTS

	<b>Open</b>	<b>Mimimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
<b>5k RUN</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>POWERLIFTING</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Combined</b>	
<b>3 ON 3 BASKETBALL</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>GUTS FRISBEE</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>SITTING VOLLEYBALL</b>		<b>Unified</b>	
<b>WHEELCHAIR RUGBY</b>		<b>Unified</b>	
<b>TENNIS</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>INNER TUBE WATER POLO</b>		<b>Unified</b>	

# STANDING TEAM SPORTS

Teams in these sports **do not compete in wheelchairs** and can be all male, all female or co-ed and should have at least one (1) minimum or maximum player on their roster.

- **Sitting Volleyball,**
- **Standing 3on3 Basketball,**
- **Standing Guts Frisbee,**
- **Inner Tube Water Polo.**

# SITTING TEAM SPORTS

All members of these teams **must compete in wheelchairs** no matter their functional limitations. Teams in these sports can be all male, all female or co-ed and should have at least one (1) minimum or maximum player on their roster:

- **Wheelchair 3on3 Basketball**
- **Wheelchair Rugby**
- **Sitting Guts Frisbee**

# INDIVIDUAL SPORTS

**POWERLIFTING** - Two separate categories

- Open
- Combined Minimum and Maximum

**5k RUN** - Three Categories - Open, Minimum and Maximum

**TENNIS** - Three Categories - Open, Minimum and Maximum



# OPERATIONAL CONCEPT

The Student Veteran Organization (SVO) at the indicated university will manage each Games starting in FY18:

1. Southeast Florida - SVO, Florida Atlantic University
2. Northwest Florida - SVO, TBD
3. Northeast Florida - SVO, TBD
4. Central Florida - SVO, TBD

There is no entry fee for competing disabled veterans.

Individual veterans and teams can compete at more than one of the sites.





# OPERATIONAL CONCEPT

## LOGISTICS

Competition facilities will be leased from the local university, local high schools and/or parks and recreation departments.

All fees, furniture, fixtures and equipment will be paid by the Project Courage Foundation through the VA funds.



# OPERATIONAL CONCEPT

## COMPETITION FORMATS

Depending upon number of entrants, the format for each Courage Games might be different (*pool play, single elimination, double elimination, etc.*)

The top three individuals and teams in each division and/or category from the first three Games will be seeded into the Central Florida region for the Courage Games Championship in an appropriate format.



**COURAGE GAMES**

May Your Courage Never Cease