

“ It is difficult for me to express in words the gratitude that I have for the efforts made for myself and other soldiers by the family at Frontline Paper and Warrior Writers. This program has given me the ability to express my feelings through art and writing in a way I didn't know was possible. The friendship and support from this community of artists has helped guide me from one of the darkest places in my life into a realization that hope exists on the other side of a difficult journey to finally come home. ”

-Daron Regan
SSG, EOD, Army 10 years
2017

“ Thank you so much for bringing [Frontline Paper, formerly Combat Paper NJ] to our patients at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Participants were immediately engaged with the art form. Veteran-led projects are inspiring for many of our service members as they map their futures and look for ways to continue to engage with the community that they have served. ”

-Seema Reza,
JTF CapMed Arts Program Coordinator
Walter Reed National Military Medical Center

“ Through art-making, [Frontline Paper, formerly Combat Paper NJ] allows you to repurpose old uniforms into paper. It's a good way to let go of the past. ”

- Chris, Army

“ I am always looking for ways for the students to talk about their experiences in a safe, non-judgmental environment. [Frontline Paper, formerly Combat Paper NJ] provided that sanctuary, while giving the students an opportunity to turn their thoughts and feelings into something tangible, something made from the very uniforms in which they served. ”

- Denise Rodak,
Coordinator of Veteran and Military Resources
at Montclair State University

www.frontlinepaper.org
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Army Fatigues, Vietnam, 1960's
Marine Corps Utilities Uniform, Vietnam, 1964
Army Class A Uniform, Vietnam, 1960's
Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps Cammies, 1980's - Current
Air Force Blues, Kuwait, Current
Navy Submariner Utilities, Current
Marine Corps Mom T-shirt and Marine Corps Desert Digital Cammies, Current
Army Surgical Tech Scrubs, Mogadishu, Somalia, 1993

FRONTLINE PAPER

“ When I got home from Iraq, I lost the feeling of joy in most activities and interactions with people. I used alcohol and drugs to celebrate coming home alive, and also to mask the changes in me. When I heard about [Frontline Paper, formerly Combat Paper NJ] through a mutual friend, I thought, 'OK, whatever. Big deal.' I soon realized there was something powerful going on; something touching me on many levels. ”

- Jesse Albrect
Medic, Army National Guard
2015

“ Simply put, [the program] SAVED me. I was completely consumed by the pressures that come from separating from the family I've known for years, which is the military. There's also the anxiety of no one really understanding what I've been through as a combat veteran. I would like to thank everyone involved! ”

- David Hall, Army

“ [Frontline Paper, formerly Combat Paper NJ] presented at Stockton College was the most rewarding experience for our veterans. They not only embraced the program, but they celebrated a certain closure to their combat experiences. ”

- Tom O'Donnell,
Assistant to the Dean of Students/Head of Veterans Services, The Richard Stockton College



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Frontline Paper is a program of Frontline Arts, a NJ non-profit arts organization with a mission to connect and build communities through socially engaging arts practices rooted in papermaking and printmaking.

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FRONTLINE PAPER

DECONSTRUCT | RECLAIM | COMMUNICATE

For too long, we have lived in a time where veterans tend to suppress their experiences – producing a culture of the “silent veteran.” Frontline Paper (formerly known as Combat Paper NJ) is a unique art project that provides artistic tools, professional instruction, and community support to explore experiences through art. These workshops ultimately give participants the space to share their stories publicly, breaking the cycle of silence.

Our specialty is the transformative process of making paper from military uniforms. Through workshops, this handmade paper creates a platform for veterans and non-veterans to come together and share stories, providing a “new language” and much needed discourse between veterans and society. In casual drop-in sessions, on college campuses, in community centers, at pop-up street corner workshops, and at VA and military hospitals, veteran artists teach the art of papermaking and printmaking to veterans of all service eras.

DECONSTRUCT

Uniforms can hold dirt, blood, sweat, and memories. Each workshop session begins with the participants sharing their stories while cutting into the uniform. They deconstruct the uniform as they deconstruct the memories associated with it.

RECLAIM

The cut pieces of uniform are beaten into a pulp using specially designed papermaking equipment, creating a slurry of fibers and water. Sheets of paper are then pulled from the pulp and dried to create paper. In this process, the fibers and memories are reconstructed, reclaimed into something different - paper.

COMMUNICATE

Dried sheets of paper become the platform for veterans to communicate their stories. Through instructional periods, veterans integrate drawing, printmaking, and/or written words into their handmade paper using various techniques. Whether the blank paper, or a created image on the surface, each paper artwork tells a story through the language of papermaking.

EVERYONE BECOMES A WITNESS

Community-based events and Frontline Paper exhibitions are important opportunities for veterans to talk about their military service, and for society to hear stories from the veterans themselves. The practice of community-based art engages society, gives everyone a voice, and exposes the true complexity of the veteran experience. This sparks a dialogue of the raw realities of what it means to serve in the military, and live through the aftermath. These opportunities help the public better understand the complex veteran narrative, and raise awareness among witnesses that the current bridge built between veterans and society needs repairing.

TRANSFORM

**FRONTLINE
PAPER**

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GET INVOLVED

DONATE

We are continually expanding and rely on donations from supporters like you.

www.frontlinearts.org/donate

SPREAD THE WORD

We need to reach new Veterans. Please tell Veterans or Veteran Service Providers you may know.

SET UP A PROGRAM

Call or email us to set up a workshop. We can offer one-day or multi-day presentations, demonstrations, workshops, artist talks, exhibitions, and more.

www.frontlinearts.org/frontline-paper

BECOME A SPONSOR

If you own a business, work for a foundation, or direct an organization, please contact us about becoming a sustaining sponsor.

Contact manda@frontlinearts.org

PARTICIPATION IS FREE FOR ALL

Contact us to find out about Frontline Paper activities in your area! We offer free workshops for veterans at our studios every Sunday from 12-4pm

“Transform” Aaron Hughes
Pulp print on handmade paper from military uniforms
12” x 18” 2015

