



Wounded Warrior Voice

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FROM THE DESK OF COL GADSON: The Month of the Military Child

April is the Month of the Military Child. As the Army Chief of Staff says, "the strength of our nation is our Army. The strength of our Army is our Soldier. The strength of our Soldier is our Family." Being a father, I cherish the time I have with my children and celebrate their resiliency.

AW2 assists and advocates for severely wounded, ill, and injured Soldiers, Veterans, and their Families. Families are the heartbeat of the Army and what motivates us. As Soldiers, we chose to raise our right hand and serve our country, as our spouses and children stand by our sides embodying what it truly means to serve and live the Army values. They are loyal, dutiful, respectful, selfless, show great honor, demonstrate integrity, and most of all exude the personal courage we should all strive to have.

We should take a moment to recognize the children's silent contributions and support of our service to our nation. They have learned to Soldier on like their parents who serve, and this month we want to bring the attention to those whose scarifies are significant and underappreciated.

I encourage everyone to use the resources available to AW2 Soldiers, Veterans, and their Families to strengthen the military household, and find activities you can do together. The WTC website has many links to resources on the AW2 Community Support Network section. Continue to recommend organizations for inclusion in the AW2 Community Support Network because this is for you and your Family.

For more information on Month of the Military Child, visit:

- Army OneSource <http://www.myarmyonesource.com/default.aspx>
- U.S. Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation <http://www.armymwr.com/family/default.aspx>

AW2 Community Support Network: Who Helps You?

By SSG Emily Anderson, WTC Stratcom

AW2 is in a constant state of bringing new organizations into the AW2 Community Support Network. These organizations have all stepped up and offer a wide variety

of services to AW2 Soldiers, Veterans, and Families. However, we do not know all of the organizations that are out there helping you, but we want to. You are the key to helping our AW2 Community Support Network grow. You are the ones working with your community organizations on a daily or weekly basis.

The AW2 Community Support Network was created based on direct requests from severely wounded, ill, and injured Soldiers, Veterans, and Families. Wounded Soldiers stated that connection with their local community and community leaders was essential for their success and reintegration. The impact AW2 Community Support Network organizations have on AW2 Soldiers, Veterans, and Families is difficult to measure; in fact, it is priceless. Participants in the AW2 Community Support Network are organizations willing to help in areas to include:

- Adaptive Materials
- Adaptive Spots and Recreational Services
- Assistance with Federal Benefits
- Care Packages, Letters and Messages, and Moral Support
- Career Training, Education, Human Resources Support, and Employment Opportunities
- Financial Counseling
- Financial Support
- Housing Assistance
- Interactive Communications Forums
- Legal Services
- Mental Wellness and Counseling
- Physical Rehabilitative Support
- Resource Databases
- Retirement and Transition
- Service Dog Organizations
- Services for Families, Children, and Caregivers
- State Veterans Programs
- Travel Support
- Other areas not listed

If you know of a caring organization that wants to assist wounded, ill, and injured Soldiers, Veterans and their Families, please email the AW2 Community Support Network at the email address below. I welcome your recommendations and referrals.

Send organization referrals to AW2CommunitySupportNetwork@conus.army.mil.

VA Update: Veteran's First Visit to a VA Medical Center

By Ken MacGarrigle, Veterans Affairs

"Doubts" is a four-minute video of a recent Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran who reluctantly comes to the Department of Veterans (VA) expecting a negative experience. To his surprise, he encounters a VA staff comprised of compassionate employees focused on his needs who exceed his expectations of VA customer service.

The purpose of this four-minute video reinforces the commitment of the VA: knowing Veterans' specific needs and understands the specifics to deploying in Afghanistan and Iraq. "Doubts" depicts the VA's commitment to today's Veterans. You can enhance the video's impact by sharing your experience to educate staff on your deployment and service through social media outlets.

It features the VA Medical Center in Los Angeles, California.

The first entry point is the reception desk directing the Soldier to their medical screening and then working with VSO to learn about their benefits.

Watch the video here: <http://www.oefoif.va.gov/videos.asp>

ACAP: New Tools for Army Transition

By Rose Tinker, Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP)

The Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP), the Army's long standing transition program, is using cutting edge technology to provide a choice-based service for Soldiers. In addition to traditional walk-in ACAP centers, Soldiers can now receive services through the 24/7 call center and the virtual center.

By calling the ACAP call center at (800) 325-4715, Soldiers and their Family members can connect with qualified ACAP counselors at any point in their transition. The counselors can assist with the completion of the preparation checklist, resume writing and job searching, interview preparation, provide employment readiness training, provide contact information for benefit providers, and so much more.

Soldiers and Family members also have the option of utilizing innovative online technology to meet their transition needs with the ACAP virtual center. The virtual center is an online interactive environment that allows Soldiers to use a character avatar to navigate around the center. Participants can interact with live ACAP counselors through instant messaging, voice capabilities, or even video chat. Counselors are available 24/7 to assist Soldiers and Family members with any transition questions. Access to the virtual world can be requested through ACAP's Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/ArmyCareerandAlumniProgram>.

Regardless of whether Soldiers are posted at a traditional Army facility or in remote locations around the globe, ACAP services are just a phone call or a mouse click away. ACAP services are available to you on your time.

For more contact information you can visit our website at www.acap.army.mil.

THE BLOG UPDATE: March 2012

Army Warrior Games Training Comes to Fort Bliss

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/01/army-warrior-games-training-comes-to-fort-bliss/>

When Focusing on the Physical, Don't Forget the Mental

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/01/when-focusing-on-the-physical-don%e2%80%99t-forget-the-mental/>

WTU Soldiers Gain Experience from Department of Defense Operation Warfighter Internship Program

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/01/wtu-soldiers-gain-experience-from-department-of-defense-operation-warfighter-internship-program/>

Project Odyssey: Making a Difference in the Lives of Wounded, Ill, and Injured Soldiers

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/02/project-odyssey-making-a-difference-in-the-lives-of-wounded-ill-and-injured-soldiers/>

February 2, 2012: Celebrating 111 Years of Army Nursing

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/02/february-2-2012-celebrating-111-years-of-army-nursing/>

WTB Fort Knox and CB-WTU-IL Soldiers Win Big at Super Bowl Weekend Events

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/02/wtb-fort-knox-and-cb-wtu-il-soldiers-win-big-at-super-bowl-weekend-events/>

Being Confident in Your Abilities

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/02/being-confident-in-your-abilities/>

Sometimes You Have to Strip Off Your Uniform to Get Personal

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/02/sometimes-you-have-to-strip-off-your-uniform-to-get-personal-2/>

Warrior Games Army Track and Field Coach: "We Will Dominate!"

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/02/warrior-games-army-track-and-field-coach-%e2%80%9cwe-will-dominate%e2%80%9d/>

Swimming for a Purpose

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/02/swimming-for-a-purpose/>

Commander's Drumbeat - A Call to Action

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/02/commander%E2%80%99s-drumbeat-%E2%80%93-a-call-to-action/>

Network of Champions - Corporate Partners Promote the Hiring of Wounded Warriors

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/02/network-of-champions-%E2%80%93-corporate-partners-promote-the-hiring-of-wounded-warriors/>

It's about Hiring Noble, Dedicated Veterans

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/02/it%E2%80%99s-about-hiring-noble-dedicated-veterans/>

Individuals Don't Suffer From, but Live with PTSD and TBI

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/02/individuals-don%E2%80%99t-suffer-from-but-live-with-ptsd-and-tbi/>

Military Spouse Employment Partnership Provides Tools for Connecting Spouses and Employers

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/03/military-spouse-employment-partnership-provides-tools-for-connecting-spouses-and-employers-2/>

CBWTU-FL Soldiers Celebrate NBA All-Star Weekend and Celebrate Black History Month with Legends of Basketball

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/03/cbwту-fl-soldiers-celebrate-nba-all-star-weekend-and-celebrate-black-history-month-with-legends-of-basketball/>

Wounded, Ill, and Injured Soldiers Compete for a Spot on Warrior Games Team

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/03/wounded-ill-and-injured-soldiers-compete-for-a-spot-on-warrior-games-team/>

Warrior Games Army Track and Field Athletes Take the Road to the Qualification Clinics

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/03/warrior-games-army-track-and-field-athletes-take-the-road-to-the-qualification-clinics/>

Wounded Warrior's Archery Hopes Fulfilled by a Community Worlds Away

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/03/wounded-warrior%E2%80%99s-archery-hopes-fulfilled-by-a-community-worlds-away/>

Keys to a New Future for AW2 Veteran Kevin Snow and Family

<http://AW2.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/01/keys-to-a-new-future-for-aw2-veteran-kevin-snow-and-family/>

Thanks for a Dog Named "Ike" - An Opportunity for More Independence for AW2 Veteran Christopher Paiser

<http://AW2.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/02/thanks-for-a-dog-named-%e2%80%9cike%e2%80%9d-%e2%80%93-an-opportunity-for-more-independence-for-aw2-veteran-christopher-paiser/>

AW2 Veteran Trains for Warrior Games Gold

<http://AW2.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/02/aw2-veteran-trains-for-warrior-games-gold/>

CPT Alvin Shell Continues to Serve - Just in a Different Uniform

<http://AW2.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/02/cpt-alvin-shell-continues-to-serve->

[%E2%80%93just-in-a-different-uniform/](#)

Welcome to the AW2 Community Support Network

<http://AW2.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/03/welcome-to-the-aw2-community-support-network-8/>

Conference Call Focuses on Supporting Wounded, Ill, and Injured Soldiers with Hearing Loss

<http://AW2.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/03/conference-call-focuses-on-supporting-wounded-ill-and-injured-soldiers-with-hearing-loss/>

Army Family Action Plan Conference Forwards Key Warrior Care Issues

<http://AW2.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/03/army-family-action-plan-conference-forwards-key-warrior-care-issues/>

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