



GOVERNOR'S MILITARY ROUNDTABLE "A Call To Faith & Community To Serve Those Who Serve Us" ARIZONA OPERATION FAMILY SUPPORT

In Partnership with:

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Center for Faith-Based & Community Initiatives
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Chaplaincy Program
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans' Health Administration
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans' Benefits Administration
U.S. Department of Defense Military Commanders with Installations in Arizona
Arizona Department of Veterans' Affairs
Arizona National Guard
Arizona Office for Americans with Disabilities
Arizona Department of Economic Security
Arizona Lottery
TriWest Healthcare Alliance
Child Crisis Center

Background: This roundtable represents one aspect of the future direction of the Arizona faith and community initiative as a result of the Arizona White House Conference on Faith and Community Initiatives in May 2007. One of the recommendations coming out of the conference (outlined in the report, "Restoring Lives, Transforming Communities") is to develop strategies and avenues for more substantive involvement of faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs) in support of military families after their service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Purpose: To bring to the attention of FBCOs the need for support to the military, to share with them strategies for how they can support the military, and to provide opportunities for networking between military personnel and FBCO leaders. Primary focus will be on helping people identify ways to assist veterans who are suffering from traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorders. In addition, participants will be able to identify ways their faith or community network can get actively involved in supporting the military through various forms of outreach, basic needs support, advocacy and spiritual (chaplaincy) care.

Topics Covered Include:

- The issues facing returning veterans, as well as their strengths and needs
- Caring for returning warriors and wounded caregivers, including chaplaincy training for those who wish to serve those returning from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF)
- Basic statistics on OEF/OIF and needs for support
- OEF/OIF veterans services
- The unique needs of homeless veterans
- The special needs of American Indian/Alaska Native returnees
- Operation Family Support: communities engaged on behalf of our military

Framework for the Future:

- Regional Roundtables to be conducted in Tucson, Yuma, and Northern Arizona in 2008
- Roundtables to be followed by:
 - Specialized training for FBCOs in posttraumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury issues affecting returnees and their families
 - Chaplaincy training
 - Capacity-building training for FBCOs on resources and supports for veterans and their families
 - Promotion of community-based "Operation Family Support" efforts