



**U. S. Army Human Resources Command
200 Stovall Street
Alexandria, VA 22332**

For media information contact:

Lt. Col. Richard McNorton
Public Affairs Officer
(703) 325-9904
HRCPAO@conus.army.mil

For Immediate Release:

Oct. 10, 2008

**Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2) Expands Entry Criteria to Assist
Even More Severely Injured Soldiers and Families**

Alexandria, VA — In response to the needs of our Soldiers and their Families, the Army has expanded the eligibility criteria for the Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2). The program, which serves the Army's most severely wounded, injured and ill Soldiers and their Families, now will support Soldiers who have a combined rating of 50% or greater for conditions that are the result of combat or are combat related.

Currently, AW2 supports the most severely-wounded Soldiers from the Global War on Terror who have, or are expected to receive, an Army disability rating of 30% or greater in one or more specific categories:

- Blindness/vision loss
- Deafness/hearing loss
- Fatal/incurable disease
- Loss of limb
- Paralysis/spinal cord injury
- Permanent disfigurement
- Post traumatic stress disorder
- Severe burns
- Traumatic brain injury

“AW2's expanded criteria will allow us to support more of the Soldiers who have given so much in service to our country,” said Col. Jim Rice, Director of the AW2. “We currently are in the process of identifying and notifying Soldiers who fit the expanded criteria so we can immediately connect them to their personal AW2 Advocate and the program's support services.”

Upon entering the AW2 Program, each Soldier is assigned an Advocate who will serve them and their Families in a variety of ways; including helping them obtain full benefits, educational opportunities, and financial and career counseling; as well as helping those who want to stay in the Army. There are more than 89 AW2 Advocates located at or near military installations across the country.

For the last four years, AW2 has assisted and advocated for our Soldiers by providing them with individualized support for as long as it takes, wherever they are located – regardless of their military status.

The expanded criteria will impact approximately 250 soldiers.

For more information about the Army Wounded Warrior Program, or the new criteria, call 1-800-237-1336 toll-free or visit <http://www.AW2@.army.mil>. Media representatives are requested to use the contact information above.