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The U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2) Announces “AW2 Advocate” as the New Name for Local Representatives

Washington, DC — The U.S. Army Wounded Warrior (AW2) Program is proud to announce the new name for its local representatives, AW2 Advocate, replacing the former name of Soldier Family Management Specialist (SFMS). AW2 Advocate was selected because it better describes the comprehensive role these individuals have in assisting and advocating for severely wounded Soldiers and their Families.

Upon entrance into the AW2 Program, each AW2 Soldier is assigned to an AW2 Advocate, to personally assist them and their Family. There are more than 75 AW2 Advocates located at or near military installations across the country. AW2 Advocates serve Soldiers and Families in a variety of ways, including working with them to obtain full benefits, educational opportunities, and financial and career counseling, as well as helping those who want to stay in the Army and continue their service.

“Our AW2 Advocates are truly champions for our Soldiers. They personally connect with Soldiers and Families, supporting them in countless ways, for as long as it takes,” stated Col. Jim Rice, director of the Army Wounded Warrior Program.

AW2 assists and advocates for the most severely wounded Soldiers by providing individualized support, throughout their lifetimes, wherever they are located – regardless of their military status. AW2 assists the unique population of Soldiers who have, or are expected to receive, an Army disability rating of 30% or more in one of several specific categories.

Lt. Col. Gregory Gadson, an AW2 Soldier, spoke about his experience with the program, "AW2 has been there for me and my wife throughout my recovery, addressing all of our needs. The support of my AW2 Advocate has been invaluable and she has made sure that I'm taken care of. I trust her to look out for me."

All wounded Soldiers are assigned to a Warrior Transition Unit (WTU) to focus on their recovery. Soldiers in a WTU receive focused support from the triad of care: a primary care manager, nurse case manager and military squad leader. Those Soldiers with extensive medical needs are simultaneously assigned to the Army Wounded Warrior Program and receive a local AW2 Advocate to assist long term.

For more information on the Army Wounded Warrior Program, including a list of specific AW2 Advocates and their contact information, visit AW2's website at <https://www.AW2.army.mil> or call 1-800-237-1336.

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