



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



November 3, 2010

Warrior Care Month

"There is no higher priority for the Department of Defense, after the war itself, than caring for our wounded warriors."
- Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus has designated November as "[Warrior Care Month](#)" to highlight Navy and Marine Corps commitment to quality care for our service members and their families. Recognizing and appreciating the sacrifices of wounded and ill service members and their families remains a priority of the Department of the Navy (DoN). Through the efforts of the [Navy Safe Harbor Program](#), the [Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment](#) and Navy Medicine, we take care of our own by serving wounded warrior Sailors and Marines who are in active duty, reserve, and veteran status. The 2010 Warrior Care Month theme is: "Focusing on Abilities - Supporting Wounded Warriors throughout Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reintegration."

Commitment to Patient and Family-Centered Care for our Wounded Warriors

- Navy Medicine is focused on combat casualty care throughout the continuum of care. This commitment begins with the corpsman in the field, progresses to resuscitative care at a larger battlefield medical facility, and culminates in care provided en route during a warrior's evacuation to a military hospital and world-class restorative and rehabilitative care.
- The Wounded Warrior Regiment Medical Review Team coordinates with battalion surgeons, deployed units, and [military treatment facilities](#) in advance of return of a unit to set up anticipated medical appointments, ensuring a majority of medical needs are assessed prior to demobilization.
- The Navy's new [National Intrepid Center of Excellence](#) facility at National Naval Medical Center opened in August 2010. This state-of-the art facility conducts clinical treatment and research relating to traumatic brain injury and psychological health for wounded warriors who need healing in body, mind, and spirit.
- [FOCUS](#) (Families OverComing Under Stress) is a family-centered resiliency training program based on evidence-based research interventions that enhance understanding, psychological health, and developmental outcomes for highly stressed children and families. [FOCUS](#) participation has increased family and child coping and reduced parent and child distress over time.
- [OSCAR](#) (Operational Stress Control and Readiness) Navy and Marine Corps teams build resilience, and [decrease stigmas](#) associated with seeking psychological health care. This helps wounded warriors transition from the combat zone to the home front, so Sailors, Marines and families can heal in body, mind, and spirit.
- Navy Medicine's [research](#) community has made tremendous medical advancements in mild to severe [traumatic brain injury](#) (TBI) and PTSD, [wound management](#), blood clotting, wound repair and reconstruction, bone ossification, and extremity and internal hemorrhage control and phantom limb pain.

Key Messages

- Commitment to our Wounded Warriors and their families must never waver, and our programs and support must be built and sustained for the long haul.
- Our military treatment facilities are providing expert restorative and rehabilitative care for wounded warriors from the battlefield to the bedside and beyond.
- For more information on Warrior Care Month activities or about the Navy Wounded Warrior Program, call 1.877.746.8563, or visit the website at www.safeharbor.navy.mil.

Facts & Figures

- Statistically, chance of survival for a wounded warrior reaching a surgical unit is about 95 percent. This is the lowest mortality rate among trauma victims coming out of a war.
- More than 140,000 veterans of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom are unemployed or underemployed, particularly if the returning Sailor or Marine is wounded or ill.
- Veterans, [wounded warriors](#) and people with disabilities may be eligible for fast-track hiring programs for thousands of civilian positions. Search with the [Civilian Hiring and Recruitment Tool](#).