



The Wounded Warrior Voice

In This Issue...

November 5, 2008

- **WHAT'S NEW?: AW2 Eligibility Criteria Expanded**
- **WHAT'S NEW?: AW2 Transition to Warrior Care and Transition Office**
- **WHAT'S NEW?: AW2 Supports DoD's Warrior Care Month**
- **WHAT'S NEW?: New Resource Center Established for Wounded Warriors, Families and Caregivers**
- **WHAT'S NEW?: VA Update - Suicide Prevention**
- **CAREERS: "America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers" Program Guarantees a Job**
- **CAREERS: Order Allows Direct Hiring of Military Spouses**
- **EDUCATION**
- **MONEY MATTERS: Interest Rates and Debts - Did You Know?**
- **MONEY MATTERS: Ensuring Seamless Pay for Soldiers**
- **FAMILY: October - Children's Health Month**
- **FAMILY: November - Military Family Month**
- **FAMILY: Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) - What is it?**
- **OPPORTUNITIES: Library Resources, Glasses, Deaflympics, NY Hunting, Paralympic Sport Opportunities, Sports Calendar, Warrior Mind Training**

- **AW2 SOLDIER STORIES**
- **FEEDBACK: Are We Meeting the Needs of Soldiers, Families and Caregivers?**

WHAT'S NEW?: AW2 Eligibility Criteria Expanded

By Philip Paternella, Medical Support Specialist

The Secretary of the Army recently approved the action to expand the eligibility criteria for AW2 to include Soldiers who have received a combined Army Physical Disability Agency (PDA) rating of 50% for injuries and conditions incurred in combat or are combat related. In many cases, these Soldiers receive between 50% to 80% combined ratings for their combat related injuries, but no single special category (SPECAT) rating of 30% or above. The Army leadership agreed with AW2's recommendation that this group of Soldiers should be afforded the opportunity to participate in AW2 even though they did not meet the 30% requirement for a single injury category. This expanded criterion does not supersede the original eligibility requirement of a 30% PDA rating in one injury category, included in the original program guidelines. Instead it now permits the inclusion of Soldiers with multiple medical conditions which when combined, substantiate considerable limitations.

The expansion of the eligibility criteria aligns with the program's original intent and the current mission of providing personalized support services to severely wounded, injured, and ill Soldiers and their Families. Expansion of the eligibility criteria now establishes that to be considered AW2 eligible, a Soldier must:

- Suffer from injuries or illness incurred in the line of duty after 10 September 2001 in support of the Global War on Terrorism.
- Receive or expected to receive a 30% PDA rating for one of the following conditions due to wounds received, an injury, or illness:
- Examples of SPECAT or Enabling Care conditions listed in AR 40-400 include; *Amputation, burns, spinal cord injuries, traumatic head injuries, post traumatic stress disorder, eye injuries, incurable and fatal disease with limited life expectancy, established psychiatric conditions, extensive medical treatment and hospitalization, paralysis, permanent and unsightly disfigurement of exposed body parts.*

OR

- Receive a PDA combined rating equal to or greater than 50% for any other combat or combat related conditions.

The impact of this expansion of the current eligibility is still being assessed, but based on analysis conducted in April of this year; we expect an addition of approximately 250 to 300 Soldiers to the current AW2 population. The majority of these Soldiers will be identified through the PDA data review process and entered into the Wounded Warrior Accountability System (WWAS) after their contact information has been verified by the AW2 Call Center. We also encourage AW2 Advocates to input cases that meet the 50% requirement and are not yet in WWAS. For more information, contact your AW2 Advocate or Philip Paternella at philip.paternella@us.army.mil.

[Back to Top](#)

WHAT'S NEW?: AW2 Transition to Warrior Care and Transition Office

By COL Jim Rice, AW2 Director

Earlier this week, the Under Secretary of the Army and the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army made some significant changes regarding Wounded Warrior care.

Primary among those changes is that AW2 will be moving from U.S. Army Human Resources Command and will work under the Warrior Care and Transition Office (WCTO) as part of the Army Medical Command. Tentative plans call for the command realignment to take place in the next 30 days or so. However, for the time being, AW2 will continue to operate in the current offices within the Hoffman Building in Alexandria, VA.

This realignment offers AW2 the opportunity to continue to improve the support to the Army's most severely wounded, ill, and injured Soldiers and their Families. The decision undoubtedly will improve cohesion among the Military Treatment Facilities, Warrior Transition Units, AW2 and the Soldier Family Assistance Centers.

The AW2 staff is working diligently to identify all the requirements to ensure a successful transition. Keep in mind that the Army leadership made this decision with the intent to improve the care to our Wounded Warriors and their Families. Most of the changes should be invisible to Soldiers and their Families and is not expected to change the role of AW2 Advocates significantly.

[Back to Top](#)

WHAT'S NEW?: AW2 Supports DoD's Warrior Care Month

This year, for the first time ever, the DoD is devoting a month to recognizing the care services available to the nation's military. During "Warrior Care Month," in November, the U.S. Army is focusing on educating the American public about warrior care and ensuring that Soldiers and their Families understand the resources available to them. The Army has changed the way they provide warrior care in response to the needs of the wounded Soldiers and their Families from the Global War on Terrorism. In an effort to showcase the Army's care of severely wounded, injured, and ill Soldiers, AW2 is leading several outreach efforts for Warrior Care Month. Each Army agency is spotlighting programs and services provided to Soldiers and their Families on "Army Service Day," Monday, November 17. AW2 is obviously focusing on the assistance provided to the most severely wounded, injured, and ill Soldiers and their Families by submitting articles to local newspapers and The Pentagon Channel and exhibiting at the Association of Military Surgeons of the U.S. (AMSUS) Annual Meeting on November 9-14 in San Antonio, TX. We encourage AW2 Soldiers and Families to get involved with local Warrior Care Month and Veterans Service Organizations events in your communities and installations to tell your stories.

[Back to Top](#)

WHAT'S NEW?: New Resource Center Established for Wounded Warriors, Families and Caregivers

DoD established the Wounded Warrior Resource Center by leveraging the universally recognized Military OneSource telephone number, and email to report concerns with military facilities, health care services, benefits information and any other difficulties encountered during their recovery process.

Service members may now call 1-800-342-9647 or email wwrc@militaryonesource.com "24/7" to request support. Assistance provided by the resource center will not replace the specialized wounded warrior programs established by each of the military services but does offer another avenue of assistance with military facilities, health care services, and/or benefits information.

[Back to Top](#)

WHAT'S NEW?: VA Update - Suicide Prevention

By Jane Dulin, AW2 VA Liaison

The VA is developing a comprehensive strategy in the prevention of suicide attempts and completions. The Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-TALK, is staffed by trained professionals 24 hours a day to deal with any immediate crisis that may be taking place. Nearly 33,000 veterans, Family members or friends of veterans have called the lifeline in the year that it has been operating. Of those, there have been more than 1,600 rescues to prevent a possible tragedy.

Other initiatives included the hiring of suicide prevention coordinators at each of VA's 153 medical facilities, the establishment of a Mental Health Center of Excellence in Canandaigua, NY, focusing on developing and testing clinical and public health intervention standards for suicide prevention, the creation of an additional research center on suicide prevention in Denver, and a plus-up in staff making more than 400 mental health professionals entirely dedicated to suicide prevention.

A Blue Ribbon Work Group on Suicide Prevention, composed of suicide prevention experts, made recommendations to further enhance the VA's programs, these included: design a study that will identify suicide risk among veterans, improve VA's screening for suicide, ensure that evidence-based research is used to determine the appropriateness of medications, devise a policy for protecting confidential records, develop educational materials, increase training for VA chaplains, and develop a gun-safety program for veterans with children. AW2 Advocates should locate the nearest VA Suicide Prevention Coordinator and establish a working relationship with that person.

[Back to Top](#)

CAREERS: "America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers" Program Guarantees a Job

By Scott Cox, Career Coordinator

America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers Program (AVTEP) is an education-to-employment initiative focused on developing tomorrow's engineers from today's ranks of active duty military. AVTEP is a product of another national initiative with the unlikely acronym of STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, but which is really far greater than the sum of its parts. The U.S. Department of Energy has partnered with leading scientific and energy sector support companies, such as Oak Ridge National Laboratories, Bechtel, Energy Solutions, Babcock and Wilcox (B&W) and other corporations, to support this STEM-based program by providing a guaranteed pathway to a high paying career.

For more information on this opportunity to complete an Engineering degree in Tennessee and step right into a guaranteed engineering job with a premier energy sector corporation, including details of the program, the qualifications, application process and about living in Tennessee, visit www.y12.doe.gov/jobs/stem/ or contact Scott Cox, AW2 Career Coordinator, at scott.cox4@us.army.mil.

[Back to Top](#)

CAREERS: Order Allows Direct Hiring of Military Spouses

President Bush signed an executive order in September allowing federal agencies to bypass competitive hiring regulations in order to make it easier for spouses of military service members to get civilian government jobs. It allows agencies to make noncompetitive appointments to the following groups of people:

- Spouses of military service members who are on active duty under orders that authorize a permanent change of station move -- assuming the spouse is moving, too.
- Spouses of totally disabled retired or separated members of the armed forces.
- Widows or widowers (who have not remarried) of service members killed on active duty.

For more information, visit www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2008/09/20080926-8.html.

[Back to Top](#)

EDUCATION: College Scholarship Opportunities

American Intercontinental University (AIU)

AIU has established the 15% [Freedom Grant](#) for active and inactive, retired and honorably discharged reserve and military personnel, civilian military personnel, and their immediate Families (spouse, life partner, or dependent children) with the opportunity to attend a degree program of study at AIU. To be eligible for the Freedom Grant, and waived application fee, a candidate must be accepted for admission to the University and allow for verification of their military or spouse relationship status. More information can be found at www.aiuonline.edu/military/.

ECPI College of Technology

ECPI College of Technology has both online and on campus degree programs. ECPI has established a special academic scholarship program to support DoD service personnel who have been severely injured while in armed conflict. This scholarship opportunity is also available to the spouses of qualifying service personnel who were married to the service member when the injuries were sustained and for the period during which coursework is to be completed. Surviving spouses of qualifying service personnel as well as immediate Family members are also eligible for the program.

Qualifying service personnel are eligible for up to \$6,000 in scholarship tuition (\$1,500 per semester) depending upon the academic program in which they are enrolled. Qualifying spouses are eligible for up to \$8,000 in scholarship tuition (\$2,000 per semester) depending upon the academic program in which they are enrolled. Children of deceased qualifying service personnel are eligible for up to \$6,000 in scholarship tuition depending upon the academic program in which they are enrolled. Go to www.ecpi.edu/military/home/gibill.cfm for additional information and a link to the scholarship application page.

Western Governors University

Western Governors University (WGU) is a regionally and nationally accredited non-profit university founded and supported by 19 U.S. governors and more than 20 corporations and foundations. It is completely an online course. Their scholarship program, "Recognition for Military Sacrifice Scholarship," is valued at up to \$2,000. The scholarship will be credited at the rate of \$500 per six-

month term, renewable each year for up to four terms. Eligible participants include any Soldier, or spouse of a Soldier, who has received a VA rating of 20% or more from Veterans Affairs (VA) or a Medical Disability Rating from their branch of service of 20% or more as a result of injuries received in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom. In addition, WGU offers “Military Spouse to Graduate Scholarships” up to \$1,500 (\$300 per 6 month term) for military spouses looking to earn a WGU degree in information technology, business, health professions, or education. WGU’s online degree program has been approved for VA education benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill. Reserve and National Guard members may be entitled under the GI Bill for Reserve and Guard Members. Programs at WGU are also approved for Tuition Assistance for active-duty, Reserves, and members of the National Guard. More information is available at: www.wgu.edu/tuition_financial_aid/scholarships.asp.

[Back to Top](#)

EDUCATION: Entertainment/Media Field Training Course

By Scott Cox, Career Coordinator

The Wounded Marine Careers Foundation (WCMCF) is a non-profit organization which is looking for motivated active duty service members and disabled veterans (not just Marines) who want to learn new, employable skills in the entertainment/media field and who are ready, willing and able to go to work. Any veteran (active duty or medically retired) wounded or disabled since 9/11 qualifies. All AW2 Veterans possess the basic skill set required to work as part of a professional media crew: discipline, leadership, dependability, attention to detail, obedience to orders, mission accomplishment.

This training program is aggressively structured at training facility in San Diego, California. Students must be passionate to learn and ready to go to work upon graduation. A 14-week, six days a week, six hours a day training regimen is to be expected. PEB’s must be completed prior to the start of training and pain management levels must be at a level to complete full workdays generally without medication. More than 30 film industry professionals and award winners will share their video and photojournalism expertise with participating students. The faculty roster will also include former combat-wounded Marines and other physically challenged professionals who currently work in the film industry so the students will be mentored by those with similar life experiences.

Students receive comprehensive training that will result in certification from Apple, Panasonic, Adobe and Canon. Those who complete the program will be allowed union membership in the IATSE (AKA, the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts of the United States, Its Territories and Canada). The entire course (in excess of \$65,000), plus more than \$6,000 in specialized equipment, can be paid for by the VA. The WCMCF’s inaugural semester was certified by the VA, and they recently received their recertification. Any interested AW2 Soldier may apply for funding assistance through the Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation Program (VR&E) and must do so at least 60 days prior to class start. The next formal class will start in January 09. In the meantime, WCMCF has stated they will immediately accept any and all qualified veterans who wish to start on-the-job training by working with them on real jobs with real clients and deadlines.

For more information, visit www.woundedmarinecareers.org or contact co-founder Judith Paixao or Deputy Director Nick Popaditch at 4705 Ruffin Road, San Diego, CA 92123 or (858) 974-8134.

[Back to Top](#)

EDUCATION: Online Information Technology (IT) Training and Certification Program

Sun Learning Services (SLS), in partnership with The Sentinels of Freedom, has built (and is deploying) an online Information Technology (IT) Training and Certification program for returning injured Soldiers and their Family members. This portal contains IT courses that lead to over 200 industry-recognized certifications, access to state of the art OpenSource Software tools – to provide real world experience on the IT environments being taught and eMentoring and online support by SLS Instructors. The training is aimed at six specific IT career opportunities; Computer Systems Operators and Administrators, Network Administrators, Security Administrators, Java Programmers, Web Developers and Database Administrators (DBAs). In addition to the courses, the Injured Soldiers eLearning Portal has ePractice exams, so students can practice taking the certification exams online. SLS will provide students who complete the coursework with exam vouchers, so they can sit for the certification exams. Army Continuing Education System will place information about this program and a link to this website on the [Credentialing Opportunities On-Line \(COOL\)](#). Education centers will also be made aware of the program.

[Back to Top](#)

EDUCATION: Kansas University Newsletter Highlights AW2 Soldiers

The Army and the University of Kansas program, known as the KU Initiative, allows wounded Soldiers to earn a master's degree at the university and to apply what they have learned inside the Army's own academic community. Visit this link to see AW2 Soldiers in the program, www.oread.ku.edu/2008/august/25/.

[Back to Top](#)

MONEY MATTERS: Interest Rates and Debts - Did You Know?

By Dexter Friday, Financial Support Specialist

Debts due to over payment of entitlements are prorated and collected with interest. When a service member has been notified of a debt, they have 90 days to either pay the debt in full or arrange for payment. The current interest rate for Soldiers requesting debt proration is 5.125% (.5125). This is an increase of .375% (.0375) from the previous rate of 4.75 % (.475). This rate changes every six months and is an average of the Federal interest rate. Although the rate has risen, this is still the second lowest it has been since Jan-Jun 2006.

Presently, for wounded warriors who have been medically evacuated (MEDEVAC) and are very seriously injured/seriously injured (VSI/SI), all debts are suspended except for administrative actions under AR 27-10 Military Justice and/or debts from outside agencies. Non-serious injury (NSI) debts are remitted by the local finance office and only for MEDEVAC related debts. Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) ensures erroneous debts for wounded Soldiers are suspended to allow for a review of the Soldiers' accounts and forgiveness of eligible debts. Since August 2005, DFAS and the Army have forgiven \$12.93 million in debts for 13,826 Soldiers, thus preventing financial hardship. Non-military pay collections from agencies such as the Education Office (an interest rate of 1.98%) and Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) are not automatic; therefore forgiveness is dependent on the agencies' decision.

For further information about interest rates on debts or debt incurred during hospitalization (due to

combat related injuries), please contact a WTU Finance Office or the local Finance Office.

[Back to Top](#)

MONEY MATTERS: Ensuring Seamless Pay for Soldiers

By: Charles Williams, HR Specialist

To avoid problems, the Soldier should be separated/retired on or about the 27th of the month. Here is some basic information about transitioning but if you need assistance, please contact your Advocate.

- When a Soldier is found unfit by the Physical Evaluation Board and all reviews and appeals required have been completed, the U. S. Army Physical Disability Agency (USAPDA) and the U. S. Army Human Resources Command (AHRC) will transmit via TRANSPROC-III or via message the required data to complete the orders process.
- The PDA will assign a "not later than" date 90 days after the completion of processing at the PDA Headquarters. It will be the purview of the WTU Commanders/Installation Commanders, through the transition point, to establish a release date within this 90-day window. The commanders have maximum flexibility in scheduling the discharge of Soldiers for reasons of physical disability. Permissive TDY may be authorized by the commander and clearing time will be allowed.
- Commanders should provide Soldiers with a solid leave management program or procedures that would ensure that they finish out processing at the end of the month to allow for a smooth seamless transition from active duty to the VA.
- Separating/retiring as close to the 27th of the month as possible will help minimize the financial impact to the Soldier during transition from the Army to the VA pay system. If the 90 day window is exceeded, coordination with PDA is needed to establish the new separation/retirement date based on the Soldier's situation. Unused leave at the time of release from active duty must be sold back and transition leave is not authorized unless the Soldier has previously sold back 60 days of leave.
- A Soldier's final pay, accrued leave payments and entitlements will be electronically transferred to the Soldiers current Sure-Pay (bank) account 7 to 10 working days after the retirement date. The VA pays at the end of the period. The first payment for retired pay normally will arrive 30 days after the Soldier is released from active duty or on the first business day of the month following the month of first entitlement to pay.

[Back to Top](#)

FAMILY: November - Military Family Month

This November marks the 13th annual celebration of Military Family Month. Sponsored by the Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) and endorsed by the President of the United States, this annual observance provides an opportunity for the nation to recognize the extraordinary contributions and daily sacrifices of the military Family. Visit the [ASYMCA website](#) for details on this year's events. Also visit command websites as they may celebrate this occasion by planning appropriate special events and activities throughout the month.

[Back to Top](#)

FAMILY: October - Children's Health Month

The Military Health System and TRICARE stressed the importance of preventing childhood obesity and ensuring that children live a healthy lifestyle. To find out more, visit:

- MHS's Get Fit video <http://www.health.mil/MediaRoom/Default.aspx?ID=320>
- TRICARE's 'Don't Wait to Address Childhood Weight' press release http://www.tricare.mil/pressroom/doctor_is_in.aspx?fid=74
- TRICARE's Get Fit Page www.tricare.mil/getfit/
- MHS's Dot Mil Docs 22: Battling Childhood Obesity Podcast <http://www.health.mil/MediaRoom/default.aspx?id=316¤tPg=1>

[Back to Top](#)

FAMILY: Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) - What is it?

The AFAP creates an information loop between the global Army Family and leadership and is a powerful tool for Soldiers, retirees, Department of Army (DA) Civilians, Families and leaders. Information provided through the AFAP process gives commanders and leaders insight into current satisfaction detractors, quality of life needs, and expectations of Army constituents. Leadership uses the information to effect changes that improve standards of living and support programs that foster satisfied, informed, resilient individuals. To date, AFAP results include 107 legislative changes, 154 Army and Office of the Secretary of Defense policies changed, and 173 changes to programs and services.

The process begins at the garrison level culminating in an annual symposium to examine and resolve issues. The AFAP delegates (symposium participants) develop issues through workgroup discussion. Issues are distributed to the appropriate local or mid-level conference or to the Headquarters Department of the Army (HQDA) AFAP Conference to be resolved. Approximately 115 delegates discuss, evaluate, and prioritize the issues in eight workgroups, where they define the issue and recommend solutions. At the end of the conference, delegates report their issues and recommended solutions to leadership for adoption into the HQDA AFAP plan. Once adopted into the HQDA AFAP, the issues are assigned by the Director of the Army Staff to the appropriate Army staff office to be worked toward resolution. For more information, visit www.myarmylifetoo.com.

Issues identified by AW2 Symposium delegates are forwarded to AFAP. AFAP has closed 10 past issues and 22 issues are still in progress. Ten new issues from this year were also submitted to AFAP, including alternative treatment options for wounded warriors, continuation on active duty (COAD) and continuation on active reserve (COAR) process, and career counseling for wounded warriors.

[Back to Top](#)

OPPORTUNITIES: Library Resources, Glasses, Deaflympics, NY Hunting, Paralympic Sport Opportunities, Sports Calendar, Warrior Mind Training

- **Army Library Program offers Electronic Library Services**

The Army General Library Program and the Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation Command (FMWRC) have partnered with Army Knowledge Online (AKO) to provide electronic access to magazine articles, reference books, eBooks, reference databases and recommended websites via AKO. The Army Library Program "My Library" page is located on AKO under "Self Service." The

42 commercial electronic resources and other recommended links are available 24/7. Army librarians work with their customers in the library to show them how to use both AKO and the electronic resources. The Army Library Program provides online reference service 24 hours, 7 days a week. For more information, contact Carla Pomager, Family and MWR Command, at (703) 681-7205 or Carla.Pomager@cfsc.army.mil.

- **Special Frame of Choice Glasses**

Service members who have suffered trauma in combat, training, or during other events in their lives often display frank to mild ocular signs of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) with ocular signs, such as photophobia or other complaints of varied ocular discomfort. The Tri-Service Optical Fabrication Board (OFAB) has authorized a very special privilege to ensure eye care professionals may offer suitable frames and lenses for these patients: Frame of Choice (FOC) Sunglasses. This is a second FOC, separate from the annual clear pair offered to all service members. OFAB is preparing to honor these wounded warriors with FOC in Transition Lenses.

This initiative was made possible by Congress which provided dramatic funding for TBI research and treatment. From the millions set aside for TBI, a large sum has been earmarked to fund FOC Sunglasses. Service members with a history of TBI or reference to a brain injury and a degree of ocular discomfort will receive one pair of clear FOC and one pair of Transitions (variable tint). For more information, Soldiers should contact their eye care providers or primary care physician.

- **Deaflympics, Summer, Taipei 2009**

The [Deaflympics](#) are the world's second oldest multiple sports games after the Olympics. The games are sanctioned by the International Olympic Committee and are run by the hearing impaired for the hearing impaired. Summer sport events include [Athletics](#), [Badminton](#), [Basketball](#), [Beach Volleyball](#), [Bowling](#), [Cycling Road](#), [Football](#), [Handball](#), [Judo](#), [Karate](#), [Orienteering](#), [Shooting](#), [Swimming](#), [Table Tennis](#), [Taekwondo](#), [Tennis](#), [Volleyball](#), [Water Polo](#), [Wrestling Freestyle](#), and [Wrestling Greco-Roman](#). For more information, visit www.deaflympics.com/.

- **NY Hunting and Wounded Warrior Project**

If you are interested in hunting in the State of the New York and need some assistance with licensing etc., please contact United Sportsman Association of Rockland, Stan Pascoo at pacsta@aol.com or (845) 494-6312.

- **Paralympic Sport Opportunities in Boulder, CO**

The Boulder Parks and Recreation's Exciting Programs, Adventures, and New Dimensions (EXPAND) program has received a grant from the U.S. Paralympics to provide support and mentoring to American service members who have sustained physical injuries. Veterans will be introduced to adaptive sport techniques and opportunities through clinics and camps, which will include quad rugby and track and field. For more information, please contact Jennifer Heilveil at

heilveilj@bouldercolorado.gov or (303) 413-7474 or Shelley Burke at burkes@bouldercolorado.gov.

- **Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project and Disabled Sports USA Calendar:**
www.dsusa.org/calendars-wwdsp-calendar.html
- **Fort Bragg Offering Warrior Mind Training**

The course is catching on in military circles as a way not only to treat both post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injuries, but to improve focus and better prepare Soldiers and Marines for the rigors of combat. To learn more, visit www.stripes.com/article.asp?section=104&article=57981 or visit the Fort Bragg website at www.fortbraggmwr.com/sfac/MindClarity.pdf.

[Back to Top](#)

AW2 SOLDIER STORIES

- AW2 Soldier **Alan Babin** featured in Texas Star-Telegram for 12 mile bike trek, to read the story visit www.star-telegram.com/804/story/897386.html.
- AW2 Soldier **SSG Christopher Bujarski** interviewed and was hired for a GS-5, HR Promotions Clerk position at Blanch field Army Medical Center, Ft. Campbell, KY, and received permission to start on October 10, 2008.
- AW2 Soldiers, **CPT Ivan Castro** and **LTC Greg Gadson**, are featured in [USAA Magazine](#).
- AW2 Soldier **LTC Greg Gadson** featured in the Georgetown newspaper for taking a class while going through treatment at WRAMC, to read the story visit explore.georgetown.edu/news/?ID=35494.
- **Centra "CC" Mazyck**, AW2 Soldier, received the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Freedom Award, to read more see page 24 at www.dav.org/news/magazine/documents/magazine_jul_aug_08.pdf.
- AW2 Soldier **SSG Brian Pearce** and his Family are featured in MOAA Magazine this month on pages 64-67, to read the story visit www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/moaa/mo1008// and also featured in [The Richmond Times-Dispatch Online](#).
- AW2 Soldier **Melissa Stockwell**, an above-the-knee amputee, swam the 100m butterfly, 100m freestyle and the 400m freestyle for the U.S. in the Paralympic Games in Beijing. Stockwell has been living and training at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, CO, as part of the Veterans Paralympic Performance Program. She had been a diver in high school and participated in swimming for physical therapy at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. In 2005, Stockwell researched the Paralympic Games, found a club team and started training with the goal of making the 2008 U.S. Paralympic Swimming Team.
- AW2 Soldier **Scott Winkler** competed in the 2008 U.S. Paralympics team in the shot put

event. In 2003, Army Specialist (E4) Winkler was injured in Iraq when he fell off the back of a truck while holding 50 pounds of ammunition. His foot became stuck in a strap while his torso twisted completely around, causing him to become a paraplegic. During his recovery, he attended a Paralympic summer camp in Colorado Springs in October 2006 and tried a number of different sports, finally settling on the shot put.

- AW2 Soldier, **SGT Tony Wood**, and his wife, Joedi, renewed their wedding vows after 20 years of marriage during the Back to Romance concert on the island of Oahu, Hawaii, for the full story visit www.army.mil/-news/2008/05/15/9208-army-couple-renews-marriage-vows-at-romance-festival/.

[Back to Top](#)

FEEDBACK: Are We Meeting the Needs of Soldiers, Families and Caregivers?

By Bill Years, Quality Assurance Specialist

The Quality Assurance (QA) Office conducted a survey to see how our Soldiers, Family members, and caregivers would answer this question. The QA staff, along with the AW2 Contact Center, made phone calls to our AW2 Soldiers for their participation in the survey. The survey results will allow COL Rice to answer the question based on solid metrics and not assumption. The survey is on-going because it is important that we know how AW2 is viewed in the eyes of our Soldiers, Families and caregivers. We will be asking for updated physical location (PL), Current Residence (CR), phone numbers and email addresses. This will give us the ability to contact our Soldiers in a timely manner.

[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

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