



Wounded Warrior Voice

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FROM THE DESK OF COL GADSON: Reflecting on Our Past and Moving Forward

May marks Military Appreciation Month, which is a very special month to all Soldiers, Veterans, and their Families. As my tenure at AW2 comes to an end, I realize that every month is Military Appreciation Month for me.

In celebrating Military Appreciation Month, I've realized that not everyone is as fortunate as I have been to serve my country in so many different capacities. This month especially I want to recognize all those who serve in full measure. I deeply value the AW2 community, and I am continuously touched by the heartfelt stories from grateful Family members. I will always remember and reflect on the battlefield stories and incredible triumphs told to me by Soldiers and Veterans. This month and every month we should recognize those who serve on the battlefield and our AW2 Advocates who serve in the field every day.

This month also marks a change of directorship for AW2, and like the AW2 Soldiers and Veterans we serve, our organization will show flexibility and commitment to new direction. It's not every day that someone is fortunate enough to go to work every morning and not only love what they do, but go home every day inspired by a community embodying a commitment to resilience, dedication, and vigor. You all have motivated me to inspire others.

Looking back on the events I've attended with AW2 Advocates, Soldiers, Veterans, and Families, I am in awe of the unity that bonds us together. No matter what your role within this organization, your part is incredibly valuable. I couldn't do what I do if it weren't for the dedicated AW2 Advocates supporting wounded, ill, and injured Soldiers and Veterans who embody our mission of recovery and resilience. And I'm indebted to the Families who join in the recovery process and learn to fight for something bigger than themselves.

I've seen servicemembers come together and compete side-by-side in heated competition at the Warrior Games, where the Army team brought home 63 medals. I've met Families and heard stories about resilience and rehabilitation at the AW2 Symposium, and I've connected with wounded, ill, and injured Soldiers and Veterans and heard their frustrations and challenges in joining the workforce through the Wounded Warrior Employment Conference. In the months ahead you will hear about the incoming AW2 Director who will undoubtedly guide you and inspire you in ways that I can only hope I've done. The AW2 community is more

like a Family, and we are all lucky to have such a strong network behind us as we make strides in our recovery and venture down new paths.

Symposium Update: Symposium and Career Expo Postponed

By Vondell Brown, Operations Management Specialist

In light of guidance provided by Executive Order 13589, "Promoting Efficient Spending" and the follow-on Office of Management and Budget memorandum, published May 11, 2012, the 2012 WTC/AW2 Symposium and Career Expo is postponed until further notice. This guidance directs each agency to reduce cost and achieve savings by establishing cuts in such areas as travel and conference expenditures.

AW2 remains committed to continuing to receive feedback about the program from AW2 Advocates, Soldiers, Veterans, and their Families. Feel free to contact us at:

Toll Free: (877) 393-9058

Email: AW2@conus.army.mil

2012 Hispanic Heritage Month: Theme Announced

By Cristina Bartolomei, EEO Specialist Department of Commerce Office of Civil Rights

The National Council of Hispanic Employment Program Managers (NCHEPM) announced the 2012 Hispanic Heritage Month theme: "Diversity United, Building America's Future Today." The theme promotes the benefits of a united and diverse workforce by encouraging a reflection of Hispanic American contributions in the development of our nation.

The selection was made during the Council's monthly meeting held on May 16, 2012 at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Washington, DC. NCHEPM members from various federal agencies and affinity groups in attendance selected the theme through a voting process. AW2 Veteran Luis Rivera Rios from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Louisville, Kentucky, submitted the winning theme.

Ismael Martinez, Chairman of the Council, announced the theme, stating "The challenges faced by the Hispanic community to find federal employment is a serious concern that will require multiple organizations to unify their efforts to increase the participation rate of Hispanics in the federal government. This theme reflects our need to come together as one to build a future that is inclusive of our Hispanic talent."

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

For more information about the Council, please visit www.nationalcouncilhepm.net

THE BLOG UPDATE: May 2012

Army Athletes Compete for a Spot on Warrior Games Shooting Team

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/03/army-athletes-compete-for-spot-on-warrior-games-shooting-team/>

Army Warrior Games Archery Clinic Receives Overwhelming Support from the Sumter Community, Third Army/ARCENT

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/03/army-warrior-games-archery-clinic-receives-overwhelming-support-from-the-sumter-community-third-armyarcnt/>

Army and USA Volleyball Coaches Welcome Warrior Games Sitting Volleyball Hopefuls to UCO Clinic

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/04/army-and-usa-volleyball-coaches-welcome-warrior-games-sitting-volleyball-hopefuls-to-uco-clinic/>

Office of Soldiers' Counsel Helps Soldiers Navigate MEB and PEB Process

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/04/office-of-soldiers%e2%80%99-counsel-helps-soldiers-navigate-meb-and-peb-process/>

Athletes Inspire Athletes

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/04/athletes-inspire-athletes/>

U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit Trains Army Warrior Games Athletes

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/04/u-s-army-marksmanship-unit-trains-army-warrior-games-athletes/>

Commander's Drumbeat: What a Week for Army at Warrior Games

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/05/commander%E2%80%99s-drumbeat-what-a-week-for-army-at-warrior-games/>

Army Dominates in Wheelchair Basketball Rematch

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/05/army-dominates-marines-in-wheelchair-basketball-rematch/>

Army Takes Another Win in Sitting Volleyball

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/05/army-takes-another-win-in-sitting-volleyball/>

Mixed Victory for Army Sitting Volleyball

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/05/mixed-victory-for-army-sitting-volleyball/>

Army Cycling Team Wins Big at the 2012 Warrior Games

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/05/army-cycling-team-wins-big-at-2012-warrior-games/>

Turning Disability into Ability at the Warrior Games

<http://WTC.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/05/turning-disability-into-ability-at-the-warrior-games/>

The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit Paralympic Shooting Team is Expanding

<http://AW2.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/04/the-us-army-marksmanship-unit-paralympic-shooting-team-is-expanding/>

Athletes Compete for a Spot on Army's Warrior Games Cycling Team

<http://AW2.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/04/athletes-compete-for-a-spot-on-army%e2%80%99s-warrior-games-cycling-team/>

New USO PSA Shows "Portraits" of Real Servicemembers with Invisible Wounds

<http://AW2.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/04/new-uso-psa-shows-%e2%80%99portraits%e2%80%9d-of-real-servicemembers-with-invisible-wounds/>

Injured Women's Veterans Study Provides Insight and Improvement in AW2 Advocate Care Coordination

<http://AW2.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/04/injured-women%e2%80%99s-veterans-study-provides-insight-and-improvement-in-aw2-advocate-care-coordination/>

Using Mental Skills in Shooting Competition

<http://AW2.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/05/using-mental-skills-in-shooting-competition/>

Athletes Compete for a Spot on Army's Warrior Games Cycling Team

<http://AW2.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/04/athletes-compete-for-a-spot-on->

[army%e2%80%99s-warrior-games-cycling-team/](#)

Army Sitting Volleyball Team to Compete for Gold at Warrior Games

<http://AW2.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/05/army-sitting-volleyball-team-to-compete-for-gold-at-warrior-games/>

2012 Warrior Games Opening Ceremony Honor Spirit of Athletes

<http://AW2.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/05/2012-warrior-games-opening-ceremony-honors-spirit-of-athletes/>

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