



Wounded Warrior Voice

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What's New: AW2 to Launch Redesigned Web site and Blog

AW2 will launch a redesigned Web site and blog at www.AW2.army.mil and AW2.armylive.dodlive.mil as part of the program's move to the Warrior Transition Command (WTC). The new Web site and blog will provide robust information and updates on how AW2 is fulfilling its mission of providing personalized support to severely wounded, injured, and ill Soldiers, Veterans, and their Families, for as long as it takes.

CAREER & EDUCATION: Expanded Career and Education Section on New Web site

The new AW2 Web site will feature an expanded Career and Education section to better assist AW2 Soldiers, Veterans, and Families in their transition to the civilian workforce and gain employment. As part of the Web site and blog launch, AW2 will feature a wounded warrior employment series on the AW2 Blog that highlights best practices from AW2 Career Coordinators and real-world experiences.

You will receive an e-mail notification about the AW2 Blog wounded warrior employment series, please visit the AW2 Blog and share your employment experiences and best practices by submitting comments. If you would like to submit a blog for AW2, please contact AW2 Stratcom by e-mailing AW2Stratcomm@conus.army.mil.

MONEY MATTERS: AW2 Finance Specialists Provide Assistance for AW2 Soldiers, Veterans, and Their Families

By Cori Cabell, AW2 Advocate

AW2 has a team of finance specialists whose sole purpose is to assist you with any pay issues (active, retired or Veterans Affairs (VA)). Finance is an integral part of

the transition from the Army to the civilian life. There are a few financial benefits you may be interested in during your transition. Some of these financial benefits are listed below:

1. At the beginning of the Medical Evaluation Board (MEB) process, AW2 Soldiers can receive a “side-by-side” calculation of their finances. This side-by-side calculation is an estimate of your VA compensation and Army retirement pay should you medically retire. This can be very helpful to those who are on a budget or comparing Continuation on Active Duty/Continuation on Active Reserve (COAD/COAR) vs. medical retirement decision on income amount.
2. For AW2 Soldiers with 14 years+ in service this side-by-side is especially important due to other entitlements that you may be entitled to after 20 years of service (YIS). Therefore you can have the side-by-side calculation at anytime (before, during, or after the MEB).
3. AW2 Soldiers can receive an early retirement account setup. Many Soldiers retiring from the Army experience a one to two month gap of no pay between the last active duty pay check and when retirement pay begins. Retroactive pay is reimbursed when retirement pay begins. The AW2 Finance team resolved this issue through their close relationship with Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS). The AW2 Soldier can have their retirement account established within one week thus eliminating the one to two month gap of no payment and allows the AW2 Soldier to be paid on time. AW2 Soldiers interested in having this smooth financial transition would need to provide their AW2 Advocate with their retirement orders and DD Form 214 by their retirement date.
4. Finally, the AW2 Finance Specialists are available to the AW2 Soldiers for all types of financial questions and issues. The Financial Specialists are available by appointment through your AW2 Advocate who will be happy to facilitate the telephone conference.
5. AW2 Finance Specialists are also able to consult with you about Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC for Chapter 61 or 20 YIS) and/or Concurrent Receipt of Disability Pay (CRDP for 20 YIS).
6. Resolve finance issues that you have not been able to resolve using your local or any other finance office.
7. Review of military and Veteran benefits to ensure you are receiving all you are entitled too (e.g., Traumatic Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (TSGLI), Survivor Benefit Program (SBP), VA compensation, Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH), TRICARE, etc.)

FAMILY: Marriage Enrichment (Strong Bonds)

Military life places extreme hardship on relationships, especially in wartime, so the Army, backed by Congress, has committed unprecedented resources to help Soldiers build stronger relationships through the Strong Bonds Program. Strong Bonds has specialized programs for single Soldiers, couples, and Families. Strong Bonds teaches relationship-building skills and connects Soldiers and loved ones to community health and support resources. It is a holistic, preventative program committed to the restoration and preservation of Army Families, even those near crisis. The program is initiated and led by the Army Chaplains. More than 90% of those who have attended the program rate it positively. For more information on Strong Bonds, visit www.strongbonds.org.

AW2 SOLDIER STORIES

To find out what has been in the news about AW2 Soldiers, Families, and staff, visit the AW2 Blog on Mondays for the weekly digest of those stories at www.aw2.army.mil/blog/default.aspx.

WOUNDED WARRIOR OPPORTUNITIES/EVENTS

American Heritage Railways offers free train rides to U.S. Army Wounded Warriors and their immediate Family or caregiver (not to exceed 6 tickets total). Tickets are for standard seating (subject to space availability and excludes special events). Beverages, food, pictures, merchandise, etc. are not included. There is limited handicap accessibility, so prior notice is requested. For tickets, contact the reservations department for the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, Great Smoky Mountains Railroad, or Texas Railroad and mention that you are part of the U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program. A military ID will be required when picking up the tickets. Reservations may be made via the phone numbers located on the following sites:

- Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad www.durangotrain.com/
- Great Smoky Mountains Railroad www.gsmr.com/
- Texas State Railroad www.texasstaterr.com/

THE BLOG UPDATE: August

Please see below for a list of blogs from the month of August.

AW2 Weekly Digest 08/24-08/28

<https://www.aw2.army.mil/blog/post/2009/08/31/AW2-Weekly-Digest-0824-0828.aspx>

AW2 Veteran Richard Ranno Thriving as a Federal Employee in Germany

<https://www.aw2.army.mil/blog/post/2009/08/28/AW2-Veteran-Richard-Ranno-Thriving-as-a-Federal-Employee-in-Germany.aspx>

Groundbreaking on New Level I Polytrauma Center

<https://www.aw2.army.mil/blog/post/2009/08/27/Groundbreaking-on-New-Level-I-Polytrauma-Center.aspx>

AFPS Launches Family Matters Blog

<https://www.aw2.army.mil/blog/post/2009/08/26/AFPS-Launches-Family-Matters-Blog.aspx>

Tell the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs What You Think

<https://www.aw2.army.mil/blog/post/2009/08/26/Tell-the-Chairman-of-the-Joint-Chiefs-What-You-Think.aspx>

New In-State Tuition Law for Military Families

<https://www.aw2.army.mil/blog/post/2009/08/25/New-In-State-Tuition-Law-for-Military-Families.aspx>

AW2 Weekly Digest 08/17-08/21

<https://www.aw2.army.mil/blog/post/2009/08/24/AW2-Weekly-Digest-0817-821.aspx>

AW2 Education Initiative at KU Announces Fall 2010 Application Process

<https://www.aw2.army.mil/blog/post/2009/08/19/AW2-Education-Initiative-at-KU-Announces-Fall-2010-Application-Process.aspx>

AW2 Weekly Digest 08/10-08/14

<https://www.aw2.army.mil/blog/post/2009/08/17/AW2-Weekly-Digest-0810->

[0814.aspx](#)

A Day at Walter Reed

https://www.aw2.army.mil/_blog/post/2009/08/14/A-Day-at-Walter-Reed.aspx

AW2 Weekly Digest 08/03-08/07

https://www.aw2.army.mil/_blog/post/2009/08/07/AW2-Weekly-Digest-0803-0807.aspx

Summer Activities for Wounded Warriors

https://www.aw2.army.mil/_blog/post/2009/08/04/Summer-Activities-for-Wounded-Warriors-Accessible-Sailing-in-Boston-MA.aspx

U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2)

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