



The Wounded Warrior Voice

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Message from Colonel Rice: I am AW2

The AW2 Symposium 2008 is quickly approaching. The conference is scheduled for June 22-27 in Indianapolis, IN. The Army has learned over the years that supporting the Family is essential to a Soldier's recovery and is illustrated in the Army's new "Family Covenant."

I encourage you to submit a Call for Issue/Call for Delegate form so that your voice can be heard. This is your chance to be a part of the process and help affect change for other AW2 Soldiers and Family Members in the program. Therefore, this year's symposium, "I am AW2," focuses on the family, COAD/COAR, transition, VA, careers, and medical issues. Submissions are due no later than May 1.

Also, there are many exciting events planned for this year's symposium. If you attend the meeting, you will be able to meet with veteran's services organizations, employers, and various program representatives within the Army. Several social events are also being planned by AW2. In addition, the Army is teaming up with the National Military Family Association (NMFA) to host Operation Purple®--a six-day camp for children ages five and up. Daycare will be provided for children under the age of five. All travel, lodging and food for the children will be paid for by the Army and NMFA. For more details on the AW2 Symposium 2008, visit <http://aw2portal.com/symposium2008.aspx> or contact your SFMS.

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AW2 Symposium 2008: Call for Delegates

AW2 is now accepting a “Call for Delegates” from all AW2 Soldiers, Family members and Caregivers. This is your opportunity to influence and change policies, planning and procedures related to warrior care and transition for severely wounded, injured and ill Soldiers and their Families. The AW2 Symposium 2008 is slated for June 22-27 at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Issues selected at previous symposiums have been brought to the attention of government, Army and Veterans’ organizations attention resulting in positive changes and ongoing dialogue. To complete a “Call for Delegates” form, visit <http://aw2portal.com/symposium2008.aspx>
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AW2 Symposium 2008: Operation Purple

This year, AW2 is pleased to announce it is teaming up with the National Military Family Association’s (NMFA) Operation Purple to provide a camp for children five and up for the duration of the AW2 Symposium 2008. All travel, meals, and lodging is included for all children of delegates attending the meeting.

The camp will be filled with activities and counseling sessions where children can discuss their issues with peers in a “safe environment” while also providing opportunities to enjoy the beautiful state parks and museums surrounding Indianapolis. If you plan on being a delegate and bringing your family, contact your SFMS for additional information.
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AW2 Opportunities

Are you looking to meet other AW2 Soldiers and Family members at local, regional, or national events? If you answered yes, then you need to check out the “Opportunity” link under www.aw2.army.mil. There, you can view an event or see what is coming to your area. Some exciting upcoming events include:

- Vacations for Veterans, Nationwide
- Wounded Warrior Scholarship Program, Colorado Technical University Online
- Paralyzed Veterans of America Sports and Recreation Schedule, Nationwide
- Extreme Combat International, Huntsville, Alabama
- Sled Hockey Clinic, Arlington, Virginia
- Run for the Warriors, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina
- Wheelchair Tennis Tournament, New York City, New York
- National Veterans Wheelchair Games, Omaha, Nebraska

Be sure to visit this area of the AW2 website frequently so you do not miss out on meeting other Soldiers and Family members with similar interests.

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Entrepreneurship Camp for Veterans

This program is designed as a world-class training program in entrepreneurship and small business management for veterans from GWOT with a service-connected disability. The logic

behind the program is that for many severely wounded Soldiers, traditional employment may represent a lifelong challenge; however, owning their own business may represent a way forward for themselves and their families.

Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans brings together some of the nation's most talented academics and entrepreneurs and the program includes three phases—an online course, a nine day residency, and 12 months of mentorship. There is no cost to the veteran and all monies have been privately donated. Schools participating in the program include Syracuse University, Florida State University, Texas A&M University, and UCLA. If you are interested in the program, please email Mike Hayne, Assistant Professor of Entrepreneurship, at jmhayne@syr.edu.

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Hire Heroes USA: Connecting the Dots

Are you looking for a new job opportunity? Are you aware that there are many companies that provide good jobs with training and career growth? Hire Heroes USA is just one nonprofit national organization that is helping wounded soldiers transition back into civilian life by placing individuals in jobs from entry level to managerial level positions.

Hire Heroes USA provides career placement services to wounded heroes with any level of disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The nonprofit matches career interests and transferable skills of our nation's heroes to the needs of hiring companies who they have established partnerships with to help fill job openings.

Justin Callahan, Director of Veterans Relations for Hire Heroes USA, truly understands the unique needs of severely wounded Soldiers as he is an AW2 Soldier. Since opening in July 2007, Hire Heroes USA has placed more than 20 veterans with jobs ranging from entry to senior level positions. They specialize in all positions. According to Callahan, they will even help spouses find employment. "Our Soldiers need the opportunity for someone to reach out and give them a chance and a career path so they can provide for their family. This is critical to the recovery process for them," stated Callahan.

To learn more about Hire Heroes USA, please visit www.hireheroes.org and or contact your SFMS for additional information.

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