



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Army Hosts National Conference to Get Soldiers' Input for Improving Services for Severely Wounded Warriors Who Continue to Serve Post Injury

Alexandria, VA – The Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2) is hosting the first COAD/COAR Forum on January 25-27 to identify the most important issues facing severely wounded soldiers who remain in the Army post injury. More than 30 severely wounded, ill and injured soldiers will serve as delegates and engage in three days of focus group discussions to identify the top issues to improve the long-term reintegration and support of active duty wounded soldiers. The issues will be presented to Army leadership for resolution.

“The Army is hosting this event to ensure that our existing policies and regulations keep pace with the needs of the rapidly growing population of COAD/COAR soldiers,” stated Col. promotable Darryl A. Williams, commander of the Warrior Transition Command. “Since 2008, there has been a 23.3 percent increase in severely wounded soldiers who continue to serve post injury. These soldiers are a tremendous asset and I want to be sure we capitalize on their experience, and support their long-term Army career.” Currently, there are approximately 250 COAD/COAR soldiers in the Army, of which 150 are part of AW2.

All soldiers found unfit for duty by a Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) are eligible to apply for Continuation on Active Duty (COAD)/ Continuation on Active Reserve (COAR). This designation provides a soldier with an exception to policy which allows them to remain in the Army even if they have significant physical limitations—and typically remain in their current military occupational specialty. This allows soldiers to continue to serve to meet their career goals, as well as support the Army with their leadership and combat experience. Injuries that can cause a soldier to be found unfit for duty include blindness, amputation, post-traumatic stress disorder and paralysis.

WHO: - Col. Gregory Gadson, Army Wounded Warrior Program director and COAD soldier
- Scheduled to Attend: Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker, Army G-1 Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, Human Resource Commander Maj. Gen. Gina S. Farrisee, and Human Resource Command Sergeant Major Command Sgt. Maj. Gathers

WHAT: AW2 COAD/COAR Forum; Interview opportunities; Broadcast quality B-roll footage

WHEN: January 25-27, 2011

WHERE: Marriott Springhill Suites
6065 Richmond Highway
Alexandria, VA 22303

For the last six years, AW2 has served the most severely wounded, injured and ill soldiers, veterans and their families. AW2 assists and advocates for the most severely wounded soldiers, veterans and their families, wherever they are located, regardless of their military status. AW2 is part of the Warrior Transition Command (WTC)—a major subordinate command under the U.S. Army Medical Command that provides oversight to the Army's Warrior Care and Transition Program. To learn more, visit www.WTC.army.mil.

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