



**U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program  
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## **Army's Wounded Give Marching Orders for Five Areas of Improvement**

Alexandria, VA – Sixty-five severely wounded soldiers, veterans, and their family members prioritized the top issues facing the Army's wounded warriors. This year, the delegates at the annual Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2) Symposium selected five items to be addressed:

1. Medically retired service member's eligibility for Concurrent Receipt of Disability Pay (CRDP)
2. Post 9/11 GI Bill transferability to dependents for all medically retired service members
3. Mandatory PTSD/TBI training for VA healthcare staff
4. Transfer option from temporary disability retired list (TDRL) to Permanent Disability Retired (PDR) for wounded warriors
5. Benefits and entitlements information to wounded warrior primary caregivers

"The AW2 Symposium is about listening to those who have been through it and learning first hand about ways we can continue to improve how we care for our most severely wounded, injured and ill soldiers, veterans and their families – then take action," said Army Wounded Warrior Program Director Col. Jim Rice. "These delegates were the voice of the Army's 7,000 severely wounded soldiers and we listen very closely to what they say."

Issues raised at previous symposiums that have been resolved include expanded facilities to treat traumatic brain injuries and a stipend for primary caregivers of severely wounded servicemembers to the creation of the AW2 Community Support Network and a \$10,000 increase in VA housing benefits.

The final issues were announced at the conclusion of the AW2 Symposium, which took place from June 21-25 in San Antonio, Texas. The top issues were chosen from more than 80 topics that were discussed in five focus groups: medical, careers, family, soldier support and veteran affairs.

AW2 Symposium delegate and veteran, Matt Staton, stated, "I can leave this event knowing that my voice, and the voices of the soldiers I represent, will be heard. The AW2 Symposium is an excellent process for the Army to listen and to improve warrior care. All the delegates leave with the knowledge that a lot of people in the Army are striving to improve the care we wounded warriors receive."



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, for as long as it takes. AW2 is part of the Warrior Transition Command (WTC)—a new one-star command under the U.S. Army Medical Command that serves as the central comprehensive source for warrior care support across the Army. To learn more about AW2, visit [www.AW2.army.mil](http://www.AW2.army.mil) or call 800-237-1336.

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