

# U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2)

## RCC Fact Sheet



## What is the U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program?

The U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2) is commanded by the Warrior Transition Command (WTC), a one-star command under the U.S. Army Medical Command (MEDCOM) that was created to provide a central, comprehensive source for warrior care support. The WTC develops, coordinates, and integrates the Warrior Care and Transition Program for the Army's wounded, ill and injured Soldiers, veterans and their families in order to promote future success in the force or in civilian life.

## Which population does this program serve?

To be considered an AW2 Soldier, one must suffer from injuries or illness incurred in the line of duty after September 10, 2001, in support of Overseas Contingency Operations; receive or expect to receive a 30-percent disability rating in one or more specific conditions as rated by the Physical Disability Evaluation System (PDES) in various categories, such as severe loss of vision/blindness, loss of limb, spinal cord injury, severe paralysis, permanent disfigurement, severe hearing loss/deafness, severe burns, severe Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), severe Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), or fatal/incurable disease with limited life expectancy; or receive a combined 50-percent PDES rating for any other combat or combat-related condition.

## How can this program help wounded warriors and their families?

AW2 and the Warrior Transition Command advocate for wounded warriors and their families, providing support and advice during medical treatment, rehabilitation and the transition back into the Army or a civilian community. The program also provides assistance in navigating federal, state and private benefit systems and helps connect wounded warriors and families with the necessary financial, educational, employment, legal and medical resources. The program also serves as a change agent to implement lessons learned and to adjust policy and increase the

responsiveness and effectiveness of medical and benefits systems. In addition, AW2 works with wounded, ill or injured Soldiers who wish to continue their military careers. This process includes eligibility requirements and approval, the development of a five-year "career map," and comprehensive counseling to ensure Soldiers understand their options and can visualize their future in the force.

## How can this program help Recovery Care Coordinators?

Just as Recovery Care Coordinators (RCCs) work with recovering Service members and their families through all the phases of the Continuum of Care, AW2 and the WTC track Soldiers throughout the Wounded Warrior Lifecycle. AW2 can help RCCs connect recovering Service members and families to essential support networks and resources, including HHS support, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits, Army support and medical expertise. AW2 can also provide RCCs with links to valuable federal programs in needed areas, including healthcare, retirement and disability compensation, transition assistance, VA adaptive housing and vehicle assistance, VA education and training, VA vocational rehabilitation and employment, and certain Department of Labor programs.

## What is the AW2 Advocate's role?

AW2 Advocates provide assistance and support to the most severely wounded, ill and injured Soldiers and their families/caregivers throughout the Wounded Warrior Lifecycle, from evacuation through transition back to the force or civilian life.

The Advocate functions as an integrated, collaborative member of a multidisciplinary healthcare and benefits team within the Warrior Transition Units (WTUs) and the Community-Based Warrior Transition Units (CBWTUs).

The Advocates assist Soldiers and their families/caregivers in the identification and implementation of courses of action necessary to address all needs and goals.

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### Advocates are:

- Personalized support for Soldiers and their families
- Local resource experts
- Benefits advisers
- Military transition specialists
- Education and career guides
- Life coaches
- Advocates empower Soldiers and their families/caregivers to make informed and relevant decisions and assist wherever the Soldiers and their families/caregivers are located, as they progress along the path to independence.

### Where can I find more information?

For more information, visit the program's Web site at [www.AW2.army.mil](http://www.AW2.army.mil),  
the program's blog at [AW2.armylive.dodlive.mil](http://AW2.armylive.dodlive.mil),  
or call 1-800-237-1336.