



## Press Release

### Contact

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# ERMC supports Warrior Care Month

November dedicated to Warriors in Transition, Families, Caregivers

**HEIDELBERG, Germany** - November is Warrior Care Month and leaders throughout the Army are planning events to recognize Warriors in Transition, their Families and Caregivers.

This year's Warrior Care Month theme is "Army Strong—Family Strong: Caring for Wounded, Ill and Injured Soldiers by Supporting their Families and Caregivers."

"The Army, U.S. Army Europe, the Army Medical Command and many others are grateful for the contributions of our Warriors and their Families, including local immediate Family Members as well as extended Family Members within and outside of Europe," said LTC Michael Richardson, Warrior Transition Battalion-Europe commander.

The mission of WTB-Europe is to provide command and control, primary care, and case management for Warriors in Transition to establish the conditions for their transition and to promote their timely return to the force or to civilian life.

The job of Soldiers assigned to a Warrior Transition Unit is to transition back to active duty or return with dignity and respect to civilian life with skills acquired while part of the WTU which are designed to help in their successful transition.

Richardson said the support and assistance of Families and Caregivers is an essential element of the healing and recovery process for every wounded, ill and injured Soldier.

In addition to the Warrior Transition Battalion-Europe and its four transition units that care for Soldiers in Germany, Belgium, and Italy, Family and Caregivers are important sources of support for wounded, ill or injured Soldiers.

"Families are so important for the successful transition of our Warriors; they have to be included in every step of our program," Richardson said. "We actively seek ways to give them a voice in Warrior Care programs and processes."

To support the Families and Caregivers in their new role, many services traditionally focused on Wounded, Ill and Injured Soldiers are expanding to support and involve Families and Caregivers as well, including social services, counseling, resiliency training and transition planning.

“We clearly have an obligation to rehabilitate and support Soldiers,” said Maj. Thomas Fulton, WTB-E executive officer. “The Army also recognizes an obligation to support Families and caregivers.”

The need for increased Family resilience is addressed in the Army’s Soldier Comprehensive Fitness Program and training for spouses and Families. Caregiver legislation providing compensation, training and respite care was signed into law in May 2010 in the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act.

Soldier Family Assistance Centers operate at posts or garrisons throughout the United States and Europe as a one-stop for Warriors in Transition and their Families to find information and coordinate resources. For information, visit <http://tiny.cc/ncck7>, the IMCOM-Europe Soldier and Family Assistance Center website.

During Warrior Care Month, Warrior Transition Units in Bavaria, Heidelberg and the Kaiserslautern Military Community will host a variety of events and activities to inform Warriors and community members about Warrior Care and resiliency. These events will be announced on local AFN affiliates and in garrison newspapers.

Warrior Care Month and the Warrior Transition Battalion-Europe will be featured on an AFN-Europe “Openline” radio talk show Nov. 10 at 9 a.m. Questions can be emailed in advance to [openline@afn.dma.mil](mailto:openline@afn.dma.mil) or sent in during the show. Callers can phone questions to DSN 389-4595 or civilian 0621.46085.595 during the show. Questions can also be emailed in advance.

**End**

## **Sidebar: Warrior Care Web links**

For more information on Warrior Care, visit these Web sites:

Army Wounded Warrior Program  
<http://www.aw2.army.mil/>

Wounded Warrior Resource Center  
<http://www.woundedwarriorresourcecenter.com/>

IMCOM-Europe Soldier and Family Assistance Centers  
<http://tiny.cc/ncck7>

**End**

## **Sidebar: Legislation supports Warrior Care**

\* Public Law 110-181, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, Section 1672 authorizes medical care for non-dependent caregivers of Wounded, Ill and injured soldiers at MTF on an as available basis. Army policies are in place to ensure availability.

\* Public Law 111-84, the National defense authorization Act of 2010, Section 603 established a stipend paid by DoD to catastrophically injured Service Members to defray the cost of Caregiver care.

Warrior Care Month for the Army  
November (Cont.)

\* Public Law 111-163, the caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010, provides a comprehensive program of Caregiver training, care and compensation by the Department of Veterans Affairs for Veterans who require caregiver care of varying amounts and degrees.

**End**