



# Recovering Warrior Task Force

Non Profit Panel (28 Jan 2014)



**John Hanson**  
**Senior Vice-President, USO**



- ★ **USO Story**
- ★ **What type of services will the current generation of WWII veterans need long term?**
- ★ **How prepared are DoD and VA to care for the most severely injured for the long term and how can your organization fill any gaps identified?**
- ★ **What interferes with the transitioning of wounded, ill, and injured to local programs such as yours, the VA, state and national services?**
- ★ **What can DoD do to improve the transition of wounded, ill, and injured to programs such as yours, the VA, state and national services?**
- ★ **How will your activities change in the post war environment?**



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# USO Overview



- ★ Celebrating 73 Years
- ★ Since World War II USO has answered the call
- ★ Array of programs supporting Wounded, Ill and Injured Service members and Veterans

- ★ Two Caregiver's Conferences annually
- ★ 80 Employment Transition Events, High Touch/High Impact Transition Workshops & Career Opportunity days
- ★ 23 Family Strengthening Events (Oxygen Seminars)
- ★ 10 Good Grief Camps for Families of Fallen



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# Program Testimonials

## ★ Caregivers Conferences

“I will always be truly grateful for being given this opportunity as this was the first time in almost 3 years I have taken time for me. There were so many times (since I arrived at the conference) that I almost lost it and cried, simply because I have finally realized how stressed I had become over time. This conference was a godsend, thank you so much.”

## ★ Transition Workshops & Career Opportunity days

*“I came to this workshop with such a glorified attitude. “What else can they teach me that I don’t already know?” I asked myself. Needless to say, my eyes were opened. I felt like such a plankton in a sea of unknown. I was humbled. I actually thought my resume was top notch. Upon receiving help with resume writing, including proper syntax, I feel a lot more confident about myself regarding work history and core values. I just didn’t think my employment history could be explained any further... You never know who you’re going to meet in this life; I’m happy there are still people that care in this world.” – SGT, USMC, Camp Pendleton*

*“By far the best career fair I’ve attended. Thank you for the opportunity. I truly appreciate it.” USN, San Diego*

## ★ Family Strengthening (Oxygen Seminars)

“Oxygen as given us the tools to help our marriage exponentially. I whole-heartedly believe Oxygen has helped save our marriage. [It is a] tremendous program.”



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# Long Term Needs

- ★ **What type of services will the current generation of WWII veterans need long term?**
  - ★ **Creation of National Community of Care**
  - ★ **Caregiver Programs and Services**
  - ★ **Employment Transition Programs and Services**
  - ★ **Education and Training (Degree and Certifications)**
  - ★ **Family Strengthening Programs**





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# Filling in the Gaps

- ★ **How prepared are DoD and VA to care for the most severely injured for the long term and how can your organization fill any gaps identified?**
  - ★ **DoD and VA can't do it all! It is up to all of us to fill in the "Gaps"**
  - ★ **160 Locations around the world to assist troops in transition**
  - ★ **Warrior Care Centers at Fort Belvoir and WRNMMC in Bethesda**
  - ★ **Augment rehabilitation and transition programs**



*USO Warrior and Family Care...Supporting, Comforting, Connecting and Entertaining America's Troops and their Families*



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# Interferences to WI&I

- ★ **What interferes with the transitioning of wounded, ill, and injured to local programs such as yours, the VA, state and national services?**
  - ★ **Community awareness of needs**





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# DoD Improvements

- ★ **What can DoD do to improve the transition of wounded, ill, and injured to programs such as yours, the VA, state and national services?**
  - ★ **USO has had a close trusting relationship since 1941**
  - ★ **Share a mutual mission of lifting spirits of America's troops and their families**
  - ★ **Understanding what USO programming can do for our WI&I and their families is important**





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# Post War Environment

- ★ **How will your activities change in the post war environment?**
  - ★ **USO will adjust to continuing changing landscape in Southwest Asia and Pacific**
  - ★ **We move where the troops are**
  - ★ **USO will continue to focus on programs supporting Wounded, Ill, and Injured service members and their families**
  - ★ **Evolve Wounded, Ill, and Injured programming to Active Duty i.e. Employment Transition and Family Strengthening**





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