



# **Army Warrior Care and Transition Program**

brief to the

## **Recovering Warrior Task Force**

26 February 2013



# Additional Questions for Army WTC

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# Family/Caregiver Support



*What surveys or other methods are used to measure the effectiveness of support to Families/Caregivers? How effective are these supports in meeting the needs of RW's Families/Caregivers? How are Family Members informed of opportunities for which they are eligible (e.g., TAP, respite)? How do you assess if this information is consistently reaching eligible Family Members?*

The Army uses an in-person methodology of getting information from Families to assess the effectiveness of support programs. Information is provided by the Families through venues which include:

- Town hall forums
- Company-level meetings
- Individual meetings with the members of the interdisciplinary team and the command teams.

In addition, the WTU survey is completed by Soldiers and their Families. The survey provides input on the services provided by the Warrior Transition Unit (WTU) and the Soldier and Family Assistance Center (SFAC). In addition, our Senior Army Leaders frequently visit our WTUs and actively seek out information about the strengths and weaknesses of our programs. Issues are captured and the recommended improvements are made based on Family interactions. We have received information that our SFACs are tremendously helpful to our Families. Families receive information through forums including town halls, websites, and mass emails. Most importantly, we interact frequently with our Families in the program. Our cadre continually assess and evaluate the need to support the Families.



# PTSD Services



*How will the anticipated changes in DSM-5 including the expansion to four PTSD symptom clusters and the addition of the new diagnosis, trauma – or stress-related disorder, impact the availability of PTSD services?*

Changes in DSM-V related to PTSD are not expected to have a significant impact on services provided to entitled beneficiaries. A review by the National Center for PTSD determined:

- Based on the proposed DSM-5 criteria, the prevalence of PTSD will be similar to what it is currently in DSM-IV.
- Symptoms are mostly the same. The 3 clusters of DSM-IV symptoms will be divided into 4 clusters in DSM-5: intrusion symptoms, avoidance symptoms, arousal/reactivity symptoms and negative mood and cognitions. It is proposed that a few symptoms will be added and some revised.
- Criterion A2 (requiring fear, helplessness or horror happen right after the trauma) will be removed.
- The diagnosis is proposed to move from the class of anxiety disorders into a new class of "trauma and stressor-related disorders."
- PTSD assessment measures, such as the CAPS and the PCL, are being revised by the National Center for PTSD to be made available upon the release of DSM-5.



# Vocational Services



*How many RWs (in anticipation of their separation) are currently eligible for internships, apprentices, or educational opportunities? According to CTP-G, Army policy prohibits non-federal internships. If this is the case, what is being done to reconcile this policy with NDAA 2012 requirement to make non-federal internships available to transitioning Service members? If this is no longer the case, and non-federal internships are available, how many RWs have them? How many RWs have federal internships?*

Eligibility is based on two distinct evaluations made by the medical management (M2) team and the Mission Command (MC) team. M2 must conclude the Soldier is medically, emotionally, and physically ready to participate. MC must conclude the Soldier demonstrates the initiative and self-discipline required to participate.

The prohibition against non-federal internships is based on DoD policy (DoDI 1000.17) not Army policy. When signed, the draft DoD Instruction (DoDI) 1300.jj will enable the Army to authorize non-federal internships. Once the DoDI is published, the Army will issue implementing guidance.

During January 2013, 72% of our Soldiers who were eligible, participated in our Career and Education Readiness program. This includes 613 Soldiers who participated in a Federal internship. WTC anticipates the number of Soldiers participating in internships will increase when opportunities are opened up to non-federal entities.



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# *Questions*