COMMANDER'S CALL TALKING POINTS

NOVEMBER 2018



November is Warrior Care Month

Warrior Care Month is dedicated to celebrating the resiliency and strength – physically, mentally, and spiritually – of all Airmen, their families, and caregivers. Warrior Care encompasses a full spectrum of support through recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration back to duty or transition into the community. Below are resources and programs available to further support Airmen on their road to recovery.

Warrior Care Resources

<u>Military Adaptive Sports Program</u>: Provides reconditioning activities and competitive athletic opportunities to all wounded, ill, and injured service members to improve their physical and mental quality of life throughout the continuum of care.

Recovery Coordination Program: Connects wounded, ill, and injured service members currently enrolled in the <u>Air Force Wounded Warrior (AFW2) Program</u> with the support of Recovery Care Coordinators (RCC) to ensure they receive the non-medical support they need to create the lives they want.

Operation Warfighter: Offers internship opportunities through the Department of Defense (DoD) that match qualified wounded, ill, and injured service members with non-funded federal internships in order for them to gain valuable work experience during their recovery and rehabilitation.

<u>Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program</u> (CAP): Provides reasonable and appropriate workplace accommodations for civilian employees with disabilities. CAP established its Wounded Service Members (WSM) initiative in 2004; The DoD Instruction 6025.22 outlined an interactive process between CAP and the MTFs/warrior transition programs to ensure that wounded, ill, and injured service members have the tools they need to assist in meeting duty requirements.

Caregiver Support

More than 5.5 million military caregivers provide care and support for service members and veterans throughout the country¹. These caregivers play a crucial, yet demanding, role in the recovery of wounded, ill, and injured service members and veterans. This role, although deeply rewarding, can be challenging and affect the overall emotional and physical health of caregivers. Below are five tips and available resources for caregivers.



<u>Caregiver Support Line</u> (1-855-260-3274): Provides caregivers with licensed professionals who can connect them with VA services, a Caregiver Support Coordinator, or simply be there to listen. Help is only a phone call away.

<u>Respite Care</u>: Provides temporary short-term rest for primary caregivers of active duty, Guard, and Reserve service members. Through this benefit, primary caregivers may receive eight hours of respite care, five days per calendar week.

<u>Caregiver Support Coordinator</u>: Matches caregivers with services that provide valuable information about additional resources that can help caregivers stay smart, strong and organized while taking care of their Airmen.

To ensure support of your Wingmen and Caregivers, it is essential to highlight the value of their role within our Air Force Community, ensure Airmen and their families are educated and aware of the resources and programs available to them, and check in regularly to foster resilience and open communication.

¹ Source: RealWarriors.net. (2017). Retrieved from: <u>https://www.realwarriors.net/family/suppot/caregiver-resources</u>

Warrior CARE Events



The Air Force honors the sacrifices of our wounded Airmen, their families, and caregivers, through six regional <u>Warrior CARE</u> <u>Events</u> hosted by AFW2. This month's event will be taking place at Joint Base Andrews, MD, Nov. 12-16.

National Military Family Appreciation Month



This month we celebrate the contributions of **military families** and convey our respect and appreciation for the daily sacrifices they make to support our Airmen.

Veterans Day



In honor of Veterans Day on Nov.11, take a moment to thank your Airman and other veterans for their service.