WCT
U.S. ARMY
WARRIOR CARE AND TRANSITION

# Warrior Transition Units

The Army recognizes warrior care as an enduring mission. At the centerpiece of this mission are 14 Warrior Transition Units (WTUs) across the United States providing the support wounded, ill and injured Soldiers need to heal and transition back to the force or to Veteran status. Within a number of WTUs are Community Care Units (CCUs) whereby Soldiers not in need of day-to-day care can be assigned to heal within their home communities, while retaining the benefits of dedicated Cadre, Triad of Leadership, military treatment facility staff, Warrior Transition Battalion staff and installation resources. Soldiers assigned to a WTU have one mission: to heal and prepare for transition. WTUs play a key role in the Army's Warrior Care and Transition Program, an overarching effort to provide the best possible care and support throughout the recovery and transition process.

The Army asks a great deal of its Soldiers and in return provides the resources, tools, and equipment necessary to support each Soldier as they transition to the next stage of their lives— whether returning to the force or to Civilian life.

While WTUs resemble a traditional "line" Army unit, their singular mission is to provide comprehensive outpatient management that allows Soldiers to successfully heal and transition. Soldiers in this program require at least six months of complex medical care. Located at major military treatment facilities, WTUs provide a standardized framework of care and support. The WTU Cadre work with each Soldier to develop a Comprehensive Transition Plan (CTP), a standardized framework that includes a personalized plan for the Soldier by the Soldier, with short- and long-term goals in six domains of life: Family, physical, social, spiritual, emotional, and career.

Army Sgt. Jodie Lemons has dedicated her life to serving others. Her passion to accomplish this goal was the driving force behind her becoming a flight medic, 9/11 first responder firefighter and an EMT.

During a training exercise in 2011, she tore her left knee laterally. She's endured four surgeries with more expected in the future.

Lemons credits the Warrior Transition Unit adaptive reconditioning program at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for helping her deal with her injuries and focus on the future.

"Adaptive Sports took me out of a dark place; it filled a tremendous void. There's so many different walks of life and caliber of injuries, none of which matter," she explained. "You're not viewed as a limb salvage, a PTSD'er, amputee, etc. There you're just *you*. Every ounce of focus is directed on what you *can* do, not what you can't. It's a family there at the WTU," Lemons said.

Her latest focus is her current role as an intern with the Adaptive Reconditioning program, with the hopes of becoming a full time Adaptive Coordinator.

**Warrior Care and Transition (WCT)**
**Email:** usarmy.pentagon.medcom-wtc.mbx.strategic-communications@mail.mil
**Website:** http://www.WCT.army.mil/

To complete their mission of healing and transitioning, Soldiers spend their days accomplishing goals they set in their CTP. In addition to medical appointments, they undergo physical rehabilitation, meet with behavioral health therapists, and participate in adaptive sports and reconditioning programs. Soldiers may also complete internships and training. Standing behind them through each stage of their recovery and transition is the Triad of Care (Primary Care Manager, Nurse Case Manager and Squad Leader) and interdisciplinary team of medical and on-medical professionals who work with Soldiers and their Families to ensure that they receive the support they need and deserve.

• **Families and Caregivers** are closely involved in all aspects of the Soldier's recovery. They attend medical appointments and participate in the Soldier's regular review meetings through the goal-setting process of the CTP.

• **Soldier Family Assistance Centers (SFACs)** located near most WTUs provide a variety of services to assist with administrative and personal needs.

• **Career and Education Readiness** programs assist Soldiers with the next stage of their careers. Soldiers participate in internships, work-site placements, training, college classes, and other professional development opportunities.

• **Adaptive Reconditioning** programs help Soldiers regain confidence and achieve their physical fitness goals. Physical therapists actively look for ways to incorporate adaptive reconditioning into each Soldier's recovery plan.

• **Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2)** supports the most severely wounded, ill, and injured, regardless of where they are located or military status. AW2 strives to foster the Soldier's independence and self-sufficiency, enabling the Soldier to live a productive life post-injury.

• **Community Care Units (CCUs)** Soldiers assigned to a CCU heal in their home communities and receive care through the TRICARE network. They continue to receive the benefits of a dedicated unit of Cadre, Triad of Leadership, Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) staff and WTU staff that understand their unique situation and the medical management required.

## By The Numbers

* **2,100 Soldiers currently recovering at 14 WTUs and 12 CCUs**
  - ◊ **Active Duty: 57 percent**
  - ◊ **National Guard: 20 percent**
  - ◊ **Reserve: 23 percent**
* **More than 1,900 professional military and civilian Cadre**
* **Soldiers supported by WCTP since 2007: more than 72,000**
* **Soldiers returned to the force: 43 percent**
* **Soldiers in WTUs who have deployed to theater at some point in their careers: 64 percent**

***Numbers are approximations and based on the current population as of November 2016***

**Warrior Care and Transition (WCT)**

**Email:** usarmy.pentagon.medcom-wtc.mbx.strategic-communications@mail.mil

**Website:** www.WCT.army.mil **Social Media:** www.facebook.com/ArmyWCT
www.twitter.com/ArmyWCT