



TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Warrior in Transition get together for Warrior Care Month

Schofield Barracks, Hawaii —It wasn't the usual place of duty but Porter Community Center was the place to be on the morning of Nov. 25, as about 250 Soldiers of Tripler's Warrior Transition Battalion (WTB) lined up for accountability formation in T-shirts and tennis shoes.

The day was set aside for the battalion's quarterly Warrior Appreciation Day, as WTB Soldiers got the chance to share a day of fun and friendship with their battalion buddies and their spouses and children. Unlike other Army units, WTB Soldiers have few opportunities to be together, because of their individualized medical treatment and therapy schedules.

"We always include families in these events," said Lt. Col. David Weisberg, WTB commander, about the quarterly appreciation day. "They are a critical piece to our warriors' transition, whether they return to regular Army units or transition to civilian life."

Warrior Appreciation Day had a special flavor this time.

"When the guys heard that Hooters restaurant was catering the event for the USO, a lot more were interested," said Staff Sgt. Peter Go, a WTB platoon sergeant.

The dozens of children attending were more anxious, however, to climb into the bouncy houses and ride the waterslide, as well as enjoy the organized family games. Highlights for the day included a WTB Idol karaoke singing contest and, for the more popular Soldiers, a pie-in-the face contest.



WTB cadres pick up their junior partners for a game of musical chairs at the Warrior Transition Battalion's quarterly appreciation day. U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Peter Go.



Pie throwers and receivers display their handiwork for the record. U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Peter Go.



WTB members applaud in tribute to recent Purple Heart awardees, Sgt. Justin Minisal (left) and Spec. Peter Bland. U.S. Army photo by Leslie Ozawa

What are WTUs?

Warrior Transition Units replace the medical holdover system and is a major change in how the Army cares for and manages wounded, ill and injured Soldiers. While a WTU closely resembles a “line” Army unit, its mission is to provide comprehensive care management that allows assigned members to heal and transition. A WTU’s permanent cadre and staff oversee wounded, ill and injured Soldiers (Warriors in Transition or WTs) assigned to their units. Each WT receives a “triad of care,” led by a primary care manager, a nurse case manager and a squad leader, to direct and supervise the individual healing process.

How are WTU assignments determined?

Assignment to a WTU is based on the level of clinical care and case management needed by a Soldier. A Soldier is normally assigned to a WTU that can best accommodate the treatment/rehabilitation of his injuries or illness. The Soldier may need the highly specialized medical capability at Walter Reed and Brooke Army Medical Centers.

Others may be assigned to a WTU located on the installation of the parent unit. Reserve Component Soldiers will normally be assigned to a community-based WTU (CBWTU) or to a WTU nearest their hometown, if the local health facilities can accommodate the Soldier’s treatment and transition needs.

What is the Warrior Transition Command?

The Warrior Transition Command (WTC) is a new 1-star command under U.S. Army Medical Command that serves as the organizational focal point for the Army’s Warrior Care and Transition Program. The WTC provides policy oversight to the Army’s WTUs and coordinates the many programs and initiatives that benefit wounded, ill and injured Soldiers and their families.

The WTC consolidated three offices/agencies previously involved in Army warrior care: the Warrior Transition Office (WTO), previously under MEDCOM; the Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2), previously under Human Resources Command; and the Warrior Care and Transition Office (WCTO) previously under the Office of the Chief of Staff, Army.