

Navy and Marine Corps Medical News

A Public Affairs Publication of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

Issue 22
November 14, 2008

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Items of Interest:

November is Warrior Care Month. The Department of Defense has designated November as Warrior Care Month. During Warrior Care Month, military treatment facilities will have a variety of events scheduled to commemorate the health care our warriors receive on the battlefield and at home. For information on Warrior Care, visit www.WarriorCare.mil. For information on Navy-specific Warrior Care, visit the Navy Safe Harbor Command at www.SafeHarbor.navy.mil. For information on Marine Corps-specific Warrior Care, visit the Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment at www.WoundedWarrior.usmc.mil.

Warrior Care: Giving Wounded What They Need, Deserve

By Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - Navy Adm. Mike Mullen didn't like the way wounded Vietnam veterans were treated when he first entered the service in 1968, and he is working to ensure that America's wounded from Iraq and Afghanistan get the care and help they need and deserve.

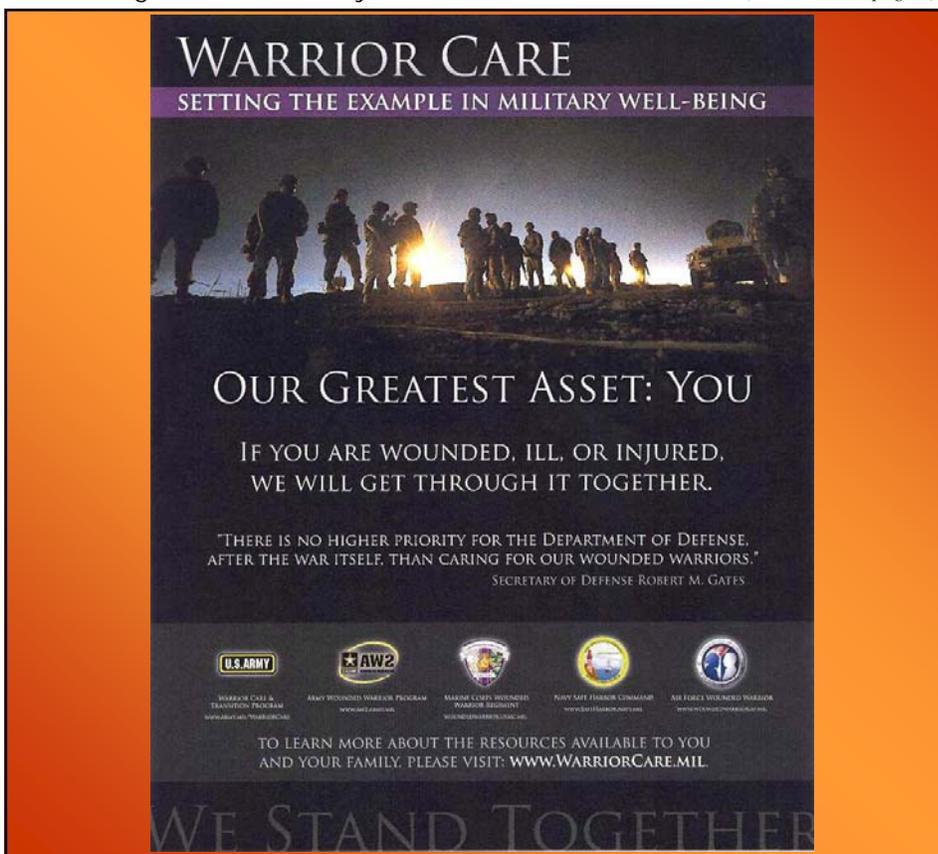
The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said during a Pentagon Channel podcast interview yesterday that as one of the leaders of the U.S. military, he is passionate "about seeing to the needs of those who are wounded - who have sacrificed so much, whose lives have been changed so dramatically."

Mullen said he also wants to help the families of the fallen. He wants "to make sure we are doing everything we can in the positions of leadership to make sure people understand what those families have sacrificed, and that we reach out to them and in every way possible and meet their needs for the rest of their lives," he said.

The chairman spoke about meeting a homeless Operation Enduring Freedom veteran at the Veterans Affairs hospital in Los Angeles recently. "He said to me 'I gave 100 percent. I'd really like 100 percent in return,'" Mullen said.

Medical care for wounded ser-

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WARRIOR CARE
SETTING THE EXAMPLE IN MILITARY WELL-BEING

OUR GREATEST ASSET: YOU
IF YOU ARE WOUNDED, ILL, OR INJURED,
WE WILL GET THROUGH IT TOGETHER.

"THERE IS NO HIGHER PRIORITY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE,
AFTER THE WAR ITSELF, THAN CARING FOR OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS."
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ROBERT M. GATES







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ARMY WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAM www.aw2.mil
MARINE CORPS WOUNDED WARRIOR REGIMENT www.marines.mil
NAVY SAFE HARBOR COMMAND www.safeharbor.navy.mil
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TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY, PLEASE VISIT: WWW.WARRIORCARE.MIL

WE STAND TOGETHER

Admiral's Call by the Surgeon General of the U.S. Navy Vice Admiral Adam. M. Robinson, Jr.

WARRIOR CARE MONTH

We are a Navy at war supporting a country at war and Navy Medicine is supporting our Nation's fallen. These are not easy times for anyone. It has been a hardship on our government, our leaders, our national budget, and our lifestyles. But, most of all it has been a hardship on our active duty military and their families.

In an effort to communicate the Department of Defense's commitment to quality care for our Servicemembers and their families, the Secretary of Defense, Robert M. Gates, has designated November 2008 as "Warrior Care Month."

No single aspect of the war is more important than the servicemembers who risk life and limb and sometimes make the ultimate sacrifice of dying for our nation's freedoms, beliefs and ideals. With the Global War on Terrorism now in its sixth year, these are especially trying times for our servicemembers and their families. Of utmost importance is our obligation to those fallen heroes who need our more immediate attention, those that are wounded, ill, and injured.

The objective of Warrior Care Month is to increase awareness of resources and programs available to wounded, ill, and injured military members, their families, and those who care about them. Warrior Care Month is also intended to be a step in a course of action that will reassure Servicemembers that their Nation truly values them and their courageous defense of our country.

It will also serve to reinforce the Servicemembers' trust in the Department of Defense's commitment to their well-being.

Warrior Care Month will also highlight open and honest communication between Services and Servicemembers and their families so that we may determine better ways to meet their needs. Throughout the month, DoD will provide snapshots of the military healthcare system and discuss plans for improvement and also explain and illustrate the continuum of care for wounded, ill, and injured servicemembers, including how to access resources and what to do if the system fails. They will reassure military members, their families, and those who care about them that the Military Health System (and each Service) has multiple resources to assist all those in need.

Navy Medicine has been working around the clock to restore health and function to our wounded, ill and injured American heroes. These young men and women who have been injured in harms way, or who have been otherwise affected while protecting our freedoms and liberties, must be our top priority at this pivotal time in our Nation's history. Navy Medicine has long known the value and importance of family members and loved ones in the healing process and has set programs in place to enable their bedside presence as much as possible.

One of the definitions of sacrifice is: *the surrender or destruction*



of something valued for the sake of something having a higher or more pressing claim. Military members and their families know, first hand, what it means to sacrifice. These selfless acts of sacrifice are made by our men and women in uniform and their families for the higher good of our great nation. They are made so that each and every American can live in freedom.

This is force health protection in action. This is the very definition of Navy Medicine's concept of care – Patient and Family Centered Care. Navy Medicine is here to serve and to aid our warriors and their families in every facet of care – from expeditionary to home – we provide a full spectrum of service so that our people are cared for. Navy Medicine will not fail. We will make constant improvements in our methods of care and treatment until there is no longer a need. This is our pledge to our shipmates, our commitment to our Navy and our promise to the nation.



PACIFIC OCEAN - Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Noel Toledo smooths a crown in the dental lab aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) Nov. 10. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Oliver Cole

President Honors Veterans, Families at USS Intrepid Ceremony

By Linda D. Kozaryn, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – On his last Veterans Day as commander in chief, President Bush paid tribute to all those who have worn the military uniform during a speech at the USS Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in New York City.

"Today we send a clear message to all who have worn the uniform: Thank you for your courage, thank you for your sacrifice, and thank you for standing up when your nation needed you most," he told the crowd of about 5,000, which included 2,500 veterans and about

500 members of the active military.

Like the many veterans who have served in the military, Bush noted that the Intrepid has also served the nation well. Launched on April 26, 1943, and commissioned on Aug. 16, 1943, the Intrepid took part in the World War II invasion of the Marshall Islands and played a key role in the amphibious assault on Okinawa and the Battles of Leyte Gulf.

Following the war's end, the Intrepid continued to serve, Bush said.

"As the United States raced into the new frontier of space, the Intrepid stood by to retrieve astro-

nauts returning to Earth," Bush said. "During the Cold War, she patrolled the Mediterranean and helped force the surrender of pro-Castro terrorists who had hijacked a freighter in the Caribbean, and did three tours off the waters of Vietnam."

After more than 30 years at sea, the Intrepid was decommissioned in 1974, destined to be scrapped. But thanks to the work of the Intrepid Museum Foundation, Bush said, the Intrepid moved to New York City, and "since 1982, she has been a

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Warrior Care continued...

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vicemembers has improved tremendously, Mullen said. Those who reach a field hospital within the first hour after being wounded – the so-called "Golden Hour" – have a 92 percent chance of survival. Medical professionals undoubtedly are saving the lives of many who would have died in previous wars, the chairman said.

"More than anything else, it's remarkable medical personnel who have adapted and moved to the leading edge of medical care," he said. "I can't say enough for them."

The whole process is one of speed, with those wounded in the combat theater quickly transferred to the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany and then further transported to wherever they need to go in the United States. But while much has been done, Mullen said, much more remains to be done, and this is especially true for long-term treatment and care, as the servicemembers and their families still want to live life and contribute to America.

"What we find out in my interaction with them and my wife's interaction with them is their dreams haven't changed," Mullen said.

The servicemembers still want to "own a piece of the rock," the chairman said. They still want to go to school, own a home, have good jobs and leave their children better off than they are. Realizing those dreams may be changed by the injuries, but the dreams remain, he said.

The question then becomes how the nation – through the Defense Department, the Department of Veterans Affairs and communities throughout the country – "reach out to meet the needs of these people who have given so much," he said.

Many programs are available, Mullen said, but he added he is not convinced they are doing what they should. He said he wants to study the programs to en-

sure they are producing for the servicemembers – giving them the needed mix to realize their dreams.

The chairman also said the department has a long way to go in the handling of post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury.

"Leaders have to step forward to set the example," he said. "A big part of that is the challenge of the stigma of asking for mental help."

From his perspective, the admiral said, asking for mental-health help is the same as asking for help for a physical problem, and it is a readiness issue. "Being on your game mentally" is as important as being physically ready to accomplish the mission, he said.

"We've taken some steps with respect to removing the stigma, but we've got a long way to go," the chairman acknowledged.

Connecting wounded servicemembers to communities also is extremely important, Mullen said.

"There is a sea of goodwill out there in our communities that will reach out and support those who are wounded and their families, and the families of the fallen," he said. "Where we are struggling a bit is connecting those resources in communities throughout the land to those who need it. We've got to work on it structurally and organizationally to connect that sea of goodwill to those who have these needs."

The needs of the wounded vary by family and individual. They also vary by point in the healing or rehabilitation process, the chairman said. "It can be very difficult to figure out what is needed, [and] when. But I know there are communities that are doing this and want to do this."

All Americans need to ensure these veterans and families receive what they need, and have to ensure this support is sustained over time, the nation's top military officer said.

Warrior Care a Top Priority for Navy Medicine

By Christine A. Mahoney, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Public Affairs Office

WASHINGTON – The Department of Defense (DoD) has designated November as Wounded Warrior Care Month. In support of warriors and their family members, Navy Medicine's commitment to the warfighter is evident in the care provided to injured warriors engaged in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom and other operations around the globe. This "continuum of care" which begins with the corpsman on the battlefield, culminates with the care provided at a military hospital and world-class restorative and rehabilitative care facilities in the U.S.

"Navy Medicine's concept of care is always patient and family-centered. Our commitment to the highest quality care possible takes into consideration that everyone is unique and in need of individualized, compassionate and professionally superior care," said Vice Admiral Adam M. Robinson Jr., Surgeon General of the Navy.

He continued, "At Military Treatment Facilities (MTF), our patient and family-centered efforts recognize and embrace the military culture and make that a part of the healing process. For me, the progress a patient makes from initial care to rehabilitation and in the support of life-long medical requirements is a driver of where a patient is clinically located in the continuum

of care and how that patient is cared for. Families are a critical part of the health care delivery team, and we integrate their needs into the healing process as well."

"To ensure seamless and compassionate delivery of the highest quality, comprehensive care we established the Wounded, Ill and Injured Warrior Support Directorate at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED)," said Robinson.

In 2008, BUMED consolidated all wounded, ill, and injured warrior healthcare support staff into one team dedicated to fulfill the mission of establishing policy and implementation guidance to offer the highest quality, customer-focused, comprehensive and compassionate care to service members and their family members. Some of their successes include:

- * To date, over 1200 family members have enrolled in Project FOCUS (Families Over Coming Under Stress), a family support program addressing the challenges of multiple deployments and operationally related mental and physical health issues.

- * Over 150 medical case managers at Navy MTFs advocate on behalf of wounded warriors and their family members by working directly with the multi-disciplinary medical team caring for the patient.

- * Since 2006, Navy Medicine established 17 Deployment Health Centers in high fleet and Marine Corps concentration areas to serve as non-stigmatizing portals of entry

for health care.

- * The BUMED Wounded Warrior Regiment Medical Review Team and the Returning Warrior Workshop supports Marine and Navy Reservists and their families by focusing on key issues faced by the Reserve during their transition from deployment.

- * Over 200 Sailors and Marines have enrolled in the Disability Evaluation System Pilot program designed to simplify and expedite the DES process for wounded warriors. The program ensures delivery of Veteran's Affairs benefits at the time of separation to San Diego, Camp Pendleton, Camp Lejeune, Bremerton and Jacksonville, in the next six months.

- * Comprehensive Operational Stress Control Training is designed to build resilience and decrease stigma through increased awareness on the mental wellness model and increased dialogue among Navy and Marine Corps populations. It provides education and training to all levels of Navy and Marine Corps personnel "from boot camp to the War college".

Rear Adm. Karen Flaherty, Director, Wounded, Ill and Injured Warrior Support Directorate, BUMED, and her staff will ensure wounded Sailors and Marines, along with their families, move from seamlessly throughout the recovery-rehabilitation-reintegration continuum.

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President Honors Vets continued...

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museum that educates new generations of Americans about the high price that those who came before them paid for their freedom."

"Even as a museum, the Intrepid still answered the call to service," the president said. On Sept. 11, 2001, following the terrorist attack on New York, the Intrepid was used as an emergency command center, with first responders launching helicopters from the decks."

"They are representative of the finest our nation offers. And they have the support of strong and caring and loving families," he continued. "On this Veterans Day, not only do we honor those who have worn the uniform,

those who are wearing the uniform and their families."

Bush said the nation has a moral obligation to support military families and veterans. He noted that he has worked with Congress to nearly double the funding for servicemembers and to implement recommendations to ensure "we have a mental health care system and physical health care system worthy of the sacrifice of those who have worn the uniform."

"It has been my privilege to work with the United States Congress to expand education benefits for both members of our military as well as our veterans," he said. "It has been my privilege to say loud and clear to our veterans, 'We love you, we respect you, and we thank you for serving the United States of America.'"

Warrior Care Month to Honor Service Members

By Sarah Fortney, National Naval Medical Center Bethesda Public Affairs Office

BETHESDA, Md.— Several wounded warriors from the National Naval Medical Center and Walter Reed Army Medical Center had the opportunity this week to try their hands at skeet shooting.

Monday was Wounded Warrior Day at the Prince George's County Skeet and Trap Center in Glenn Dale. More than a dozen service members spent the day learning the basics of the sport and they also received the instruction of two world-class champions.

Todd Bender and John Schima have been teaching skeet shooting together for about 25 years. Both men are world champions in the sport and are also certified by the Royal Institute for Clay Target Instructors and they are the only two certified in the U.S. and the U.K.

"It's a great opportunity for these guys to shoot with them," said Col. G. Scott Rose, chief of the gynecologic division at WRAMC.

Last year, Senior Master Sgt. Michael Giese organized the first skeet shooting day for wounded warriors at the center. Rose has since formed a non-profit organization to allow support from more

donations.

Bender, who is currently a world record champion, and Schima were teaching in the area this week, so they scheduled a day to work with the group of wounded warriors Monday at the Glenn Dale center, Bender said.

The men were glad to donate their time to introduce the wounded warriors to the sport, and "to let them know that we appreciate what's happening with them," Bender said. "That's the best part about it."

Members of the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard and Navy skeet shooting teams came to the center on Monday. The Marine Corps also has a skeet shooting team, but no members were present.

Between learning the basic tactics of the sport, which involves shooting a clay target that is sent soaring through the air, the group stopped to eat lunch, including hamburgers, hotdogs and bratwursts.

Many of the service members who came to the center Monday had little or no experience in skeet shooting, but seemed to have had it down pat by the end of the day.

Rose, primary organizer of this week's Wounded Warrior Day, said

he was impressed by how quickly the service members picked up the sport and they are mostly rifle and pistol shooters, and skeet shooting is much different than hitting targets moving at about 55 miles per hour.

"They start the day hitting almost nothing, and they finish the day shooting near-perfect rounds," Rose said. "They're good marksmen in their own right."

Rose, who is captain of the Army's skeet shooting team, noted the generous donations that made the day a success. Several volunteers, including the instructors, lent helping hands; the skeet and trap center also allowed the group to use its facility at no cost. Winchester Ammunition and White Flyer made donations as well.

Ed Shifflett, who has taken Bender and Schima's classes and uses the center for practice, also donated 500 rounds worth of ammunition.

Shifflett served in the Marine Corps and now works in Gaithersburg. He said he understands what the service members are going through and wanted to do something to help with the event.

"It's just great what they're doing here today," Shifflett said.

Warrior Care continued...

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"Our team is honored and humbled to be working shoulder to shoulder with our Sailors, Marines,

and their families. Supporting our leaders with knowledge, evidence based care and innovative programs to increase resilience and psychological fitness, reduce stigma and build on the unique strength of our military families is our mission," she said.

There are several websites offering free information on Warrior Care. The DoD Wound Care website www.WarriorCare.mil offers information pertaining to overall military healthcare for wound warriors and their families. Navy Safe Harbor Command, www.SafeHarbor.navy.mil, and Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regi-

ment, www.WoundWarriorUSMC.mil, web sites offer Sailor- or Marine-focused wounded warrior information.

Military OneSource also has created a 24-hour Warrior Resource Center that can be reached by telephone at 800-342-9647 and by e-mail at wwrc@militaryonesource.com. The center is staffed with trained consultants who can direct callers to the military or federal agency that can best help them. The consultant is expected to maintain contact with the caller until their question or concern is resolved.



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