STATE OF THE SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM
Education and Training Programs for Wounded, Injured, and Ill Veterans

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WOUNDED WARRIORS TRANSITIONING
“There are those who speak about you who say, ‘he lost an arm, he lost a leg, she lost her sight…’ I object. You gave your arm, you gave your leg, you gave your sight. As gifts to your nation. That we might live in freedom. Thank you. And to your families. Families of the fallen and families of the wounded. You sacrificed in ways that those of us who have not walked in your shoes can only imagine”.

General Peter Pace (former Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff)
Intrepid Center
Brook Army Medical Center
January 2007
TRANSITION

- **2.25 Million** Members of the Armed Forces
- **Over 1.5 million** Service members will **transition** out over next four years
- Separating Service members are **highly trained**
- **Approximately 24 million** veteran
- **Over 11 million** under the age of 60
RECOVERING WARRIOR TASK FORCE
RWTF

- Task Force for Care Management, and Transition of Recovering Wounded, Ill, and Injured Members of the Armed Forces
- The four year mission of the TF is to provide independent advice and recommendations to DoD, ensuring comprehensive services are provided to wounded members of the armed forces and their families
TASK FORCE TOPICS

- Case Management Medical/Non Medical
- Staffing Wounded Warrior Units
- Performance/Accountability Systems
- Services for Traumatic Brain Injury/Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Effectiveness of Centers of Excellence
- Interagency Program Office
Task Force Topics (con’t)

- Effectiveness of Information Resources
- Support to families
- Vocational Training
- Disability Evaluation System
- Legal Support
- Transition Assistance
- Senior Oversight Committee
- Coordination Between Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Defense (DoD)
Annual Report Process

- During FY 2014 the TF Planned for up to six public business meetings and 14 installation visits
- The TF will submit its fourth and final report to the Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) on 9/2/2014
- SECDEF will submit an implementation plan to House and Senate Armed Services Committees no later than six months after receiving the annual report

The previous three reports can be found at [http://rwtf.defense.gov](http://rwtf.defense.gov)
Meeting information and briefings [http://rwtf.defense.gov/rwtf/meetings.aspx](http://rwtf.defense.gov/rwtf/meetings.aspx)
Membership

- The NDAA authorized 14 members to be appointed to the TF
- Seven DoD and seven non DoD
- Two co-chairs – one from DoD and one non-Dod
- Current co-chairs are the Surgeon General of the Navy and the spouse/caregiver of a severely wounded warrior
- DoD/Military includes Navy, Army, Army National Guard, Marines, Air Force/Special Operations,
- Non DoD includes Spouse/Caregiver of Wounded Warrior, NIH, Former National Commander of American Legion, VA, Disabled Vietnam Veteran with more than 45 years experience in Veterans’ employment
Job Training, Employment Skills Training, Apprenticeships and Internships (Title 10 U.S. Section 1143(e))

- **Legislation**
- Section 1143(e) Employment Skills Training —
  
  (1) The Secretary of a military department may carry out one or more programs to provide eligible members of the armed forces under the jurisdiction of the Secretary with job training and employment skills training, including apprenticeship programs, to help prepare such members for employment in the civilian sector.
  
  (2) A member of the armed forces is an eligible member for purposes of a program under this subsection if the member—
  
  (A) has completed at least 180 days on active duty in the armed forces; and
  
  (B) is expected to be discharged or released from active duty in the armed forces within 180 days of the date of commencement of participation in such a program.

From a presentation to the TF by the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness)
RESPONSIBILITIES

- Secretaries of the Military Departments:
  - Ensure compliance.
  - Provide opportunities for Service members to participate without degrading the Service’s ability to meet mission requirements.
  - Identify Service members eligible to participate.
  - Assist the USD(P&R) to identify and document civilian sector job training opportunities and apprenticeships through a fair and equitable process.
  - Memorandums of understanding may be used to document agreements between the Military Departments and providers.
  - Develop methodology and standards for collecting and reporting metrics.
  - Review proposals by training providers to evaluate and determine their efficacy to enable participating Service members to obtain employment upon their departure from military service.

From a presentation to the TF by the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness)
PROCEDURES

- Participation: Voluntary.
- Authorized by first field grade commander with UCMJ authority.
- Based upon mission requirements.
- No conflict of interest.
- May be terminated based on mission requirements.
- Training must be offered at no or minimal cost to the Service members.
- High probability of post-service employment with any employer once training completed.

- Service member must have completed at least 180 continuous days on active duty and is expected to be discharged or released from active duty within 180 days of start of training program.
- Participating Service members are not eligible to receive from the training provider wages, training stipends, or any other form of financial compensation.

From a presentation to the TF by the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness)
CRITERIA

- Be an on the job training or apprenticeship, as listed as part of the Education and Job Training Program approved by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
  http://inquiry.vba.va.gov/weamspub/buildSearchInstitutionCriteria.do

- •Be accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. http://www2.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/index.html

- •Be a certificate program accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). For accredited programs, https://www.ansica.org/wwwversion2/outside/CAPdirectory.asp?menuID=212

- •Be a registered apprenticeship program or a pre-apprenticeship training program that is offered by an industry-related organization that has a program or programs that meet(s) the standards for registered apprenticeship. http://www.doleta.gov/OA/apprenticeship.cfm

From a presentation to the TF by the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness)
DoD Credentialing & Licensing Pilots

- More than 3,500 Service members from 57 military occupational codes are participating in credentialing and licensing pilots.
- These MOCs represent many of the most populated occupations in the Military
  
  Examples: Aircraft and Automotive Mechanic; Healthcare; Transportation; Supply and Logistics (Statutory Pilot being run by NGA)
  
  Manufacturing; IT; Welding; Healthcare; Machinist; Transportation; Maintenance; Supply and Logistics (DoD Pilot)

From a presentation to the TF by the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness)
Key Pilot Findings

- Attaining occupational credentials benefits both the Service member and the Services.
- Barriers to Service member credentialing exist, and efforts are underway to address many of them.
- Encouraging Enlisted Service Members to Obtain Civilian Credentials on a Voluntary Basis is Feasible, Desirable and Gaining Growing Institutional Support from the Services and DoD.
- Bridge Training Programs can Facilitate Credentialing of Service Members when Gaps Exist Between Military Training and Civilian Credentialing Requirements.
- Significant Numbers of Service Members Have Taken Advantage of Voluntary Credentialing Opportunities.
- Participation in Credentialing by Guard and Reserve Members and Recovering Service Members can be Improved.

From a presentation to the TF by the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness)
Key Pilot Program Findings (cont’d)

- Opportunities Exist to Conduct Credentialing Pilot Initiatives in Other Occupational Areas.
- Costs Include Direct Credentialing Costs, Preparatory Costs, Management and Operational Costs, and Living Expenses.
- Service Credentialing Policies and Tuition Assistance Programs Fund In-Service Credentialing Costs; Post 9/11 GI Bill is the Primary Funding Source for Post-Service Credentialing Costs.
- Direct Credentialing Costs Incurred During Pilot Program Averaged $285 per Pilot Participant.
- Incurring Credentialing Costs In-Service Can Produce Post-Service Cost Avoidance.

From a presentation to the TF by the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness)
Education and Employment Initiative (E2I):
http://warriorcare.dodlive.mil/wounded-warrior-resources/e2i

- The Education and Employment Initiative (E2I) is a Department of Defense (DoD) program to assist RSMs early in their recovery process identify their skills and match them with the education and career opportunities that will help them successfully transition to civilian life
- Available to active duty recovering Service members (RSM) looking for an education and employment opportunity to help prepare for their transition
- 10 Regional Coordinators across the country work with the Military Departments, Federal agencies, the private sector, and institutions to locate training, employment, and education opportunities. They provide expert education and career advice and guidance throughout the RSM recovery and have either returned to duty or transitioned into a successful, productive civilian life
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