WARRIOR CARE MONTH 2012 – OPEN LETTER TO OUR ARMY COMMUNITIES

November is traditionally the month when Americans reflect on the service of our Nation's Veterans and give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy because of their courage and sacrifice. Since 2008, the Military Departments have observed "Warrior Care Month" during November as a time to reaffirm our country's commitment to care for and support our wounded, ill and injured Servicemembers and their Families. The theme for this year's joint observance is "Success through Transition – Education, Employment, and Entrepreneurship."

Since this program began in 2007, approximately 50 percent of all Soldiers in Warrior Transition Units have returned to the force. Approximately 23,000 of them are back in the fight and our Veterans who do leave military service are prepared to lead strong and productive lives. This program, overseen by the Warrior Transition Command, currently cares for 10,000 Soldiers in Warrior Transition Units and 9,000 Army Veterans through the Army Wounded Warrior Program.

Warrior care goes well beyond providing the highest quality medical care possible to these Soldiers. We help wounded, ill and injured Soldiers to achieve employment and educational goals so they may return to their civilian communities prepared to succeed. And we are not alone in this important endeavor. We are grateful to the educators and employers across the Nation who recognize the unlimited potential and invaluable contributions of these men and women and open their doors and hearts to them.

Warrior Care Month is the time to tell this story and to pay tribute to those who have sacrificed so much for the defense of our Nation. There is no greater calling than helping to heal our brothers and sisters in arms when they return home from battle. Together, let's celebrate the resilience and strength that our wounded, ill and injured Soldiers demonstrate every day. Army Strong!

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