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SUBJ/WARRIOR CARE MONTH//

RMKS/1. Providing assistance to seriously wounded, ill and injured service members and their families is a top priority for the Navy. We take care of our own - including active-duty, reserve, and veteran Sailors and Marines - through programs such as Navy Wounded Warrior - Safe Harbor; the Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment; the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Wounded, Ill, and Injured Warrior Program; and the Wounded Warrior Hiring and Support Initiative. To further honor our commitment to wounded warriors and their families - while also raising awareness of available support programs - I have designated November 2013 as the Department of the Navy's Warrior Care Month.

2. Warrior Care Month is a Navy and Marine Corps-wide effort to host events and share information about wounded warrior support programs and commands among service members and their families, as well as government and non-government partners and the American public. Warrior Care Month also is a time to spotlight the many achievements and contributions of wounded warriors, and to recognize the support provided by their families and other caregivers. This year's theme is "Warrior Care - Building a Ready and Resilient Force."

3. Throughout the month, the Navy will emphasize the importance of warrior care and how it contributes to a "ready and resilient force." The Navy is committed to the welfare of seriously wounded, ill, and injured Sailors and Marines - at bedside, during rehabilitation, and throughout their transition back to active duty or to civilian life with the support of the Department of Veteran Affairs. Military treatment facilities are providing expert restorative and rehabilitative care for wounded warriors on the battlefield and beyond. Wounded warrior support programs address their non-medical needs, allowing wounded warriors and their families to focus on recovery without distractions.

4. Promoting resiliency ensures that wounded warriors can cope with adversity - on the front lines or at home. Navy Wounded Warrior - Safe Harbor and the Wounded Warrior Regiment are part of an extensive catalog of Navy programs that enhance the mental, physical, and emotional health of service members. They provide the gold standard of non-medical care to wounded warriors and their families, offering resources that promote healing and opportunities for success both within and beyond military service.

5. Families and caregivers are a critical source of support for wounded warriors enduring the physical and emotional challenges that accompany recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration. The Navy connects them with critical resources to make their jobs as caregivers more manageable and encourage resiliency. These resources include the Special Compensation for

Assistance with Activities of Daily Living (SCAADL) program, Families Overcoming Under Stress (FOCUS), Navy Child and Youth Programs, and Military One Source.

6. Adaptive reconditioning promotes health and wellness, and it is critical to the recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration of wounded warriors. This month, select wounded warriors will compete in a joint-service seated volleyball competition at the Pentagon Athletic Center, providing an opportunity to remain active and to make valuable connections with other wounded warriors.

7. Our commitment to seriously wounded, ill, and injured Sailors and Marines, as well as their families and caregivers, is unwavering. I encourage all Navy personnel to take an opportunity during Warrior Care Month to join me in expressing heartfelt gratitude and support.

8. For more information about Warrior Care Month activities or about wounded warrior programs, Navy Wounded Warrior - Safe Harbor can be contacted toll-free via 1-855-NAVY WWP (628-9997) or at [safeharbor.navylive.dodlive.mil](http://safeharbor.navylive.dodlive.mil); Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment can be contacted toll-free via the Sergeant Merlin German Wounded Warrior call center at 1-877-487-6922 or at [woundedwarriorregiment.org](http://woundedwarriorregiment.org); the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Wounded, Ill, and Injured Warrior Support can be contacted via 202-781-5272 or at [nssc\\_wwarriorhiring@navy.mil](mailto:nssc_wwarriorhiring@navy.mil).

9. Released by Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy.//

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