



The National Ability Center and U.S. Paralympics to Host Muster for Community Based Warrior Transition Unit (CBWTU)

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Park City, Utah - The National Ability Center (NAC), in conjunction with U.S. Paralympics, a division of the U.S. Olympic Committee, will host a muster of the Community Based Warrior Transition Unit (CBWTU), headquartered at Camp Williams, Utah, beginning Monday, December 13 to Saturday, December 18, 2010 at various locations around the Park City area including the Bronfman Family Recreation Center and Ranch (the Ranch).

This CBWTU muster will involve military personnel and their families from around the country including Kansas, South Dakota, Nebraska, Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. To be eligible for CBWTU, Warriors must have sustained an injury during an overseas deployment or while mobilized State-side. Warriors are sent to CBWTU to aid their healing at home after an initial evaluation and treatment period at a major military treatment facility. During the five-day muster, Soldiers will participate in a variety of adaptive recreational activities including Equine Facilitated Learning and Paralympic sports of alpine skiing and sled hockey. The primary goal of the muster is bring military service men and women together with their families to experience adaptive recreation within a supportive and nurturing environment.

"In the past few years, the Army has transformed the way it provides care, services, and support to all wounded, ill, and injured soldiers," said First Sergeant Dana Nelson. "In addition to healing their bodies, we work to mend their minds and spirits."

Current statistics show that Soldiers who return to their home communities to heal are more likely to return to duty. While much has been made of the difficulties that face returning Soldiers and their families, the Army has been steadily working to improve care through the Warrior Transition system established in 2007. Today, the Army and other branches of the U.S. military have been leading efforts to address both the direct and indirect consequences of deployments, including visible physical injuries, traumatic brain injuries, post traumatic stress, and personal at-risk behaviors while at home. By leveraging the experience and know-how of the National Ability Center, CBWTU hopes to improve the care provided to its Soldiers and family members.

"It is an honor and a privilege for the National Ability Center to give back to the servicemen and women who give so much to our country. Each day they are on-site I am inspired by their individual and collective commitment to challenge themselves and progress," said Gail Loveland, NAC Executive Director. "NAC programs are directed at empowering participants. As they leave here, we hope to have provided the tools they need to return to their communities as examples of successful healing and accomplishment."

National Ability Center program service hours for Wounded Warriors has increased by more than 400% to meet the growing demand of this emerging group. This number is expected to triple in the coming year and will reach all branches of the military community including both veterans and active duty military personnel and their family members who are attempting to heal and transition back into active service or return to civilian life.

"Our Warriors have only one mission: to heal. The NAC is a catalyst to making that possible," said Major N. Scott Reading with the CBWTU. "We are excited to have a partnership with the National Ability Center which enables us to meet that goal effectively and efficiently."

About National Ability Center:

The National Ability Center is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization that provides recreational and therapeutic activities for people of all ages and abilities. The Ability Center offers more than a dozen adaptive programs throughout the year including horseback riding, alpine and Nordic skiing, cycling, and sled hockey. Learn more about the NAC at DiscoverNAC.org.

About U.S. Paralympics:

U.S. Paralympics, a division of the U.S. Olympic Committee, is dedicated to becoming the world leader in the Paralympic sports movement and to promoting excellence in the lives of persons with physical disabilities. Visit the U.S. Paralympics website at www.usparalympics.org.

About the CBWTU

The Warrior Transition Command was established with one mission: to assist Soldiers in their healing process. As a community-based healing unit, Community Based Warrior Transition Unit-Utah's (CBWTU-UT) 34 Soldiers and civilians oversee the medical care for over 200 Soldiers, mostly National Guard members and Reservists. Soldiers live in and work in 11 states, including Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, New Mexico, South Dakota, and Wyoming.