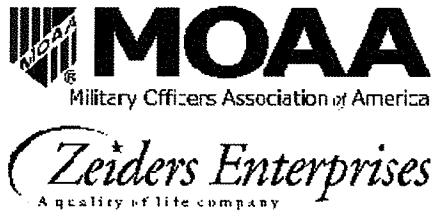


# WARRIOR-FAMILY ROUNDTABLE



**Topic:** “What Do Warriors-Families Say They Need From Government to Enhance Their Well-being and Psychological Health?” Information Paper

**When:** Tuesday, May 3, 2011 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM EDT

**Where:** 901 15th Street NW, Washington, DC 20005 at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology

**Overview Warrior-Family Roundtable (WFR):**

The Roundtable extends the groundbreaking exchanges between key leaders in Congress, Departments of Defense (DoD) and Veterans Affairs (VA), and other governmental, and non-governmental agencies that have occurred since 2007 when MOAA held its first wounded warrior Defense Forum Washington (DFW) was held. Discussions address specific topics related to psychological-health and well-being of the force, and seamless transition in order to enhance communication in the public- and private-sector and to generate new insights on emergent issues.

**Current Issues:**

Less than 1% of the American population is serving in today's military, but they are bearing the full responsibility for protecting and defending our country. The collective military community has voiced concerns about the general public's lack of understanding or appreciation of the sacrifices made by troops and families. The impact of prolonged and frequent deployments and trauma-related stress as a result of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars have aggravated the stress and the trauma troops and their families have experienced, greatly increasing the demand for mental-behavioral health counseling, substance abuse treatment, and a host of other services. This demand has placed additional pressures on medical, family support and readiness systems, often requiring the military to look to civilian networks and partnerships for assistance. While many government and non-government programs have worked hard to build robust programs and services to support the military community, warriors and families also want to be involved in building these programs/systems, rather than having others guess or assume they know what's best for them.

**Roundtable Purpose & Discussions:** May is National Military Appreciation Month and May 6 is Military Spouse Appreciation Day—this WFR honors our military, veterans, wounded warriors, caregivers, and families and pays tribute to their service and sacrifice.

Today's Roundtable's theme focuses on one of the four priorities outlined in a report released by the White House in January 2011, titled “*Strengthening Our Military Families: Meeting America's Commitment*” President Obama and the First Lady have made the care and support of military families a top priority. On December 8, 2010, the President approved the report which directs a coordinated Federal Government-wide approach to improving the quality of military family life, helping communities better support military, veterans, and their families, and thus improving our national security and defense.

**Purpose:** To discuss warrior-family needs and identify ways to enhance their well-being and psychological health.

- Identify additional ways government agencies can and should support warriors-families.
- Explore tangible initiatives, projects or tasks attendees can or would like to individually or collectively pursue to help support our warriors-families after they leave today's meeting.
- Provide an opportunity for attendees to return to the Fall meeting to share their accomplishments and lessons learned from initiatives, projects or tasks they pursued after the May 3<sup>rd</sup> WFR which will be shared with the White House and other interested organizations or individuals in an effort to further support our warriors-families.

**Discussion Questions for Presenters & Attendees to Explore:**

- ? What do warriors-families say they need and expect government to provide that will help improve their well-being and psychological health?
- ? What are your thoughts on the White House initiative and government implementation plans?
- ? What additional things should government and communities be doing to further promote psychological fitness, improve financial readiness, eliminate homelessness, promote home security, ensure availability of substance abuse prevention/treatment/recovery services, and to make our court systems more responsive to the unique needs of our warriors-families?
- ? What do you think you or your organization can do when you leave here today to support our warriors-families?

**Contacts For More Information:** CDR René Campos (USN-Ret), Deputy Director, Government Relations, 703-838-8134, [renec@moaa.org](mailto:renec@moaa.org); Mr. Dave Carroll, Zeiders Enterprises, Inc., 703-496-9000, [DCarroll@Zeiders.com](mailto:DCarroll@Zeiders.com); or [MOAA/WarriorFamilyRoundtable.org](http://MOAA/WarriorFamilyRoundtable.org)