



Quarterly Update

January—March 2019

CO's SITREP

Col. Lawrence F. Miller



Wounded Warrior Regiment (WWR) opened 2019 in the traditional manner: the 9th Annual Marine Corps Trials, hosted at Camp Pendleton, California. We welcomed recovering service members and veterans from five different countries to compete in 11 athletic events with our 100 wounded, ill or injured veterans and active duty Marines from across the country. The Trials are the first major step toward the

Department of Defense (DoD) Warrior Games, but more importantly, they bring together athletes, veterans, coaches, and families and provide a nontraditional medium for rehabilitation and a fresh platform for demonstrating resiliency and achievement. Congratulations to the athletes who were selected for the DoD Warrior Games; we will see you in Tampa Bay June 21st.

Not a group to let the athletes be the only ones reaching new heights, the staff at WWR continue to raise the bar higher. In 2019, rallying around an unexpected reduction in contractual support, the Wounded Warrior Operations Center (WWOC) and selected District Injured Support Coordinators (DISCs) instituted 24 hour operations to keep the Wounded Warrior Call Center (WWCC) operational. The DISCs demonstrated their utility and ability to adapt to bridge any gap, ensuring recovering service members and veterans receive the care they need, no matter the circumstances. This cohesive team, month after month, truly exemplifies that we will always keep faith with our Marines.

Semper Fidelis.

Keeping Faith

Marines, Sailors, and their families may receive support from one or more WWR assets due to our holistic approach to care. The numeric portion depicts the total number of service members supported per program this quarter.

154



District Injured Support Coordinators (DISC) / Field Service Representatives (FSR)

489



Reserve Medical Entitlements (RMED)

398



Medical Section

856



Recovery Care Coordinators (RCC)



MEDICAL SECTION



398 Total / 308 New Cases

The Medical Section provides medical subject matter expertise, advocacy, and liaison to the military and civilian medical community through a team of licensed clinical care advocates. The Medical Section reviews incoming cases to assess behavioral health needs and facilitate swift access to care. **This quarter, the Medical Section supported 398 Marines, including 308 new cases**

Operational Medicine Symposium

The Defense Strategies Institute presented the Operational Medicine Symposium January 23-24 in San Diego, California bringing together medical professionals dedicated to ongoing research and development of improved military medicine techniques as well as increased collaboration across many communities.

Col. Lawrence “Larry” Miller, WWR commanding officer, spoke at the conference, discussing the challenges of bridging the gaps that can exist between the focus on medical care and the need to support the whole Marine: family, career, and future. Along with WWR nurse case management and benefits advisor, Lorri Ward, MSN, RN, Col. Miller explained to the attendees how involving the military services’ Recovery Coordination Programs early can facilitate a treatment plan that most effectively cares for medical and non-medical recovery needs.



RCC



856 Total / 245 New Cases

Recovery Care Coordinators (RCCs) work with Marines & Sailors and their families to develop and execute their comprehensive recovery plans. **This quarter, RCCs supported 856 Marines and Sailors, including 245 new cases.** RCCs are part of the Marine’s or Sailor’s recovery team, working closely with the command and medical team to optimize recovery.



WWCC



416 Total (Incoming Calls)

The Wounded Warrior Call Center has undergone a gap in contractual support, but the WWOC adapted to cover incoming calls for support. While outreach calls were unavailable this quarter, the WWOC received **416** incoming calls and provided support those in need. DISCs have also been assigned additional duties to receive the calls and inquiries in addition to these regular duties.

The Sergeant Merlin German Wounded Warrior Call Center is expected return this second quarter, 2019. Expected to stand up in mid-April, the Wounded Warrior Regiment is eager to regain the ability to provide the full spectrum of call center services, including outreach, to wounded, ill and injured active duty Marines and veterans.



DISCs / FSRs



154 Total / 50 New Cases

District Injured Support Coordinators (DISCs) are mobilized reserve Marines who provide assistance to Marines and Sailors recovering away from military bases, transitioning to veteran status, or medically retired to the Temporary Disability Retired List. **Field Support Representatives (FSRs)** are contracted support that function as DISCs. **This quarter, DISCs and FSRs supported 154 Marines, Sailors, and families, including 50 new cases.** DISCs and FSRs are geographically dispersed throughout the US to be able to reach a Marine or Sailor in need within 24 hours. They provide care for just one instance or over a period of time. Additionally, some DISCs currently serve the Wounded Warrior Call Center, providing critical 24/7 support by phone.

Keeping the Faith — The most visible highlights of WWR operations tend to be the warrior athlete reconditioning activities, such as the Marine Corps Trials. Behind the scenes, district injured support coordinators (DISCs) are geographically dispersed, working from home offices or VA centers, receiving phone calls every hour of the day and night—and these individuals are making a quiet and critical difference in the lives of veterans. Here are highlights from this quarter:



GySgt Sanchez

Denver, Colorado

GySgt Dean Sanchez was assigned a case by the Wounded Warrior Operations Center and tremendously helped a medically retired Marine who suffers from a TBI and PTSD. Sanchez assisted the RSM with securing his benefits, including getting his wife TriCare, which saves the family \$500 per month. Sanchez was instrumental in securing this and other benefits that were crucial to the family's stability.

GySgt Talbot

Atlanta, Georgia

GySgt Timothy Talbot kept faith with GySgt (Ret.) Michael Dase and his family. Talbot secured a donor vehicle through the Marine Corps Coordinating Council of Georgia to ensure Dase is able to make his regularly scheduled VA appointments during a time of financial strain due to his son's complicated medical conditions. Talbot is currently advocating for Dase to receive a mortgage-free home through the Homes on Homefront program.

Events

This Quarter

- ♦ Marine Corps Trials final planning conference, Camp Pendleton, CA, January 7– 11.
- ♦ Operational Medicine Symposium, San Diego, CA, January 23 – 24.
- ♦ Marine Corps Trials, Camp Pendleton, CA, February 26 – March 9.
- ♦ Mr. Johnny Mercer, U.K. MP, command visit, Quantico, VA, February 19.
- ♦ Ukrainian Minister of Veterans Affairs, Irina Friz, visit, Quantico, VA, March 1.

Next Quarter

- ♦ Archery Challenge, April 17-21, Camp Lejeune, NC.
- ♦ 2019 DoD Warrior Games FPC, Tampa, FL, April 28 – May 2.
- ♦ Valor Games, Raleigh, NC, May 20-22.
- ♦ FBI team-building event, MCB Quantico, VA, May 22.
- ♦ 2019 DoD Warrior Games, Tampa, FL, June 21– 29.

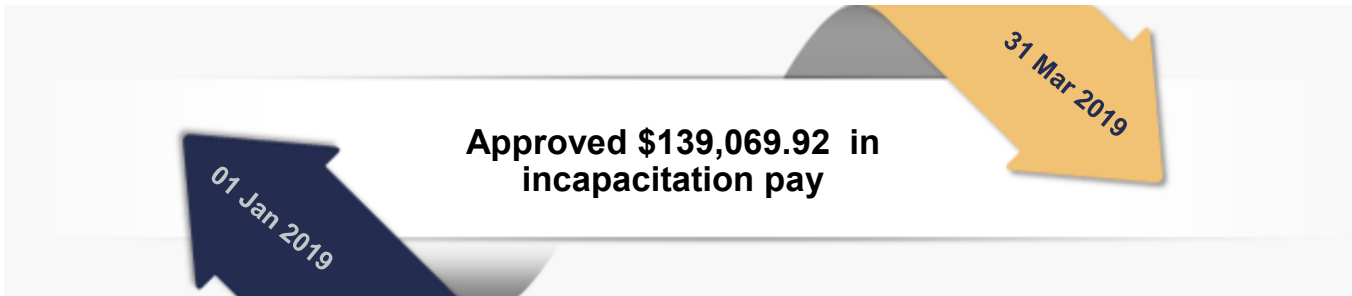


RMED



489 Total / 108 New Cases

The Reserve Medical Entitlements Determination Section (RMED) manages all cases of Marine reservists in a medical hold status or a line of duty status. **This quarter, RMED supported 489 Marines, including 108 new cases.** As a Headquarters Marine Corps function, RMED processes initial applications and periodic certifications in support of Marine reservists around the world. Through a liaison at Marine Forces Reserve Command in New Orleans, WWR is able to ensure coordinated support for the unique needs of wounded, ill, and injured Marine reservists.



WWR Key Engagements

Ms. Iryna Friz,
Minister of Veterans Affairs, Ukraine

The newly appointed Ukrainian Minister of Veterans Affairs, Iryna Friz, and several of her advisors and staff visited with staff from Manpower and Reserve Affairs and WWR March 1. Ms. Friz discussed the WWR command brief and operating principles of the USMC Recovery Coordination Program. While she is charged with building veteran support, she was noticeably interested in how services WWR provides service members while on active duty can positively impact the transition and success as veterans.



Mr. Johnny Mercer,
U.K. Member of Parliament

Col. Lawrence “Larry” Miller, Sgt. Maj. Karl Simburger, and members of the WWR staff hosted a visit from Mr. Johnny Mercer, a former British Army officer and current Member of Parliament, on February 19. Mr. Mercer was seeking insight into the structure and recovery care operations provided to Marines through the WWR. He later stated the work of WWR is “clearly best practice” and is eager to provide support to British wounded warriors in the future.



2019 Marine Corps Trials

The 9th annual Marine Corps Trials were held at Camp Pendleton, California, Feb. 28 to March 9, 2019. This year, recovering service members from Colombia, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, France, and Georgia joined more than 100 active duty and veteran wounded, ill, or injured Marines from across the country to compete in 11 sports.

The Trials serve as a venue for selecting athletes to participate in the DoD Warrior Games, but more importantly, they bring us together, promote alternative rehabilitation, and let recovering service members showcase physical and mental resiliency.



Recovery and Rehabilitation Support

Transition Resources

The WWR Transition Section facilitated a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt course for transitioning service members in January. Lean Six Sigma is a highly sought training in evaluating business processes and implementing efficient management policies. Offering access to this course supports the Transition Section's goal of preparing recovering service members to excel in their post-military careers.



Allied Winter Sports Camp

Not every rehabilitative sports recovery is on the track or in the pool. From February 11-22, recovering service members attended the Allied Winter Sports Camp hosted by the Allied Forces Foundation and held in Whistler, British Columbia, Canada. Participants took to the slopes for adaptive skiing and snowboarding and other winter sports, forging bonds with fellow recovering service members, building international partnerships and working toward their ongoing recoveries.



2019 DoD Warrior Games



The 2019 Department of Defense Warrior Games will be held in Tampa, Florida, June 21-30. The selected members of Team Marine Corps were announced April 3rd, consisting of 40 veteran and active duty wounded, ill or injured Marines who will train to compete in various sports against the other services. The Warrior Games were established in 2010 as a way to enhance recovery and rehabilitation and inspire wounded, ill and injured service members, to continue growing and achieving.