



Quarterly Update

April –June 2017

The Anniversary Issue | A Decade in Review



A DECADE OF KEEPING FAITH

Celebrating 3,653 days of support to wounded, ill, or injured Marines and Sailors and their families since the Wounded Warrior Regiment was established in April 2007. This quarter's update takes a look at not just this quarter, but highlights from the last ten years.

10th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

The Wounded Warrior Regiment | Wounded Warrior Call Center 24/7 | 877.487.6299





CO'S SITREP

COL. LAWRENCE F. MILLER

April marked the 10-year anniversary of the Wounded Warrior Regiment. The organization that emerged from an idea that wounded Marines should recover together has turned into two battalions with state-of-the-art Warrior Hope and Care centers, 11 detachments and a decade of support to recovering service members and their families.

The WWR continues to set the standard in the Department of Defense for warrior care; our method of providing a spectrum of care through a familiar unit structure facilitates recovery and transition. These successes are evident by the numbers, but even more so in the words of supported Marines.

Leaders & staff of the WWR instituted necessary programs and systems while meeting evacuees on flight lines, sitting with family members in hospital rooms and briefing the Commandant of the Marine Corps weekly. The WWR has always assessed itself. That continues today.

As we develop our five-year plan, we will focus on refining our administrative processes and further defining operational requirements. We must take advantage of the reduction in combat operations to plan and prepare for the demands of the future. The experiences and efforts of the last decade set the foundation for solid strategic planning.

“They bring back my spirit to succeed and self-worth.”
- A Recovering Service Member

The service members and families who need support are different now than they were in 2007; however, their sacrifice in defense of our nation is not. I am grateful to the Marines, Sailors, civilians and contractors who remain committed to our service members for their unfailing dedication. I am confident that in the next 10 years we will continue to exceed all expectations.

Semper Fidelis,

10 Years of Leadership

- Col. Gregory D. Boyle
- Col. John L. Mayer
- Col. Willard A. Buhl
- Col. T. Shane Tomko
- Col. Scott D. Campbell
- Col. Lawrence F. Miller



- Sgt. Maj. Charles Blumenberg
- Sgt. Maj. John Ploskonka
- Sgt. Maj. Joseph VanFonda
- Sgt. Maj. Michael T. Mack
- Sgt. Maj. Karl D. Simburger

A Decade in Review

IN THE BEGINNING: 2005-2007

The origin story marks the beginning of the regiment timeline. This timeline highlights the major milestones to significant events of the regiment in the last decade.

WWR Established

Wounded Warrior Regiment headquarters established in April 2007 at Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA



WWBn-East Established



Wounded Warrior Battalion-East established in June 2007 at Camp Lejeune, NC

WWBn-West Established

Wounded Warrior Battalion-West established August 2007 at Camp Pendleton, CA



Wounded Warrior Call Center Established

Wounded Warrior Call Center established with 24/7 helpline for Marines, Veterans, and their families

2007

April

June

August

November

The Marine Corps' slogan "Once a Marine, always a Marine" highlights a commitment unmatched by other services. For Marines who were wounded in combat, the Marine Corps developed multiple layers of support for medical and administrative support. For many, the support was at a distance while recovery took place near family. That was the system in 2004, when Lt. Col. Tim Maxwell was injured in Iraq.

Personally aware of the challenges of an injury, combined with the isolation of separation from Marines, Maxwell and then Gunnery Sgt. Kenneth Barnes suggested Marines would recover more swiftly and wholly, motivated by other Marines.

Leadership at all levels were eager to ensure the best possible support was available to combat wounded Marines and their families when they returned home. Maxwell and Barnes approached then Lt. Gen. Amos, who was serving as commander of II Marine Expeditionary Force, with the idea of a barracks for wounded warriors to recover together. From 2005-2007, the model for the Wounded Warrior Battalions were set in those barracks aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

Concurrent efforts at Manpower & Reserve Affairs connected the need for improved policy and accountability with the desire to sustain the Marine spirit through recovery-focused barracks. Together, the determination of those first Marines and leaders who knew the power and resilience of their Marines, ensured all those who serve will, in some capacity, as the WWR motto says, be *Etiam in Pugna- Still in the Fight*.

A Decade in Review

2008-2010



The Wounded Warrior Battalion-East logo was drawn by a recovering service member, Sgt. Robert Holzinger

Established Marine Corps Wounded, Ill and Injured Tracking system (MCWIITS)

The first system of record for warrior care efforts within the Marine Corps, MCWIITS was established to ensure coordination among recovery care team members



WWR Headquarters Groundbreaking

Wounded Warrior Regiment breaks ground on a new headquarters building on Hill Avenue, Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA

Inaugural Warrior Games at US Olympic Training Center

Team Marine Corps won the Commander's Cup at the 2010 Warrior Games in Colorado Springs, CO



WWCC named in honor of Sergeant Merlin German

WWR named its call center in honor of Sgt. Merlin German, a wounded warrior who suffered severe burns over 90 percent of his body



WWCC recognized as a DoD Best Practice

The DoD recognized the achievements of the Wounded Warrior Call Center for resource and information as a DoD Best Practice



The WWCC has logged over 900,000 outgoing calls since it began operations

A Decade in Review

2011-2013

Inaugural Marine Corps Trials at Camp Pendleton, CA

The Marine Corps Trials were created to select a 50 person Warrior Games team and included British Royal Marines, Dutch Marines, and Australian soldiers



The Marine Corps Trials have hosted wounded warriors from Australia, Canada, Colombia, France, Germany, Georgia, the Netherlands, New Zealand and United Kingdom

WWBn-E Warrior Hope and Care Center opens

Collocated with the Fisher House and a block from the Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune, the Warrior Hope and Care Center opens for recovering service members at WWBn-E



WWBn-W Warrior Hope and Care Center opens

WWBn-W opens the Warrior Hope and Care Center, which houses office space, transition services, mental health support, RCCs and reconditioning activities



No Man Left Behind Monument unveiled at WWBn-East

Gifted by Hope for the Warriors, this monument depicts the iconic photograph taken in Fallujah by combat photographer Lucian Reed of Lance Cpls. Chris Marquez and Dane Shaffer carrying 1st Sgt. Bradley Kasal out of the famed Hell House



A second monument was dedicated at WWBn-W on November 12, 2014, exactly 10 years to the day the original photo was taken

A Decade in Review

2014-2016



Team Marine Corps won 47 gold, 37 silver, and 21 bronze, for a total of 105 medals at the 2015 DoD Warrior Games held at MCB Quantico, VA

WWR attends ceremony at Belleau Wood

WWR attended the Commandant's Memorial Day ceremony in Belleau Wood, part of a professional military education event sponsored by the Marine Corps Association and Foundation



WWBn-W Complex named after Sgt. Rafael Peralta

Wounded Warrior Battalion – West dedicates its Warrior Hope and Care Center to Sgt. Rafael Peralta who sacrificed his life to save his team in the second battle of Fallujah in 2004



2014

May

WWR competes at inaugural Invictus Games

The first Invictus Games, created by Britain's Prince Harry, took place in London. The U.S. team included 20 Marines and Marine Corps veterans



September

2015

Inaugural DoD Warrior Games held at Quantico

In the first DoD-led Warrior Games, the Marine Corps hosted teams from the Army, Navy/Coast Guard, Air Force, Special Operations Command and the United Kingdom at Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA



June

July

2016

WWBn-E fitness center named in honor of SSgt. N. R. McMillian

The McMillian fitness center was named in honor of a recovering service member who was assigned to WWBn-E when he passed away



June

A Decade in Review

Our Future

A decade of achievements and advances are by no means the end for Wounded Warrior Regiment. WWR makes the Marine Corps stronger by supporting the wounded, ill and injured Marines and Sailors who have served in times of war and peace; we will continue to embody the maxim that the USMC keeps faith with Marines and families.

In the next five years, WWR will ensure systems and processes developed in the last 10 years are codified and ready for execution if and when ground combat operations resume. We will continue to refine the spectrum of care offered to our population and capitalize on available resources. We will train our Marines and staff to always innovate, educate and motivate one another as a team of professionals who lead the DoD in warrior care.

PENTAGON PATRIOTIC ART PROGRAM: WOUNDED WARRIOR HEALING ARTS

In April, the Pentagon unveiled a first of its kind exhibit, featuring 40 images of artwork created by recovering service members during art therapy sessions. The exhibit celebrates and recognizes the resilience and perseverance of wounded, ill and injured service members and conveys how important healing arts initiatives are in enabling them to better cope with a variety of visible and invisible wounds of war. This year's artwork featured drawings by three Marines, retired Staff Sgt. Adel Abudayeh, retired Staff Sgt. Christopher Greenleaf, and retired Sgt. Richard Ung. The artwork is scheduled to be on display for one year at Floor 2, Apex 1-2.



DON VETERAN & WOUNDED WARRIOR HIRING AND SUPPORT SUMMIT

Forty-two Marines supported by the Wounded Warrior Regiment attended the Department of the Navy Veteran & Wounded Warrior Hiring and Support Summit in Seattle May 23-24. The Marines received briefings on understanding federal employment, application procedures, and the different types of employment. Later in the day they met with actor and Korean War-era veteran Tom Skerritt. Skerritt created the Red Badge Project which supports wounded warriors through storytelling. Amazon Military also provided training on resume writing and interviewing. Marines spent the second day networking with potential employers at a job fair. Marines attending this event are planning for an unexpected retirement, due to an illness or injury that has impacted their military careers. The event, now in its seventh year, has provided service members and veterans an opportunity to meet, interview and even receive job offers from employers. Fifty-four employers participated in the hiring fair this year.



MARINE RECEIVES PURPLE HEART 13 YEARS AFTER INJURY



No one joins the military to earn a Purple Heart, but for those injured in combat, it might be the most significant award to receive. For one Marine, Cpl. John Angell, that award came 13 years after he was injured by enemy mortar fire in the Battle of Najaf. Unfortunately, at the time of Cpl. Angell's injury, the required documentation was never complete leaving him unable to provide proof he earned the award. Dean Sanchez, WWR field support representative, worked persistently to gather the required evidence to support Cpl. Angell's award application. Initially, in 2014, Mr. Sanchez ran into the Marine who carried Cpl. Angell off the battlefield and was able to attest to the fact that he rated the Purple Heart Medal. From there, Mr. Sanchez spent another year gathering statements from Cpl. Angell's company commander, platoon leader and first sergeant from that time, all confirming his injury. Unfortunately, the package was denied a second time due to the lack of a medical officer endorsement. This hurdle didn't stop Mr. Sanchez; he persevered by gathering medical documentation and made contact with Cpl. Angell's battalion commander to request a statement that would suffice in place of the medical officer endorsement. Still, the package was denied a third time for lack of medical documentation. Not willing to concede, Mr. Sanchez leveraged all of his contacts with the WWR Medical Cell, Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund and other

veteran advocates to support this quest in support of Cpl. Angell and the award he deserved for his injuries. Finally, on May 24, 2017, Cpl. Angell's package was approved, and he was officially awarded the Purple Heart Medal. If it were not for the persistence and commitment of Mr. Sanchez, first as a district injured support coordinator and now a field support representative, Cpl. Angell may never have received an approval for his Purple Heart Medal. Finally through the longest part of the wait, Cpl. Angell will be presented his medal in front of the grade school class he teaches later this year.

CHARTING THE WAY

Lt. Col. Tim Maxwell's vehement advocacy for a barracks aboard Camp Lejeune where wounded warriors could recover together was one of several efforts across the Marine Corps to support the casualties of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. At the same time, then Lt. Col. Paul Swanson, who continues to serve as the command advisor for Wounded Warrior Battalion-West, and Master Gunnery Sgt. Girgos were establishing a recovery facility aboard Camp Pendleton.

However, there were Marines recovering all over and administrative, medical, and transition support systems each had separate processes. As a result, many Marines & families did not know what was available or how to properly request support.

Wounded Warrior Regiment Mental Health Advisor Debbie Paxton recalls the initial difficulties: "When I was visiting combat wounded at Balboa in 2004-2005-2006, there were plenty of mothers, fathers, brothers, spouses, etc. who left their jobs and got on a plane when they received word their Marine was med-evac'd; they, and I, didn't know about the Joint Travel Regulations or the Family and Medical Leave Act." Funded orders to travel bedside for a family member who was wounded were available, but unused. The issues did not go unnoticed, however, and after dispatching a working group to assess the challenges, the Commandant established the Wounded Warrior Regiment in April 2007.

"When the doors opened in 2007, there was Col. Gregory A.D. Boyle and me in a training classroom in the Marsh center; the following day, Sgt. Maj. Blumenburg checked in," said Marvin Mowen, then a master sergeant, now the chief of current operations for WWR.

Continued on page 9

“We began operations by taking the Marine For Life Injured Support Operations over into the WWR,” said Mowen. The newly formed WWR also assumed responsibility for Reserve Medical Entitlements Determination and Traumatic Servicemembers Group Life Insurance administration for the Marine Corps.

Later in 2007, the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs stood up the congressionally-mandated Senior Oversight Committee (SOC). Having already done an internal assessment and institut-

ted a coordinated system in the regiment, the Marine Corps, through WWR, became key contributors as the SOC sought to address laws, policies and past practices that had historically made the recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration of the wounded, ill and injured service members difficult.

When Congress mandated recovery coordination programs in all services in 2008, they were established to support wounded, ill and injured service members. At that time, that directive did not change the scene in the battalions’ barracks: combat wounded Marines recovering and overcoming obstacles. Ten years later, the scene is different.

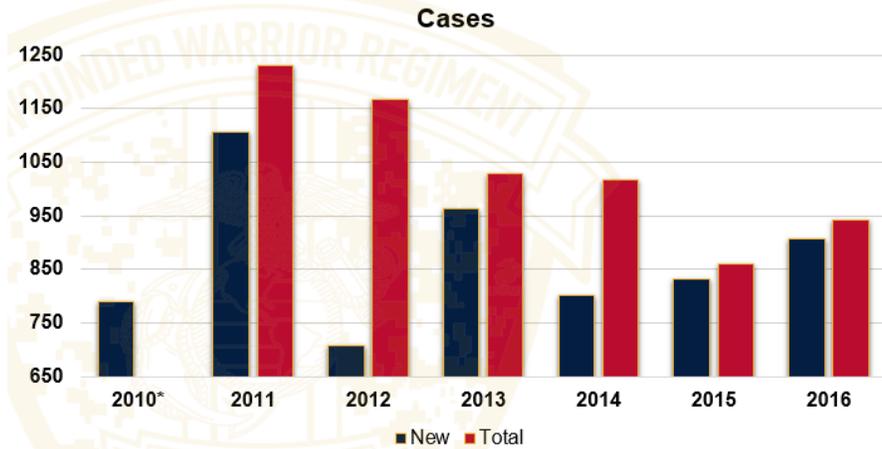
“The greatest change I have noted is the numbers of combat wounded have significantly decreased over the years,” said Paxton. She has been involved with the regiment since the early days and witnessed the shift in focus, and the enduring needs of Marines and families who may not have been physically wounded in combat but were injured nonetheless. “Many take for granted the many changes that ensued, but it took persistent education and effort back then and definitely justified the formation and continuation of the Wounded Warrior Regiment,” said Paxton.

Of course, the leaders and staff at WWR are less interested in how policies and regulations progressed than why: to improve care for Marines and Sailors.

“There have been hundreds of cases over the past nine years that have had an impact on me due to the needs of a Marine, in most cases, their families as well,” said Dean Trio, the Integrated Disability Evaluation System liaison for WWR. A few weeks ago, he assisted a Marine with six children whose medical board package was processed incorrectly. While seeking an appeal to ensure he was able to retire with the proper benefits, his wife’s illness forced her to depart Hawaii for specialized medical care, leaving her husband and six children. The Marine and his children would be unable to travel stateside and support his wife without retirement orders, now pending an arduous appeal process.

“Once we became aware of the unique circumstances, our Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) counterparts expedited his formal board by reviewing the documentation, and placing this Marine on the Permanent Disability Retired List through an informal reconsideration last week. He and six his children are now in the process of executing his retirement move to join his wife bedside,” said Trio.

The type and number of Marines, Sailors, and families supported has shifted over the years and the spectrum of care provided has likewise expanded and retracted. Every move seeks to better support the Marines who have raised their hands, stood on yellow footprints, and set themselves apart from the rest. This too is how the WWR chooses to execute recovery coordination – setting and exceeding a standard above the rest.



New and average total cases per month by year derived from DoD CMS (Department of Defense Case Management System).
 *DoD CMS launched in 2010 and became the WWR Recovery Care Programs’ primary resource for documenting Comprehensive Recovery Plans (CRPs) for wounded, ill or injured Marines and Sailors.

Population Details

The below information is a snapshot of the RSM population at the end of June and is not a cumulative summary of the RSMs supported April– June 2017.

Q2 Demographics



WWR Service and Support

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.

Keeping Faith

592 New
6,662 Total



Wounded Warrior Call Center and Battalion Contact Centers

254 New
1,110 Total



Recovery Care Coordinators (RCC)

164 New
460 Total



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

82 New
442 Total



Reserve Medical Entitlements (RMED)

297 New
494 Total



Medical Section

Wounded Warrior Regiment Events

This Quarter

- ◆ Section Leader Training at Camp Pendleton, Calif., April 10- 14
- ◆ WWR 10 Year Anniversary at Quantico, Va., April 21
- ◆ Warrior Games Training Camp at Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 1- 8
- ◆ DISC Program Training at Quantico, Va., May 16- 18

Next Quarter

- ◆ Warrior Games in Chicago, Ill., June 30- July 8
- ◆ Wounded Warrior Regiment Family Day, July 28
- ◆ Modern Day Marine Expo September 19 - 21
- ◆ Warrior Care in the 21st Century in Toronto, September 21
- ◆ Invictus Games in Toronto, September 23 - 30