



# Quarterly Update

October—December 2018

## CO's SITREP

Col. Lawrence F. Miller

Each year that passes takes with it a number of highs and lows – people who have come and gone whether through a new assignment, a retirement, or a loss. We have the opportunity to look back on the year and appreciate the major accomplishments, the lessons our missteps have taught us, and the friends and coworkers who were beside us during all of it.



In 2018, Wounded Warrior Regiment took advantage of recent years of steady operations to focus on fine-tuning our operations and expanding our understanding of how we can best support Marines and their families. The WWR staff implemented new outreach efforts for all Marines referred to the Integrated Disability Evaluation System to ensure they understand the process. The WWR and Wounded Warrior Battalions also executed the first Marine Corps Trials at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, exposing the east coast Marine Corps community to a large-scale event highlighting the courage and triumph of our wounded warriors.

The Warrior Games, Invictus Games, warrior care community conferences and training, outreach events, and our ultimate goal of keeping faith with Marines and families made time fly by, as usual. We come away from 2018 ready to advance the needs of our wounded warriors through a more connected, continually trained, operationally driven staff. I am certain the dedicated staff of WWR will reach new heights in 2019, and the formidable wounded warriors of the Marine Corps will continue to inspire us all.

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.

165



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

501



Reserve Medical Entitlements (RMED)

14,381



Wounded Warrior Call Center and Battalion Contact Centers

500



Medical Section

836



Recovery Care Coordinators (RCC)



## MEDICAL SECTION



**500 Total / 437 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 500 Marines, including 437 new cases.**

### Connecting with our community



Lt. Col. Lawrence Coleman, Nancy Barrera, and Jennifer Dwyer with Jon Stewart. Stewart received the Patriot Award from USSOCOM.

The U.S. Special Operations Command Warrior Care Program hosted its annual conference November 14-15 in Tampa, Florida. Wounded Warrior Regiment executive officer, Lt. Col. Larry Coleman, Nancy Barrera, RN, BSN, WWR RN Care Manager, and Lorri Ward, MSN, RN, WWR nurse attended to discuss new topics in warrior care community and the enduring effort to provide the best support to recovering service members and their families.

Ms. Ward, who attended the conference for the third time this year, found the “focus on cancer care and how SOCOM is collaborating more with civilian cancer specific hospitals, such as MD Anderson,” particularly interesting. Sharing these types of collaborative approaches develops the quality of support and care all wounded, ill, and injured service members receive.

The topics continue to evolve as the service members each program serves change. Ms. Ward said, “In 2017, the focus was on adaptive sports, gaining athletic independence through adaptive sports, along with transition and TBI.” The conference is so valuable to the warrior care community because of its similarity to those involved in it: motivated, forward-thinking, and committed to the care and support of our wounded warriors.



WWCC



**11,717 Total**  
**152 New Cases**

The **Sergeant Merlin German Wounded Warrior Call Center (WWCC)** conducts outreach calls to Purple Heart recipients, Temporary Disability Retired List Marines and veterans, and receives calls for assistance on a 24/7 basis. **This quarter, the WWCC supported 11,717 Marines, Sailors, and families, including 152 new cases.** This support is available to anyone, regardless of whether they were previously assigned to the WWR.



WWBCC



**2,664 Total**  
**544 New Cases**

The two **Wounded Warrior Battalion Contact Centers (WWBCC)** conduct outreach calls to active duty Marines and Sailors who are recovering with their parent commands. The calls seek to ensure Marines’ and Sailors’ needs are being met. **This quarter, the WWBCCs supported 2,664 Marines, Sailors and families, including 544 new cases.** The centers also offer support to commands and receive calls for assistance.

## DISCs / FSRs

### 165 Total / 49 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 165 Marines, Sailors, and families, including 49 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.

## RCC

### 836 Total / 211 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 836 Marines and Sailors, including 211 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.

## Train as you fight



RCCs, DISCs, and FSRs at their first joint training in San Antonio, Texas

In November, members of the Recovery Care Coordinator Program, District Injured Support Coordinator Program and WWR Field Support Representatives joined forces in San Antonio for a combined training. Staff members who have been exchanging calls and emails for months or even years finally put a face to the name – and further solidified the connections that create a safety net of support for Marines and families.

The combined off-site training was a first of its kind for WWR staff, who are located around the globe. The cost associated with the travel is far outweighed by the shared gains in standardizing the WWR approach to care. Perhaps more significantly, the personal connections now correlate with the professional coordination – developing the true sentiment of a team.

The WWR team will continue to “train as we fight,” working always to offer the most well-coordinated support possible.

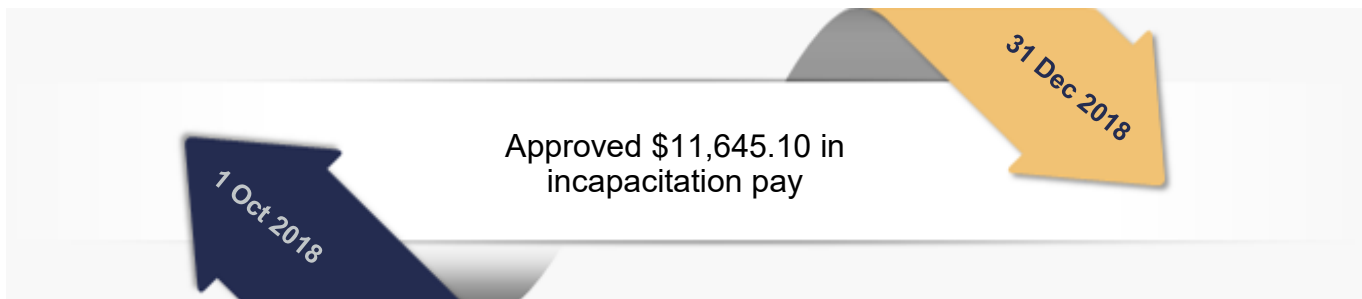


RMED



## 501 Total / 101 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 501 Marines, including 101 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 IDES Support

Service-limiting medical conditions are impacting approximately 2,000 Marines at any given time; they are referred to the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) and oftentimes lost in a sea of bureaucratic process. The challenges of the IDES process are most evident to staff at WWR because most of the Marines assigned to a WWR asset will eventually require a medical board. To assist when needed, WWR established an IDES liaison and coordinated the medical expertise on staff to assist in ensuring Marines' medical conditions and needs were clearly established in a language the Physical Evaluation Board would understand. The WWR staff generally steps in at the appeal phases, but provides ongoing and collaborative guidance to staff members at the wounded warrior battalions and detachments to improve support from the initial steps.

The WWR advocacy extends to all Marines in the IDES, beginning with outreach and including one-on-one assistance from our team of experts when needs are identified. Through the WWR network of warrior care experts, favorable findings and compensation, transition of medical care to Veterans Affairs, and even the execution of a retirement ceremony in a Marine's home community with assistance from a District Injured Support Coordinator are all possible. The WWR commitment to Keep Faith with Marines spreads far and wide.

**233**

Average number of days in the DES

Average number of Marines in the DES in the 4th quarter

**1,930**

**38%**

Medically retired (TDRL or PDRL) for the 4th quarter

# Warrior Care Week

Wounded Warrior Regiment staff and Marines attended Warrior Care Week activities at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland and the National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland, Nov. 12-16. A total of 136 wounded warriors participated in CARE Week, challenging themselves in competitive sports and classes during the event.

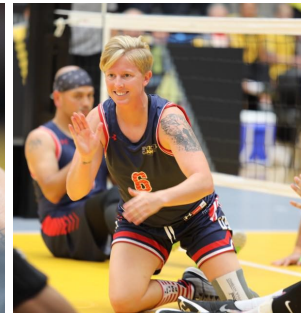
The event was part of Warrior CARE Month, highlighting the importance of the Nation's wounded, ill and injured service members, their families and caregivers.

The sports events, music performances, art displays, and classes equipped wounded warriors with mental, physical and emotional tools for resiliency and recovery.



# Invictus

During the week of October 20–27, more than 491 athletes from 18 nations competed at the fourth iteration of the Invictus Games in Sydney, Australia. Fourteen Marines and veterans were members of team U.S., which included athletes from each of the services. The athletes competed in 14 sports: archery, track and field, cycling, a driving challenge, golf, indoor rowing, power lifting, road cycling, sailing, sitting volleyball, swimming, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair tennis, and wheelchair rugby. Invictus is set to be held in the Netherlands in 2020.



# Events

## This Quarter

- ◆ Invictus Games, Sydney, Australia, October 20 - 27
- ◆ Warrior Care Month
- ◆ Warrior Care Week, November 12 - 16
- ◆ US SOCOM Care Coalition Conference, November 12 - 16
- ◆ WWR USMC Birthday Ball, November 9, 2018
- ◆ WWR section leader training, Camp Lejeune, N.C., December 10 –14

## Next Quarter

- ◆ Marine Corps Trials 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.

**R**egardless of whether you are a Marine or Sailor recovering from a wound, illness, or injury or a uniformed or civilian staff member, each person in the Wounded Warrior Regiment family leaves an indelible mark on the organization and all those in it- not just by serving, but often by overcoming challenges with courage and conviction. The motivation and expertise to persevere is fostered by each person within the unit. As the year comes to a close, we remember the strength, commitment, and lives of some of those we lost in 2018.

## In Memoriam 2018



### Col. Bamidele J. Abogunrin

Col. Bamidele J. Abogunrin died at his home in Stafford, Virginia February 9, 2018. after a year long struggle with pancreatic cancer.

Abogunrin first joined the Marine Corps Reserve while he attended Iowa State University in 1988. He served nearly 30 years before transferring from Marine Corps Systems Command in Quantico, Virginia to the Wounded Warrior Regiment Battalion –East Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Detachment in April 2017.

He is survived by his wife, Dionne, and three daughters: Anika, Tiwalola, and Ashley.



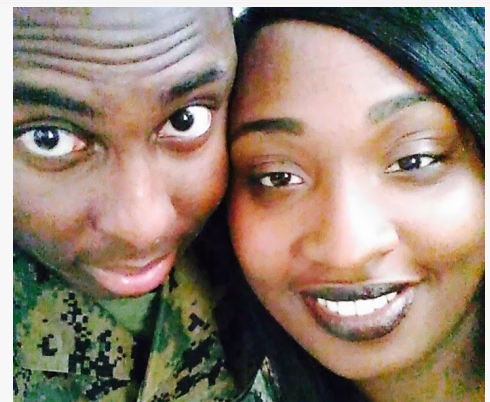
### Cpl. Jessie D. Wilhite

Cpl. Jessie D'Wayne Wilhite died Mar. 16, 2018 from Leukemia.

He was born in Monroe, LA, and attended Neville High School, and was a Linebacker for the Neville Tiger football team.

Wilhite joined the United State Marine Corps in April of 2013 and served as a Motor Transport Operator.

He is survived by his wife Brooklyn, and sons Kendrick, Jamari, and Ethan.



### Master Gunnery Sgt. Scott Askeland

MGySgt Ret. Scott Askeland passed away Dec. 16, 2018 at his home after a battle with glioblastoma, an aggressive brain cancer.

He graduated from Mountain Home High School in Mountain Home, Arkansas, before joining the United States Marine Corps. Scott was a proud Marine who faithfully served his Corps and country for 31 years. He was a devoted father, husband and friend. Scott was an avid motorcycle rider, a connoisseur of bourbon, music and sports.

He is survived by his wife Tammi, and his children Leigh, Joseph, and Angel.



# In Memoriam 2018



## Lt. Col. Robert T. Sweginnis

Lt. Col. Robert T. Sweginnis died from an aggressive form of brain cancer Jan. 5, 2018, .

Sweginnis had a passion for aviation and sought a commission in the Marine Corps as a pilot. Every station he was assigned allowed opportunities for both air time and beach time, as he also thoroughly enjoyed surfing. Sweginnis served in multiple locations and capacities, but was most proud of being selected as a Presidential Command Pilot under then-President Barack Obama.

He is survived by his wife, Lisa, daughter, Sedona, and son, Lincoln.



## Sgt. De'Aundrae C. Sims I

Sgt. De'Aundrae C. Sims I died February 6, 2018 in his home in Beaverton, Oregon ending his battle with Leukemia.

Sims enlisted in the Marine Corps in May 2007, after graduating from high school. His service took him to Texas, Alabama and eventually to Oregon in 2014, where he met the wife, Dominique Ornelas. They married in 2017, and Sims led a life devoted to his physical health, his church, the Pittsburgh Steelers and especially, his family.

Sims is survived by his wife and his three sons: Andres Martinez, Ke'Aundrae Kilpatrick and De'Aundrae Sims II.



## Lance Cpl. Drake A. Jaramillo

Lance Cpl. Drake A. Jaramillo passed away in San Diego, California Oct. 9, 2018.

Jaramillo had a passion for athletics and grew up playing soccer, hockey, football, cross country, wrestling and track and field. He broke the league record for pole vaulting in his senior year of high school.

Jaramillo's first assignment was Camp Foster in Okinawa, Japan. During his time on the island, he toured many countries including Australia, Korea and Guam. In January 2018, Jaramillo joined WWBn-West and settled down in San Diego.

He is survived by his wife, Jaimee.



## Sgt. David L. Zehr

Sgt. David L. Zehr died in Oceanside, California on Oct. 31, 2018 from Leukemia.

Zehr was born and raised in Pennsylvania and enlisted in the Marine Corps in January 2010. He was stationed in Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California and was attached to 1st Intel Battalion.

Zehr was pursuing work in the intelligence field and was working on his B.S. in strategic studies.

He is survived by his wife, Angeline.

