

Did You Know

What is a Warrior Transition Unit Squad Leader?

What is a WTU Squad Leader?

A Squad Leader at a [Warrior Transition Unit](#) (WTU) serves as the first line supervisor to the Soldier and the link to command. The Squad Leader is responsible for resolving administrative issues and helps guide the Soldier through the WTU process while enforcing military standards.

Recovering Soldiers and their Squad Leaders make face-to-face contact on a daily basis. The Squad Leader is a coach, mentor and counselor to his Soldiers. Part of the role of the Squad Leader is to make Soldiers feel like they are still in the Army. This entails conducting formations and processing orders, as well as opening doors within Army channels to aid with Soldiers' recoveries and transitions.

What is the Squad Leader's role in the CTP?

A Soldier's [interdisciplinary team](#), which includes the Squad Leader, uses the six domains of the [Comprehensive Transition Plan](#) (CTP)—physical, emotional, social, Family, spiritual and career—to develop and refine a transition plan for the Soldier in regular scrimmages. The scrimmage is a meeting designed to engage the Soldier in finalizing identified goals, sub-goals and supporting action statements for their time in the WTU and beyond.

- **Physical:** Squad Leaders assist the Soldier in developing and maintaining a daily activities schedule that includes the Soldier's clinical and non-clinical plan of care including [adaptive reconditioning](#) activities. They ensure Soldiers participate in adaptive reconditioning programs tailored to their needs and capabilities.



Every afternoon, Sgt. 1st Class Brent Boodoo meets with his Squad Leaders to answer questions about their Soldiers' recovery and transition. (U.S. Army Photo by Gloria Montgomery, Fort Hood WTB Public Affairs)

- **Emotional:** Squad Leaders support Soldiers in achieving their personal behavioral health and emotional resiliency goals in coordination with their medical professionals. Every Squad Leader also conducts initial and regular [risk assessments](#) for their Soldiers and implements risk mitigation plans based on severe changes in the Soldier risk indicators.
- **Family:** Squad Leaders link the Soldier and Family to the Soldier and Family Assistance Center (SFAC) at the installation for Family-oriented resources. Squad Leaders ensure Family members are welcome to actively participate in the Soldier's recovery, including attending medical appointments and transition meetings.

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- **Social:** Every WTU provides a wide range of activities in which Soldiers can participate, such as adaptive sports, workshops and outings. Squad Leaders encourage their Soldiers to get involved in activities and events to promote their social growth.
- **Spiritual:** Squad Leaders ensure that Soldiers have access to local Army spiritual resources, such as a Chaplain, and support them to achieve their personal spiritual goals.
- **Career:** Squad Leaders are accountable for Soldiers' activities related to [Career and Education Readiness](#) (CER). They ensure that each Soldier, once CER-eligible, participates in a CER activity that supports the Soldier's CTP track and career goal(s), and then contacts the Soldier's work-site supervisor weekly to assess performance.

What is different about Squad Leaders supporting Soldiers at Community Care Units (CCUs)?

Every Soldier assigned to a CCU has the full advantage of an interdisciplinary team of Cadre. CCU Squad Leaders perform the same roles as those at WTUs, utilizing phone and email for daily contact. CCU Cadre members work to set up opportunities for their Soldiers to visit with their Triad of Care (Squad Leader, Primary Care Manager and Nurse Case Manager) in person when possible.

Where can I find more resources?

[Cadre Roles and Responsibilities: Squad Leader Comprehensive Transition Plan Cadre Selection](#)

Who can become a WTU Squad Leader?

Many Soldiers seek out the position of Squad Leader at a WTU because it is high-level and challenging, and has a positive impact on their records. Potential Squad Leaders are carefully reviewed and selected to fill positions at WTUs. Senior Commanders resource and approve personnel, then WTU commanders review the records and interview candidates to validate that the candidates possess the required skills to work as a WTU Squad Leader.

Applicants are always non-commissioned officers at the E-5 level or higher, but can come from any Military Occupational Specialty. Candidates must have completed the Warrior Leader Course and have held one successful leadership experience as a Squad Leader. Recommended Cadre assignments are two years, but one 12-month extension may be requested. Active Component Cadre personnel will be stabilized for 24 months upon assignment into the WTU.

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