



## U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2) Advocates

### What is an AW2 Advocate?

The AW2 Advocate guides Soldiers, Families and Caregivers throughout the recovery and transition process and educates them on the benefits and resources available. Each severely wounded, ill or injured Soldier and Veteran enrolled in AW2 is paired with an AW2 Advocate. Together they collaborate to set goals for the Soldier's and Family's future to meet the personal needs and abilities of the individual AW2 Soldier or Veteran.

### Where are the AW2 Advocates located?

There are currently more than 200 Advocates working across the country. They are located at most Army installations, [Warrior Transition Units \(WTUs\)](#) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities. Contact the AW2 Contact Center (1-877-393-9058) to find an [AW2 Advocate](#) in your area.

### What do AW2 Advocates do?

AW2 Advocates work within the system to provide personalized support to each AW2 Soldier, Veteran and Family. This personalized support ranges from career and financial planning to navigating medical evaluations.

For example, as Soldiers transition through the [Medical Evaluation Board \(MEB\)](#) and [Physical Evaluation Board \(PEB\)](#) and navigate



*Retired Spc. Ira Brownridge Jr. with his AW2 Advocate, Melvin Kearney.*

the [Integrated Disability Evaluation System \(IDES\)](#) process, AW2 Advocates ensure that Soldiers have all the necessary documentation and help them understand each stage of the process. They help identify career and education goals and connect Soldiers with resources to support these goals. AW2 Advocates advise Soldiers on financial planning matters and anticipate challenges ahead.

### How do AW2 Advocates interact with the WTU?

Eligible Soldiers are assigned to an AW2 Advocate as soon as possible upon arriving at a WTU. The AW2 Advocate is closely integrated with the Soldier's Triad of Care and interdisciplinary team on all aspects of the

**Warrior Care and Transition (WCT) AW2 Contact Center**

**Website:** <http://wct.army.mil/modules/veterans/v2-advocates.html>

**Email:** [usarmy.pentagon.medcom-WCT.mbx.contact-center@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.pentagon.medcom-WCT.mbx.contact-center@mail.mil)

**Phone:** 1-877-393-9058

Soldier's [Comprehensive Transition Plan \(CTP\)](#) and attends all Focus Transition Review (FTR) meetings.

### **How do AW2 Advocates interact with the Department of Veterans Affairs?**

AW2 Advocates are onsite at more than 60 VA locations, where they educate AW2 Soldiers and Veterans on how to navigate the VA system and ensure continuity of care for Soldiers transitioning out of the Army. AW2 Advocates help manage appointments, collaborate with Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) coordinators, resolve benefits issues and facilitate applications for services such as the VA Adaptive Housing and Adaptive Vehicle grants and the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

### **How do AW2 Advocates support AW2 Families?**

AW2 Advocates work directly with Families who are moving or traveling to the WTU to help arrange housing, education and childcare. They assist with applications for [Special Compensation for Assistance with Activities of Daily Living \(SCAADL\)](#) and [Non-Medical Attendant \(NMA\)](#). AW2 Advocates facilitate conversations surrounding the CTP process and the Family's goals. AW2 Advocates are also engaged with their local communities and can locate organizations that are available to support Soldiers in matters such as finding job opportunities and obtaining a service dog.

### **Who are AW2 Advocates?**

Many AW2 Advocates are retired/former Soldiers or wounded warriors themselves. A number are spouses of AW2 Soldiers and

### **AW2 Advocates Support:**

- Action plan for life after transition
- Government agency coordination
- Continuation on Active Duty/Continuation on Active Reserve (COAD/COAR) process
- Career guidance
- Educational opportunities
- Financial audits
- Local resources
- Medical and Physical Evaluation Board (MEB/PEB) guidance

Veterans. Some AW2 Advocates also have professional backgrounds in the behavioral health and social work disciplines.

### **What other government programs to AW2 Advocates work with?**

- [Department of Veterans Affairs](#)
- Other [Army / Department of Defense](#) programs
- [Department of Labor](#)
- [Social Security Administration](#)
- [Transportation Security Administration](#)

### **Learn more about AW2's Decade of Impact [AW2 10th Anniversary](#)**

### **Where can I find more resources?**

[AW2 Eligibility and Enrollment](#)  
[AW2 Advocate Support](#)  
[AW2 Wounded Warrior Lifecycle](#)

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**Website:** <http://wct.army.mil/modules/veterans/v2-advocates.html>

**Email:** <mailto:usarmy.pentagon.medcom-WCT.mbx.contact-center@mail.mil>

**Phone:** 1-877-393-9058