



THE ROCK

Serving the Employees and Residents of Rock Island Arsenal

November 2008 Vol. 7 No. 10

Saluting Our Veterans

In June 1944, just before the D-Day invasion that led to the liberation of Europe and the end of World War II, General Dwight D. Eisenhower issued a proclamation to the Allied forces who were about to cross the English Channel. The proclamation read, in part: “The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you.”

Thanks to the valor and skill demonstrated by those who stormed the beaches of Normandy, the hopes and prayers of those who longed for liberty were realized. Though the stakes were incredibly high, they did not falter and they did not fail. Instead, they fought on for what they knew was right, and changed the course of history.

Some American veterans of D-Day and of World War II are still with us, though their numbers diminish every day. Like all veterans, they are living examples of courage and devotion to duty, and of the price paid to build

and maintain freedom around the world. Their work is being carried on by the brave men and women who wear the uniform today, and who are fighting on the front lines of freedom in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere.

November includes the annual celebration of Veterans Day. It is a day on which we as a nation turn our eyes to our veterans and to those who serve today, and offer them our honor and respect.

When you consider the sacrifices made by our veterans – and then consider all that we received in return for those sacrifices – it is clear that we can never come close to repaying them. But we can offer them what they have earned from all of us – a few simple words of thanks, and a sincere salute for their service to our nation.

We can also honor our veterans by honoring those who serve today, and who sacrifice so much on our behalf. The brave men and women now in

military service are the veterans of the tomorrow. They have earned our support and our appreciation, and our promise that they will be taken care of when they return to civilian life.

Our veterans did not hesitate when they were called into battle. Let us never hesitate when we have the opportunity to thank and support them. I hope and I pray that our veterans are always appreciated and never forgotten, and that they receive all the support due to them from a grateful nation. 🌟



Maj. Gen. Robert Radin

ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, SAFETY MESSAGE TO THE ARMY

Through a renewed emphasis on safety by our leaders and Soldiers, and the implementation of safety program improvements and initiatives targeted at leading accident causal factors, the Army achieved significant accident reductions in Fiscal Year 2008. Overall, accident fatalities were down 16 percent. Our Army experienced a significant reduction in on-duty mishaps and our serious aviation flight accident rate decreased by 52 percent. We all appreciate that one accident is one too many, and we have a long way to go in reducing accidents, but we need to stop and recognize the tremendous efforts being made across the Army, and that these efforts are saving lives and reducing pain and suffering.

However, driving fatalities - again the leading cause of accidental deaths, accounting for 62 percent of accident-related fatalities - increased 17 percent from Fiscal Year 2007. The lives of 126 Soldiers were lost to privately-owned vehicle accidents in FY08. Motorcycle accidents contributed to over 40 percent of that number. The major causes of motorcycle accidents are excessive speed and failure to follow published procedures or violation of established standards.

We have got to find a way to get through to our Soldiers - particularly those in the 32 and under age bracket – to stop the indiscipline and high risk behavior behind many of these fatalities.

As we begin Fiscal Year 2009, I ask that you take another look at the Army's safety objectives.

- Approximately 75 percent of our FY08 accidental fatalities occurred off-duty. While sustaining our on-duty accident preven-

tion efforts, we need to target our loss prevention programs on off-duty accidents, primarily towards motor vehicle accidents.

- We must improve the Army's safety climate and culture. The U.S. Army Combat Readiness / Safety Center has developed some great tools – including the Army Readiness Assessment Program as well as Individual and Leader Accident Risk Assessments - to assess climate and culture. Use your command safety professionals and the Combat Readiness / Safety Center and develop plans to fill any gaps in your command's safety climate and culture.

- Every leader must take a holistic look at his or her command environment and find ways to influence our Soldiers, their Family members, Civilian and contractor employees to use risk management - on, and especially off-duty. Get creative. Look to Families and the community to help us save lives.

Our Soldiers are our most valued assets and preventable losses impact our formations every day. While Soldiers have clearly taken greater responsibility for their personal safety, as well as the safety of their fellow Brothers in Arms, leaders must continue to stay engaged in their Soldiers' lives to affect smart decision-making. 🌟



Gen. George Casey, Jr.

Autumn Brings Transformation, Time for Preparation

November is a month that inspires mixed emotions. On the one hand, it carries Thanksgiving and the knowledge that Christmas and the New Year are just around the corner. On the other, it is also a harbinger of winter and brings the knowledge that we are apt to experience at least couple of months of cold weather and inconvenience before the warm spring winds return.

This November brings a number of visible signs of progress at Rock Island Arsenal which demonstrates our emphasis on caring for Soldiers, Civilian employees and their Families.

From the end of the hallway in my office, I can see the modules of our new Child Development Center under construction and nearing completion on King

Drive. The new CDC will expand the Arsenal's capability to provide a high quality developmental learning environment for our children. This project was funded via the Army Family Covenant and clearly demonstrates the commitment of our Army and the Garrison to provide the very best services and support for Soldiers, Civilian Employees and Families.

November also saw the opening of the Covenant Cottage, a 23-hour per day child care facility. It can hold up to a dozen children, doing hourly, emergency and regular care for infants through age 12. The goal is to provide a flexible facility for Families that may have a need outside the realm of normal CDC care.

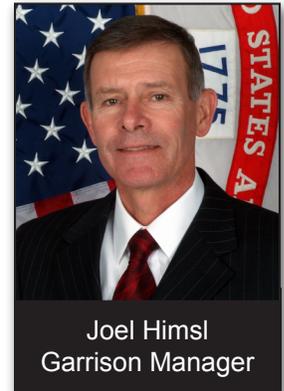
The garrison is justifiably proud of these efforts to provide for our Soldier and Civilian Families.

izing your vehicle are complete. Get an oil change, top off the anti-freeze if it is needed, and make certain the windshield washer-fluid

reservoir is full. Before a long trip make certain you have an emergency kit which includes a flashlight, water, and a blanket or other means of keeping warm. These items can help protect your life and health in the case of a roadside emergency or sudden storm.

On short trips, it's a good idea to have "outdoor" shoes in your car, and to carry a good set of gloves in addition to a winter coat. These items mean a flat tire is a small challenge, and not a big frostbite.

I've heard some people say that the Army overemphasizes safety; that the safety message when repeated too often becomes invisible and people quit listening. I think anyone reading this is smarter than that. No one can prevent all accidents from happening, but by being prepared and not taking unnecessary risks anyone can reduce the number of accidents and their severity. Make safety a part of your life as we move into the special hazards presented by the winter months, and Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours. Be safe! 🍂



Joel Himsl
Garrison Manager



THE ROCK

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On the Cover: A look down through an obstacle of razor wire at one of the training stations, which is serving as a part of the Arsenal's new military training course known as the ASC Warrior STX, or Army Sustainment Command Warrior Situational Training Exercise, seen here during a walk through of the course on Oct. 6. Find out more about the training course by checking out the story on page 5. Photo by Mark Kane

If you have a suggestion for the



Army Suggestion Program, log on

<https://armysuggestions.army.mil>

Arsenal Garrison Manager Credits Teamwork for Employer of the Year Award

By

LARRY HILDING

Director, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center
Rock Island Arsenal

Joel Himsl, Garrison Manager for Rock Island Arsenal, accepted the Employer of the Year Award for the employment of people with disabilities.

The award was presented Oct. 27, by the Quad-Cities Disability Employment Network in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services.

During the presentation, the Arsenal was cited for being a leader in the hiring, placement and accommodating individuals with disabilities for 2008. In the last couple of years, RIA has participated in the Workforce Recruitment Program for College Students with Disabilities, a program that is co-sponsored by the Department of Defense and the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. The program's recruitment and referral system provides a systematic review of applications from college students with disabilities who are current or recent

graduates and are seeking summer or permanent employment.

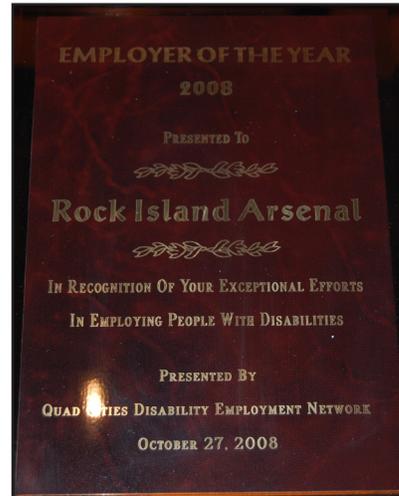
During his acceptance comments, Himsl credited teamwork at the Arsenal as the reason for our successes. Specifically, he noted that the entire leadership team at Rock Island Arsenal gets great support from the program administration by Cheryl Neal-Green, Equal Employment Opportunity manager, and Larry Hilding, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center director. Himsl went on to cite the personal efforts of Cindy Verhaeghe, Personnel Technician Arsenal CPAC; Carmen Ausborn, Special Emphasis Program manager; and Arthur Peals, Individuals with Disabilities Program manager.

The trio participated in numerous job fairs, reviewed resumes and as-

sisted individuals with disabilities and disabled veterans in the hiring process for Rock Island Arsenal.

DoD has a goal that at least two percent of the workforce hired should be individuals with disabilities. One of DoD's objectives is to hire individuals with targeted disabilities, at or above the federal high of two percent. During the last fiscal year, new hires included 11 individuals with targeted disabilities and 52 veterans with 30 percent compensable disabilities.

The CPAC and EEO are collaborative partners in providing guidance and assistance to managers, supervisors and employees in the reasonable accommodation process. 🍌



DoD Takes Steps to Defend Cyberspace Warfighting Domain

By

JIM GARAMONE

American Forces Press Service

Cyberspace is a warfighting domain, and the Defense Department is taking steps to defend this crucial capability, a Pentagon spokesman said Nov. 21.

"We are aware of a global virus for which there are some public alerts, and we've seen some of these on our networks, and we are taking steps to identify and mitigate the virus," Bryan Whitman said. "We do aggressively monitor our networks for intrusions and take adequate steps to protect them."

Public alerts on this global virus threat urge all computer users to take precautions. Users should have current anti-viral software programs and anti-spyware installed in their computers, and information technology specialists should ensure that no infected hardware can breach DoD systems, Whitman said.

Whitman would not go into specifics about what the department is doing about the virus. "We don't discuss any specific defensive measures that we are taking or may be taking to protect and defend our networks," he said.

DoD's global information grid includes more than 15,000 networks

and about 7 million information technology devices, Pentagon officials said.

Grid defenders regularly send guidance to commands about current threats and measures for users to take to ensure information systems remain secure. "It's the responsibility of every user to help protect the network," Whitman said. "This is something that requires us to have constant vigilance."

The threat comes from a variety of sources, the spokesman said. "It includes everything from recreational hackers to the self-styled cyber-vigilantes," Whitman said. It also emanates from various groups with nationalistic or ideological agendas, as well as "transnational actors or transnational states," he added.

"This is not a Defense Department issue. It's not even a government issue. It is an international issue – a world issue," Whitman said. "Anyone who uses computers and is on a network is susceptible."

U.S. Strategic Command is the lead agency for DoD's computer network defense effort. Under Stratcom, the Joint Task Force Global Network Operations handles protection. That group interfaces with other agencies. 🍌



ASC Warrior STX Debuts on Arsenal

By

MARK KANE
Rock Island Garrison Public Affairs

On Nov. 1 and 2, the sounds of gun fire and explosions could be heard coming from the Rock Island Arsenal, but not due to skirmishes.

The culprit behind the acoustic barrage of detonations definitely had more bark than bite ... especially since it emanated from a collection of speakers.

The audio from those speakers was one element of training designed to prepare Soldiers headed for duty in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

The training took place on the Arsenal's new military training course known as the ASC Warrior STX, or Army Sustainment Command Warrior Situational Training Exercise. The exercises held those two days weren't part of a game. They were part of training designed to save lives overseas in a battle area.

As explosions and small-arms fire echoed across the Island, the soldiers going through the exercises were evaluated on many aspects of the battle scenarios they face.

"Everyday you make them tougher, the better they'll be," said Command Sgt.

Major Stephen Blake, who was flown in from Kuwait specifically for the exercise and a force behind the effort that brought the course to fruition.

As for the soldiers undergoing training, Blake said, "I owe it to 'em. I owe it to their families, their moms and dads, to every wife, husband, son and daughter."

Blake, a 25-year Army veteran, said evaluating the Soldiers now will give him an indication of strengths and weaknesses.

When these soldiers go to Kuwait, the next stop before heading to Iraq or Afghanistan, Blake will be able to tell trainers there what areas need more concentration.

Protecting Soldiers lives, he said, means "validating their training and preparing them to go to war."

Just about every scenario Blake could think of was put into the exercise.

"I want to teach them to save a life or save their own life," he said. "I want them to know when to shoot and when not to shoot."

Part of the training was recognizing a suicide bomber and what to do in that scenario to minimize casualties to both soldiers and civilians.

Knowing how to load and clear jammed weapons, of course, is a priority.

In battle, anything can happen, Blake said.



Army Master Sgt. Tom Bauer of Eldridge, Iowa, waits for orders to move to his next station of the training exercise for Multi-Functional Support Command Soldiers on Nov. 1, on Rock Island Arsenal, Ill. Photo by Thomas Geyer, Quad-City Times

Staff Sgt. Sean Riley, a Nebraska native, said the course was designed to get the Soldiers' heart rates up, get the blood pumping.

Master Sgt. Thomas Bauer was winded and sweaty, his Army Combat Uniform smeared with dirt.

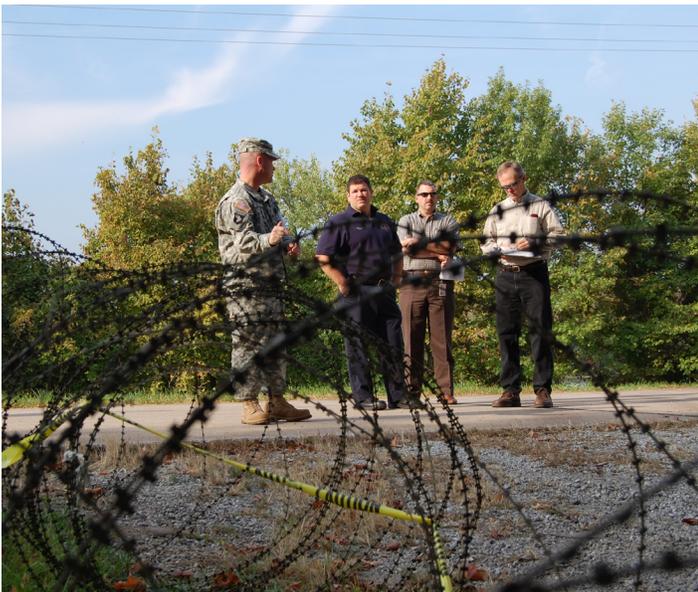
With his battle buddy Dwyatt Brown, 31, an Army reservist who works construction in Michigan, Bauer, of Eldridge, Iowa, had crawled along the ground under rolls of razor wire, jumped over obstacles, took fire from insurgents, killed the enemy and dressed battle wounds.

They also learned to recognize improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, and to always be on guard for suicide bombers.

"It's brutal," said Bauer, 52, who in civilian life works at the Arsenal. But it was also exhilarating, exciting and educational.

Both Bauer and Brown, along with about 40 members of the Multi-Functional Support Command, were scheduled to head to Southwest Asia for duty in either Iraq or Afghanistan some time in November.

Thomas Geyer, *Quad-City Times*, contributed to this article. 🍌



Master Sgt. Robert Fultz, U.S. Army Sustainment Command, talks with other Arsenal officials about the razor wire used as part of the training during a walk through of the course on Oct. 6. Photo by Mark Kane

November Marks Warrior Care Month for Army, DoD

By
HEIKE HASENAUER
Army News Service, Soldiers Media Center

Beginning Nov. 5, the Army and its sister services focused attention to one of the Defense Department's highest priorities – caring for wounded, ill and injured warriors.

As directed by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, November was designated as "Warrior Care Month." Each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces has events planned during the month to highlight warrior care.

Since reports nearly two years ago that Soldiers recovering from war wounds were living in a substandard facility at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., the Army has transformed the way it structures and provides military health care to wounded and ill Soldiers, said Brig. Gen. Gary H. Cheek, Assistant Surgeon General for Warrior Care and Transition.

"We have made great strides in garnering more support and more resources for our wounded, ill and injured Soldiers," Cheek said. "Our key challenge is ensuring Soldiers and families are aware of the various programs and benefits we have to help them with the unique and personal issues each of them face."

The general said the month is more than a way for the Army and other services to show how far they have come

in taking care of their own -- the activities and events during Warrior Care Month also make the programs the Army offers more visible to Soldiers who might need them.

"Warrior Care Month is a way to highlight these programs across the Army so our wounded warriors and their families

know what's being done on their behalf, and how to take advantage of them," he said.

Cheek said Warrior Care Month is meant to provide a clear message to servicemembers and the public that caring for those who have sacrificed for America is one of the military's highest priorities.

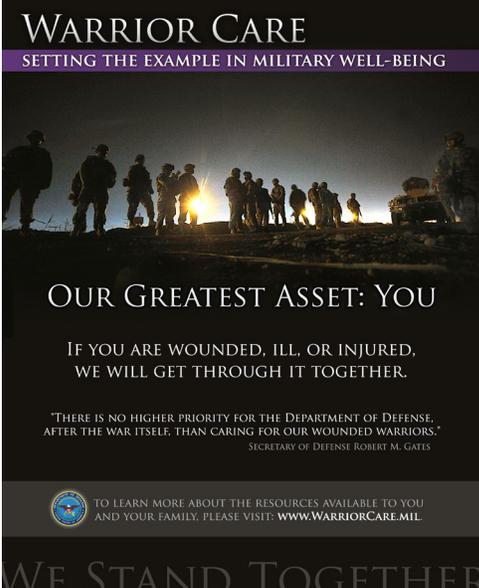
The Army carried out unique activities which took place throughout Warrior Care Month, which began with the Department of Defense kick-off event Nov. 5.

The Army's 36 Warrior Transition Units, in cooperation with military treatment facilities and installations across the Army conducted a variety of events and activities to help educate the force on wounded warrior resources, and to thank local communities and elected officials for their support. CBWTU-Wisconsin, headquartered at the Rock Island Arsenal, held their quarterly muster days prior to the warrior care observance.

On Nov. 17, designated as Army Service Day for warrior care, Secretary of the Army Pete Geren and the Army Surgeon General hosted a town hall meeting for Soldiers and families assigned to the Walter Reed Warrior Transition Unit.

Other events during the November observance included a visit by the Army chief of staff with Soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Nov. 2 and 11; Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Nov. 19; and Bethesda National Naval Medical Center Nov. 29 and 30.

Besides visits by officials to major military medical facilities, caregivers and recovering Soldiers alike spoke at various public venues about the state of care of wounded and ill Soldiers during Operation Tribute to Freedom events. 🇺🇸



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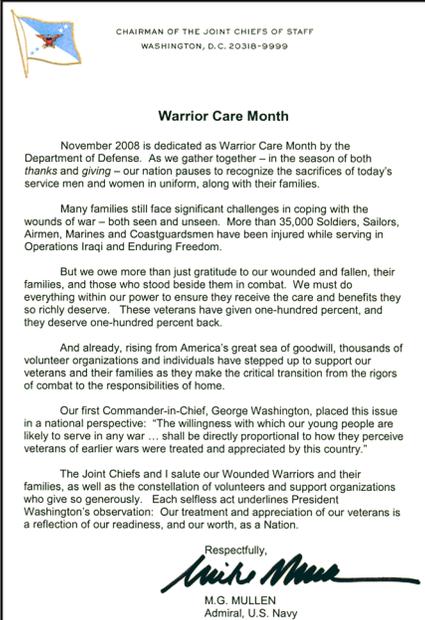
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CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
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Warrior Care Month

November 2008 is dedicated as Warrior Care Month by the Department of Defense. As we gather together -- in the season of both thanks and giving -- our nation pauses to recognize the sacrifices of today's service men and women in uniform, along with their families.

Many families still face significant challenges in coping with the wounds of war -- both seen and unseen. More than 35,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coastguardsmen have been injured while serving in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

But we owe more than just gratitude to our wounded and fallen, their families, and those who stood beside them in combat. We must do everything within our power to ensure they receive the care and benefits they so richly deserve. These veterans have given one-hundred percent, and they deserve one-hundred percent back.

And already, rising from America's great sea of goodwill, thousands of volunteer organizations and individuals have stepped up to support our veterans and their families as they make the critical transition from the rigors of combat to the responsibilities of home.

Our first Commander-in-Chief, George Washington, placed this issue in a national perspective: "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war ... shall be directly proportional to how they perceive veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by this country."

The Joint Chiefs and I salute our Wounded Warriors and their families, as well as the constellation of volunteers and support organizations who give so generously. Each selfless act underlines President Washington's observation: "Our treatment and appreciation of our veterans is a reflection of our readiness, and our worth, as a Nation."

Respectfully,

M.G. MULLEN
Admiral, U.S. Navy

Warrior Care on the 'Net

www.warriorcare.mil

www.army.mil/warriorcaremonth

www.defenselink.mil/home/features/warrior_care

Wounded Soldiers Benefit from Transition Initiative

By

MARK KANE
Rock Island Garrison Public Affairs

Taking care of soldiers recovering from wounds, injuries or illness is a job with special challenges and rewards.

The Army's Community Based Warriors in Transition Units is committed to wounded warrior care with a focus on medical treatment while the Soldier is at their home.

One of the Army's units, CBWTU-Wisconsin, is headquartered at the Rock Island Arsenal and operates across a six state area consisting of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana.

That unit held its quarterly muster Oct. 20-24, which is geared toward giving the Soldiers information they're entitled to know.

"We're here to prepare them for what they'll need once they leave this program," said Capt. Martin Munoz, CBWTU-Wisconsin commanding officer. "For the Soldiers who are here they're going to be able to either go back to their home unit or they're be-

ing medically boarded."

The CBWTU program currently serves both Army National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers. CBWTU-Wisconsin's unique name comes from its beginning in February of 2004. Originally the unit was located in Madison, Marshfield, and Waukesha, Wisconsin with an area of responsibility consisting of the state of Wisconsin. In April 2006, the unit consolidated and relocated to the Rock Island Arsenal to better accommodate the growing number of Soldiers.

The CBWTU provides command and control and medical case management to Army Soldiers injured or ill as the result of their military service during the Global War on Terrorism. This type of treatment allows them to be within their family support network and gives them the ability to receive treatment from local physicians and specialists.

"Our target is to get them into the program and to their first muster within three to six months after they've been home," said Master Sgt. Kris Burrett, CBWTU-Wisconsin, Operations non-

commissioned officer. "That's when we bring them in and they'll have had time to think of questions, and we'll be able to answer them. When they're in processing they're not ready yet. Once they get here they're ready to discuss their issues, problems, and career goals."

Through July of 2008, more than 1,150 Wounded Warriors have entered through the doors of the CBWTU. Beginning in September 2007, the "warrior rock" was signed by all the warriors in transition attending CBWTU-WI's signature event, the "muster."

Every Soldier who's come to the Arsenal to join the unit has signed a warrior rock. In August, the first warrior rock was moved to Modern Woodmen Park in Davenport, after it ran out of room for additional signatures. The Quad-City River Bandits are planning a dedication ceremony for the rock, which will be targeted to take place during Armed Forces Appreciation Week in the Quad Cities. The current warrior rock collecting unit members' signatures is on display in front of Bldg. 350.

Spc. Wade King, CBWTU-Wisconsin, signed the warrior rock during the October muster.

"This symbolizes everyone that was hurt that came through the program," said King. "I'm honored to have my name with there's, and I'm proud to be a part of the program and to be able to come here to the Rock Island Arsenal."

"It's forever," said Spc. Todd Hopper, CBWTU-Wisconsin, referring to his name after he signed the warrior rock. "I'm proud to have my name here among all these other great Soldiers ... I'm really honored." 🍌



Spc. Wade King signs the "warrior rock" during CBWTU-Wisconsin's October muster, while Spc. Todd Hopper background, and Sgt. Harold Rawles wait to leave their mark along side the Soldiers who have signed the rock. The plaque behind the rock reads, "These are the names of Warriors wounded and injured in the line of duty while supporting the Global War on Terrorism, inscribed by each individual passing through the doors of (CBWTU-Wisconsin)." Photo by Mark Kane

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