

For Immediate Release

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The U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2) Helps Wounded, Injured and Ill Soldiers Affected by Devastating California Wildfires

Washington, DC—Severely wounded, injured and ill Soldiers and their Families who are affected by the devastating wildfires can count on The U.S. Army Wounded Warrior program in their time of need.

When the fires first hit California, AW2 responded quickly by proactively engaging their Soldier Family Management Specialists (SFMSs) located throughout the country. The SFMSs initiated contact with AW2 Soldiers and Families to ensure they were safe, accounted for and have access to critical resources. Ensuring wounded, injured and ill Soldiers and their Families are taken care of is AW2's mission.

“We've been in constant communication with our Soldiers and their Families in the area affected by the wildfires,” said COL Jim Rice, Director, U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program, “Soldier Family Management Specialists are on the ground providing hands on support to our most vulnerable population.”

Within the first 72 hours, the Soldier Family Management Specialists contacted more than 94% of AW2 Soldiers in affected areas to ensure they were all accounted for. We continue to try to reach each and every Soldier in California. Robert Gomez, an AW2

Soldier from California stated that he was happy AW2 took the initiative to contact his family during this stressful period of time.

AW2 assists and advocates for wounded Soldiers and their Families throughout their lifetimes, wherever they are located. “AW2 promises to ‘never leave a fallen comrade’ and continues to help severely wounded, injured and ill Soldiers and their Families in their times of need, no matter how long it takes,” affirmed COL Rice.

For AW2 Soldiers who need assistance, please contact your Soldier Family Management Specialist or AW2 headquarters at 1-800-237-1336. If you are not an AW2 Soldier and need assistance, contact Military One Source at 1-800-342-9647.

About the U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2)

The Army Wounded Warrior Program – AW2 – embodies the Warrior Ethos “I Will Never Leave A Fallen Comrade.” First established in April, 2004 as the Army responded to the needs of the most severely wounded, injured or ill Soldiers who were returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), today AW2 serves over 2300 Soldiers and their Families. The focus of AW2 is on serving the most severely injured Soldiers and their Families.

For more information about AW2 visit our web site at: <https://www.aw2.army.mil/>

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