



*Service to the Armed Forces  
Outreach Program to Ill/Injured Service Members and their Families*

*Fact Sheet*

The American Red Cross, Service to the Armed Forces outreach initiative for ill/injured service members and their family members is funded as a part of the FY 2008 Defense Appropriations Bill which earmarked \$20 million for the American Red Cross, Service to the Armed Forces to expand its support for service members and their families worldwide. The program supports all service members and family members being treated in military medical facilities, which includes military hospitals and outpatient clinics, VA health care facilities, Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Centers (DVBIC), and Community-Based Health Care Organizations (CBHCO).

Funding will be used for the purchase of material items in support of the Armed Forces wounded warrior programs, which include the Army's Warrior Transition Units (WTUs), the Navy's Safe Harbor Program, the Marine Corps' Marine for Life and Wounded Warrior Regiment program, Air Force's Wounded Warrior Program (AFW2), the VA Seamless Transition Program/Wounded Warrior Program, The Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Centers (DVBIC).

The appropriation will also fund the American Red Cross, Casualty Travel Assistance Program (CTAP). The Casualty Travel Assistance Program provides airfare, food, and lodging for up to two immediate family members to travel to the bedside of a service member injured in a combat zone or to attend a funeral or memorial service for a service member killed in the line of duty in a combat zone.

Highlights of the outreach to military hospitals program include:

- Recruitment, training and placement of volunteers in the military health care facilities, in particular as personal service volunteers, to assist service members and their families during the lengthy recovery period.
- Develop relationships with the wounded warrior units to identify the needs of its service members and their families and to communicate the support and material assistance Red Cross is able to provide
- Purchase needed material items for distribution to service members, their family members and wounded warrior units. Examples of needed material items are toiletries, clothing, special breakaway pants and jackets, phone cards, wheel chair gloves, and portable electronics such as CD players, portable DVD players, IPODs, Nintendo games (these items assist with stress relief and games improve manual dexterity and eye/hand coordination).
- Provide continuity of service and programs when the service member transitions home or to a new duty station by working with the gaining Red Cross Chapter or Red Cross office on the installation to ensure continued Red Cross support for the service member and his/her family members.