



# CRDAMC Now

## WTB Special Birthday Edition

Carl R. Darnall  
Army Medical Center

Fort Hood, Texas

June 2008



### Helping you

Staff Sgt. Paul Huycke uses a lathe at the Brace Shop to begin work on a prosthetic device that will eventually be used by a Wounded Soldier. As part of being assigned to Warrior Transition Battalion, Soldiers are employed across Fort Hood in other occupations learning new skills and helping those in need of extra help.

*Photo by Jon Connor*

### WTB stats show constant growth

On June 15, 2007 the Medical Hold (Active Component) and Medical Holdover (National Guard/Reserve Component) were consolidated under one command and were designated as the Fort Hood Warrior Transition Unit. The then newly established unit had 142 Warriors in Transition Soldiers; in one year that number grew by 742 percent to 1,343 WT Soldiers!

Today, the WTB population is comprised of all components of the Army – active duty at 89.7 percent, National Guard at 7.4 percent and Reserve Component at 2.9 percent.

A total of 340 have departed since the establishment of the WTB. Of those, 66 percent were separated and 34 percent returned to duty (RTD) or were released from active duty.

The average length of stay of the 340 departed since June 15, 2007 was 184.81 days.

One year ago, the unit's staff was 43 cadre members that included 19 borrowed military manpower from III Corps.

Since then, the staff has increased in size by 651 percent to 280. The 280 staff are comprised of all components of the Army and Dept. of the Army civilians. The WTU continues to rely heavily on borrowed manpower from Fort Hood units and Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center.

Our WTB population consists of Soldiers who are going through the Physical Disability Evaluation System (PDES) and others who require six or more months of treatment and rehabilitation before returning to duty or being evaluated by the PDES.

Of the 1,343 Warriors in Transition at the WTB, 10.8 percent who were Wounded in Action; 22 percent were treated in theater; and 41.5 percent were deployed to a theater of operation such as Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom. (Information provided by Maj. Steven Richter, CRDAMC's AMAP liaison officer.)

## What a year it's been: WTB Soldiers heal, work, meet VIPs, engage media

### CRDAMC Public Affairs

June 14 marked the one-year anniversary of the Warrior Transition Battalion across the Army.

The ever-growing unit falls under Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center. The unit transformed from the Medical Hold and Medical Holdover units that were responsible for the health care of Soldiers who needed continuing medical attention.

In February of 2007, the media reported that barracks conditions at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and a bureaucratic nightmare there hampered the ability of U.S. combat veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan to receive care in a dignified and timely manner.

The Army leadership acknowledged this and developed the Army Medical Action Plan, which in part, laid the service's new policies on how to care for its Wounded Warriors based on the unique wounds suffered in OIF/OEF.

AMAP is seen as the way forward. The plan received accolades from the president, the Department of Defense, Congress, state leadership, Army leadership, Army health care personnel, and

perhaps most importantly, the Soldiers themselves.

In addition to Warriors wounded in combat, Warriors in Transition may be assigned to a WTB if they are going through a Medical Evaluation Board (MEB) or if they require complex medical care for longer than six months.

Those that meet this criteria may be assigned to a WTB at the discretion of the parent unit commander.

The unit commander is responsible for deciding when to assign a Warrior to a WTB. His or her decision must be approved by the military treatment facility (MTF) commander.

Warriors assigned to a WTB are there to heal or to complete the MEB process. While assigned to the WTB they will stay at their home stations and work on post or in a community agency.

The foundation has been set for success!



*Photo by Jon Connor*

Company E 1st Sgt. Bruce Biegel puts out information during first formation at Rough Rider Village, home to many WTB Soldiers.



# A look back on a busy, event-filled 12 months

## 2007

**11 July** — NFL player Eugene Lockhart and former NBA player Jason Lee visit WTB

**26 July** — Media invited to CRDAMC/WTB Organization Day at a park in Killeen to interview WTU Soldiers on explains the new WTB and AMAP program.

**25 August** – U.S. Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) visits CRDAMC/WTB

**Early December** -- CRDAMC assigns two doctors to provide dedicated WTB health care for WTB Soldiers

**28 November** -- Members of two local counties' Democratic Party visit WTB to decorate area for Christmas

**21 December** -- Dell donates 20 computers to AW2 and WTU Soldiers

## 2008

**13 February** -- KCEN-TV, Channel 6, Waco, and Papa John's deliver 50 pepperoni pizzas in the shape of a heart to WTB Soldiers to celebrate Valentine's Day

**22 February** — WTB MEDIA DAY marked the one –year anniversary of the Army Medical Action Plan (AMAP). It was attended by three newspapers and three television stations.

**29 February** – Killeen Daily Herald, two WTB Soldiers awarded Purple Hearts

**12-13 March** – CBS Network News interviews WTB Soldier on his journey to get help for PTSD

**19 March** – WTB change of command. Lt. Col. Timothy Snider assumes command from Lt. Col. Brently White.

**8 April** – Documentary crew contracted to KTCOK, Temple, interviews five WTB. Soldiers to support "Salute To Our Heroes" April 10-11 at Fort Hood as part of the Military Family & Friends Tour 2008.

**April 10** — Actor Lou Gossett Jr. visited the WTB Soldiers as part of documentary visit.

**9-10 April** – Soldiers Magazine (Soldiers Media Center) interviews WTB Soldiers/leadership for July issue cover story on WTB and its growth.

**22 April** -- WTB honored with memorial plaque located in Comanche III Village park in support of Arbor day. Fifty Pecan trees planted in their honor. |

**25 April** — Third WTU Soldier awarded Purple Heart

**2 May** – WTU Fishing Trip sponsored by Military Family Network. Various WTUs including Fort Hood's participate in a Gulf of Mexico fishing trip.

**15 May** – Italian RAI TV, equivalent to UK's BBC, interviews WTB Soldier, staff members, leadership, to support a one-hour documentary "American Veterans -- The New Generation" on today's veterans as a result of OIF/OEF. Show should be completed in six months.

**13 June** — Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard Cody visits with CRDAMC/WTB leadership and then visits with WTB Soldiers in surprise visit.

**Compiled by Jon Connor, CRDAMC Public Affairs**



**WTU photos by Jon Connor**

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