The Symposium opened with remarks by COL (Ret.) Joey Strickland, Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services and COL (P) Alberto Gonzalez, Chief of Staff and Land Component Commander for the Arizona Army National Guard.

“It was valuable learning about the important challenges facing our Veteran population, especially as presented by those who serve and have served.”

The 2-day event continued with five breakout tracks consisting of six sessions each. Many of the sessions incorporated the first hand perspectives of service members, veterans and family members.

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“It was such an honor to be able to attend the symposium, meet such dedicated professionals, and learn so much that will help me and our organization.”

Many attendees expressed appreciation for the 51 presenters (representing 35 public and private sector partners) who briefed 29 different topics relating to working with service members, veterans & their families.

“I found the sessions informative and compelling.”

“The facilitators of each breakout session were so incredibly full of knowledge and experience.”

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Many thanks to the volunteers who helped operate the Symposium:

-U.S. Naval Sea Cadets
-Child Crisis Center/Operation Family Support Staff
-2011 Symposium Planning Team

“I'm so impressed with the flow of events and the fantastic organization. I know that you have a huge team helping with this. Amazing how well you all pulled this off.”

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“I really appreciated the opportunity to connect with new stakeholders. Thanks for pulling it all together for us to be able to soak up so much information.”

42 exhibitors shared information on programs and services from military, government and community partners.
“The military experiential displays were excellent!”

This year’s event included our first canine attendee: a companion animal from Soldier’s Best Friend.

Scottsdale Healthcare’s Military Partnership set up a field trauma experiential display including a tent, equipment and patient simulators used to train military medical personnel.
The U.S. Army Reserve 492 Civil Affairs Battalion once again offered attendees the chance to try on gear and take aim at a laser targeting range.

They also offered an Iraq & Afghanistan cultural meal experience reflecting the customs for communal dining in those countries.
“It is great that this symposium gets put on - please continue!”

“I will definitely attend again and recommend it to my peers.”

300 representatives of the military, government and community participated in the 2011 Symposium.

“Thank you for the work you have done putting this symposium together. It was fantastic and comprehensive. I learned so much and was very moved by personal stories shared.”

96% of attendee surveys indicated they would recommend the Symposium to their colleagues.

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Special thanks to our 2011 Symposium Event Sponsors for your support of this capacity-building event!