



**ARIZONA COALITION
FOR MILITARY FAMILIES**
BUILDING SUPPORT FOR ALL WHO SERVE

2012 Statewide Symposium in Support of Service Members, Veterans & Their Families



June 13 - 14, 2012 ★ Phoenix, Arizona

SYMPOSIUM PLANNING PARTNERS



The Symposium opened with remarks by **COL (Ret.) Joey Strickland**, Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services, **COL Jeff Tipton**, Chief of Staff of the Arizona Army National Guard & **CH (MAJ) Quentin Collins**, National Guard Bureau Coordinator for the Joining Community Forces Initiative.

“This is one of the most educational, awareness raising, eye opening conferences I have been to.”



The 2-day event continued with four breakout tracks consisting of six sessions each. Sessions featured subject matter experts, key stakeholders and service members, veterans & family members sharing their firsthand perspectives.



On the morning of day 2, June 14th, we recognized Flag Day and the Army's 237th Birthday. **CW4 Jody Reidenhour** of the Arizona National Guard shared thoughts on the day and at the end of the Symposium we recognized her 36+ years of service. The Symposium was her last major event before retirement.

The Symposium closed with an inspiring message from State Command Sergeant Major Max Butler, focused on how each of us plays an important role in caring for all who serve.

“Excellent information regarding resources and services.”

“...personal stories of courage, strength and patriotism.”

“Encourages & inspires me to get more involved through work & community efforts.”

“I learned more during those 2 days on how we can help and serve and who to contact than I have in 10 years of attending [other] conferences.”

The Symposium featured 60 presenters (representing 33 public and private sector partners) who briefed 24 different topics relating to working with service members, veterans & their families.

“I loved the break-out sessions.”



“The sessions I attended made me realize there's more to assistance than just paperwork.”



45 exhibitors shared information on programs, resources and services available from military, government and community partners.

“Excellent information regarding resources and services.”

“I know more about the resources available & ways to incorporate them into service daily.”



A laser targeting system from the Army National Guard gave participants the chance to test their marksmanship skills.

The Air National Guard 162nd Fighter Wing brought an F-16 cockpit to the event. Participants were able to sit in the cockpit and learn about the equipment from the Guard Members.

What was the most valuable aspect of the event?

“Meeting some of the men & women in the military.”

“The hands on experiential components.”



At lunch, participants were given the chance to experience a traditional Iraqi meal through the guidance of the U.S. Army Reserves 492nd Civil Affairs Battalion.



Parked outside the conference center was Arizona's Mobile Vet Center, a counseling center on wheels that reaches veterans in our state's rural and underserved areas, and Scottsdale Healthcare's Military Partnership mobile training lab, a fully equipped RV complete with patient simulator.

In total, 300 representatives of the military, government and community participated in the 2012 Symposium.

Attendees came from northern, central & southern Arizona, as well as from ten other states, national nonprofit organizations, the Department of Defense & National Guard Bureau.

“Excellent conference... presentations and speakers were amazing. Will make a point to attend next year!”

99% of attendee surveys indicated they would recommend the Symposium to their colleagues.

“Thanks for the opportunity to attend for the 3rd year with the help of your scholarship program!”



“It was a powerful conference.”

*Special thanks to our 2012
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