2010 STATEWIDE SYMPOSIUM IN SUPPORT OF MILITARY FAMILIES

JULY 14 - 16, 2010 ★ PHOENIX, ARIZONA

EVENT RECAP

Event photos by Garland Miller
EVENT STATS

- 13 public and private sector planning partners
- 66 speakers representing 30 different military entities, government agencies and community organizations
- 275 attendees representing every sector of the community
- 35 exhibitors

“It was enlightening to see so many social service organizations and individuals wanting to support our veterans. It was also very rewarding to see the philosophy that we must ‘reach-out’ to the vets... we cannot wait for them to come in for help!”
Featured speakers at the Symposium general sessions:

Victor Daniels, *Military Affairs Policy Advisor on behalf of Governor Jan Brewer*

Gabriel Pérez, *CEO of the Phoenix VA Healthcare System*

Major General Hugo Salazar, *The Adjutant General for the State of Arizona*

Col. Joey Strickland, *Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services*

In addition to the traditional addresses, a “fireside chat” format was used to learn more from the presenters about their role in the care and support of service members, veterans and families. Above, Thomas Winkel, Military Family Life Consultant, interviews MG Hugo Salazar, The Adjutant General for the State of Arizona, during the opening session.

“The event was well worth my time.”
“Overall the conference exceeded my expectations. I definitely learned so much and had my eyes opened to the services for our veterans!”

The Symposium opened with a moving video featuring Medal of Honor recipients speaking to our current generation of warriors, with the message that it is okay to ask for help. The video, designed to run as a public service announcement, and an accompanying website were produced by TriWest Healthcare Alliance.

The Patriot Guard Riders, a group committed to honoring those who serve, shared with us about their commitment to stand for those who stood for us. With the accompaniment of their theme song, Proud to be an American, they gave the audience a glimpse of how they honor service members at send-offs, welcome home events and during funeral services as invited guests of the family.
Symposium attendees heard from some of our community’s best subject matter experts on a variety of topics ranging from the benefits system to Traumatic Brain Injury to the role of the faith-based community to PTSD. Many who are current or former service members shared their firsthand perspectives.

“You have brought together presenters who are very committed, knowledgeable, compassionate and of high valor.”
“It was eye-opening hearing the real-life perspectives from military personnel and family members.”

Every effort was made to immerse attendees in military culture. This included a moving “Boots on the Ground” session where service members and family members shared their personal experiences.

Attendees also experienced a taste of Basic Training via a drill demonstration and had the opportunity to get up close and personal to military equipment with a static display and laser targeting system set up by the US Army Reserve 492nd Civil Affairs Battalion.

Ellen Owens-Summo, Executive Director of the Greater Valley Area Health Education Center, gears up for a try at the laser marksmanship course under the guidance of a member of the 492nd Civil Affairs Battalion.
Event Survey Feedback

• 95% of attendee surveys stated that based on this event, they would plan to attend again in the future

• Survey feedback was 90-98% positive across the board

  “Excellent event!”

  “Please do this again next year!”

  “Wonderful conference, can't wait until next year.”

Plans are underway for the 2011 Symposium!
SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS FOR MAKING THE SYMPOSIUM POSSIBLE!

PRESENTING SPONSOR

Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services
PARTNER SPONSORS

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Greater Valley Area Health Education Center
Arizona Governor’s Council on Spinal and Head Injuries
Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention