

# RESOURCES FOR RECOVERY

## Guidelines of Care for the Combat Injured Family

Your soldier has been wounded, and so have you, and so have your children and family. In this difficult time, maybe the most difficult you and your family have faced, many resources of care and support will be extended. Due to normal distress and anxiety, there may be times when you will not hear, understand or accept all that you will be told. It is important to remember that children are very vulnerable and deserve continuity

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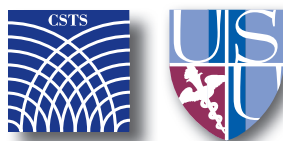
of care and sensitivity to what information is communicated and how information is communicated. Despite the uniqueness of your family's injury and reactions, there are certain principles that should inform the care you receive. This fact sheet has important, general information on the "way" care should be delivered to you and your family now and over the course of treatment and rehabilitation.

### Principles of Caring for Combat Injured Families

Ideally, care should be delivered in a manner which:

- Provides a sense of safety, comfort, information, practical assistance and connection to appropriate community resources that can foster your family's healthy recovery.
- Is family focused to help relieve family distress, support your ability to parent as effectively as possible, and guide your efforts in communicating with your children about the injury.
- Reinforces your family's natural resilience while addressing special problems that might arise and require further help and support.
- Is sensitive to the unique responses of children of varying age and gender, and recognizes that distress, care needs and communication ability will vary according to age of your child or children.
- Is tailored to your family's changing needs throughout treatment and rehabilitation recognizing your family's unique strengths and challenges, as well as anticipating future needs in your transitions to a new community or new way-of-life.
- Fosters the collaboration and coordination of services between your family, health care resources and treatment — military and civilian — reaching across traditional professional boundaries and levels of care.
- Respects your family's unique background including culture, language, composition (traditional or nontraditional), ethnicity, religion and the traditions of military families.
- Helps your family access care and addresses any barriers to service, which can complicate the healthy recovery of your loved one and family members. These barriers may include a family's difficulty in accessing health care or community services or a community's lack of awareness or misunderstanding of the needs of combat injured families.
- Is informed by knowledgeable service providers, professionals, organizations and communities that have access to and provide quality educational materials to address the challenges that confront combat injured families.

**PLACE LOCAL CONTACT INFORMATION HERE**



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