



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
HEALTH AFFAIRS
1401 WILSON BLVD, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22209

Defense Centers of Excellence
for Psychological Health
and Traumatic Brain Injury

Dear Ms. Carla Staats:

As the one year anniversary (21 May) of the Real Warriors Campaign launch approaches we would like to thank you for your organization's collaborative partnership — your commitment to our warriors is vital to our nation's ability to make a real difference. Real Warriors Campaign partners play an essential role in supporting our service members, veterans and military families.

Entering the ninth year of conflict, America's warriors are fighting real battles — on the battlefield and on the home front, coping with wounds both visible and unseen — and adapting their wartime experiences to a "new normal." The Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury is firmly committed to eliminating the stigma associated with seeking treatment, and to encouraging service members and their families to seek information and resources that support resilience, recovery and reintegration. All too often stigma still looms as a toxic deadly hazard that can prevent individuals from reaching out.

Building resilient communities is our challenge and opportunity. Real Warriors Campaign partners have been instrumental in communicating vital messages about psychological health and offer invaluable resources in support of our total military family

To this end, we simply must transform military culture from our "suck it up and drive on" mindset to embrace a community-based, public health approach whose strength integrates individual family empowerment and peer-to-peer (p2p) mentorship in the context of total community resilience— faith, work, school, family, volunteerism and health.

Please accept our heartfelt gratitude for your continued support to this historic endeavor — we are truly blessed with your unwavering commitment to the greater good. There simply is no greater privilege.

All together now,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Sutton", is written over a horizontal line.

Loree K. Sutton, MD
Brigadier General, MC, USA
Director