

Secretary Gates is hosting a Summit for families of fallen and wounded, ill and injured in the Pentagon on Monday, October 20, 2008, to listen to their needs and highlight the importance of consistent best practices in support of recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration

Approximately 300 people will attend the summit, including family members, warrior and family support program managers and providers and veteran service organizations and community based non-profit organizations.

Family members will discuss their experiences in the different phases of care during the morning sessions. Model installation and state and local programs that focus on the wounded, ill and injured were also showcased. Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates will address the group and take questions. The afternoon portion of the conference will focus on best practices to assist families of the fallen.

During the conference DoD officials will announce the creation of the Wounded Warrior Resource Center (WWRC) web site which helps service members and families find needed information on military facilities, medical services and benefits. It also assists them in accessing the trained specialists, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by phone or email through the WWRC call center.

“The site will give families and service members a direct link to needed information and to personnel who can answer their question and connect them to service providers,” said Lynda Davis, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy.

The Wounded Warrior Resource Center Web site meets the requirements of Section 1616 of the “National Defense Authorization Act Fiscal Year 2008” for a centralized Web site ensuring wounded families and caregivers have the information they need at any time.

The summit will be webcast live all day, Oct 20, 2008 on www.pentagonchannel.mil. Participants viewing the Summit on the webcast can email questions during the Summit at questions@familysummit.net