



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



November 9, 2009

Navy Safe Harbor and Warrior Care

"[Through Safe Harbor] we finally found someone who was willing to work and advocate for [our son]. Safe Harbor helps to make the needed connections. We thank God for Safe Harbor whose caring support, tenacity, and guidance made such a positive difference in our son's life.

– Ester Rollen, mother of Safe Harbor enrollee Petty Officer 1st Class Matthew Rollen

The Secretary of the Navy designated November as Warrior Care Month. This year's theme is 'Continuum of Care - Providing services and support throughout the recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration process.' The continuum of care provides resources to safeguard the mental and physical well-being of our service members and their families and includes wounded warrior care, [operational stress control](#), [suicide prevention](#) and sexual assault prevention and response.

Warrior Care Month

[Warrior Care Month](#) is an opportunity to highlight warrior programs across the department to provide awareness of the many programs, services, and support available to sea service members and their families.

- The Navy and Marine Corps have instituted a variety of programs to increase [medical and non-medical assistance](#) to wounded, ill, and injured service members utilizing a comprehensive approach designed to optimize their recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration.
- There is no higher obligation than to care for our warriors who have sacrificed so much in service to our nation.

Navy Safe Harbor Eligibility and Enrollment

[Navy Safe Harbor](#) is the Navy's lead organization for providing the highest quality non-medical care to all seriously wounded, ill, and injured Sailors, Coast Guardsmen and their families.

- Safe Harbor defines a "wounded warrior" as any Sailor or Coast Guardsman that has a serious illness or injury requiring long-term care that may require a medical evaluation board or [physical evaluation board](#) to determine fitness for duty.
- Enrollment in Navy Safe Harbor is voluntary and not limited to combat related wounds or injuries. Service members injured during liberty or through shipboard accidents, as well as those that have incurred a serious illness, whether physical or psychological, are eligible for support.
- Sailors and Coast Guardsmen may self-refer to Safe Harbor or be referred by family, command leadership or their medical team.

Non-medical Care Management

Non-medical care is the support command leadership inherently provides to a Sailor. Due to the complexity of issues with a seriously ill or injured Sailor, Safe Harbor works with commands to provide that support. Navy Safe Harbor assigns each enrollee a Non-medical Care Manager and Recovery Care Coordinator to focus solely on the wounded warrior's non-medical needs, allowing the Sailor to focus on recovery.

- Non-medical care is individually tailored to meet the needs of each enrolled wounded warrior and their family.
- Once a wounded warrior is enrolled in Navy Safe Harbor, they are enrolled for life.

Key Messages

- The Navy is committed to the Warrior Continuum of Care by providing a lifetime of support and assistance.
- Navy Safe Harbor's goal is to return Sailors to duty, and when not possible, work collaboratively with federal agencies including the VA, Dept. of Labor, and local organizations to ensure service members successfully reintegrate back into his/her community.

Facts & Figures

- Over 500 Sailors and Coast Guardsmen, and their families, are being supported under the umbrella of the Navy's Safe Harbor Program.
- Safe Harbor Recovery Care Coordinators and Non-medical Care Managers are located at eight major Navy medical treatment facilities throughout the U.S.