

CONTACT:

Susan Stalder, MOAA
703-838-0546
Nancy Carr, MOAA
703-838-0545
pr@moaa.org

or Scot Christenson, USNI
410-295-1026
schristenson@usni.org

Defense Forum Washington

www.usni.org • www.moaa.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MOAA and USNI Host Fifth Annual Defense Forum:

“The Journey Back: A National Commitment to Helping Wounded Warriors & Families Transition”

Alexandria, Va., (Sept. 15, 2011) — The [Military Officers Association \(MOAA\)](http://www.moaa.org) and [U.S. Naval Institute \(USNI\)](http://www.usni.org) will present the [fifth annual Defense Forum Washington](http://www.defenseforumwashington.com), Monday, Sept. 26, at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. The forum will focus on the challenges and opportunities facing our separating troops, including guard members and reservists as they transition from military service and reintegrate back home and into a civilian workplace.

The program, titled “The Journey Back: A National Commitment to Helping Wounded Warriors and Families Transition,” will expand on groundbreaking exchanges in the four previous defense forums about issues affecting the physical and psychological care and well-being of our force, wounded warriors, and veterans and their families.

This year’s program will feature five distinguished speakers, including Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Chiarelli and Beth Chiarelli, plus two discussion panels focusing on issues of readjustment in the home, the community, and in the workplace.

Panel topics are:

- “Community Reintegration — The Challenges Back Home,” with moderator Kathleen Troia “KT” McFarland, National Security Analyst and Host of DEFCON 3, FOX News, and
- “Deployment to Employment — Are We Really Committed to Hiring Wounded Warriors?” with moderator Barbara Starr, Pentagon Correspondent, CNN.

Questions from the audience will be welcomed. Speakers, panelists, and leaders of MOAA and USNI will be available for interviews.

The forum, including lunch, is free to active duty and reserve component servicemembers. Registration is \$45 for other USNI-MOAA members and their spouses, \$75 for non-members, and \$25 for students.

Registration, the program agenda, and additional information is available at www.defenseforumwashington.com. Online registration is open until 12pm EST on Wednesday, September 21. After Sept. 21, registration will only be available through the on-site registration line, which opens at 7:45 a.m. at the [Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center](http://www.defenseforumwashington.com) at 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20004. Print the registration form from the website and bring it to the event.

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the nation’s largest officers association with 370,000 members from every branch of service, including active duty, retired, National Guard, Reserve, and former officers and their families and survivors. MOAA is a nonprofit and politically nonpartisan organization and an influential force in promoting a strong national defense. MOAA represents the interests of service members and their families in every stage of their lives and careers, and for those who are not eligible to join MOAA, Voices for America’s Troops is a nonprofit MOAA affiliate that supports a strong national defense. For more information, visit www.moaa.org

The **U. S. Naval Institute**, founded in 1873, is the only non-profit, professional military association offering an independent, nonpartisan forum on sea power and national security issues. Its publications, conferences and heritage resources help military and civilians understand the role each plays in safeguarding national security - and our national obligation to the men and women of the all-volunteer force who provide it.

Thank you to our [corporate sponsors](#).

MEDIA NOTE: All media who are interested in attending the event, please register by emailing pr@moaa.org with your name, title, outlet name and phone number.

###

Follow conference updates on  Hashtag #DFW11

[Defense Forum Washington 2010](#) – video coverage of the 2010 DFW event on [TheMOAACchannel](#).



2011 DEFENSE FORUM
WASHINGTON



CO-SPONSORED BY THE U.S. NAVAL INSTITUTE (USNI) AND THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA)

MONDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2011

RONALD REAGAN BUILDING AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER

“The Journey Back: A National Commitment to Helping Wounded Warriors & Families Transition

Schedule of Events

- 7:45am Registration Opens
- 7:45am - 8:30am Continental Breakfast
- 8:35am - 8:50am Introduction/Color Guard/Invocation
- 8:50am – 9:10am **Opening Keynote Speakers**
Dr. John Nagl, President, Center for New American Security **(Confirmed)**
- 9:10am – 9:30am **The Honorable Terrie L. Suit**, Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security for Virginia **(Confirmed)**
- 9:30am - 9:45am Coffee Break – Networking & Exhibits
- 9:50am - 11:30am **Panel: “Community Reintegration - The Challenges Back Home”**
Moderator: Ms. Kathleen Troia “KT” McFarland, National Security Analyst and Host of DEFCON 3, FOX News **(Confirmed)**
- **MG James A. Adkins, MDARNG**, The Adjutant General, Maryland National Guard **(Confirmed)**
 - **Mr. Todd Bowers, USMCR**, Veteran **(Confirmed)**
 - **Dr. David Brown**, Clinical Psychologist and Clinical Subject Matter Expert for Suicide Prevention, Office of the Secretary of Defense (Readiness) **(Confirmed)**
 - **CAPT Brad Cooper, USN**, Executive Director, Joining Forces, The White House, Office of the First Lady **(Confirmed)**
 - **Ms. Nicole M. Keesee, LCSW**, Team Leader, Vet Center, Little Rock Arkansas Office **(Confirmed)**
- 11:35am - 12:50pm **Luncheon Keynote Speaker**
GEN Peter W. Chiarelli, USA, Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Army and **Mrs. Beth Chiarelli (Confirmed)**
- 1:00pm - 2:15pm **Panel: “Deployment to Employment – Are We Really Committed to Hiring Wounded Warriors”**
Moderator: Ms. Barbara Starr, Pentagon Correspondent, CNN **(Confirmed)**
- **Capt Chris Ayres, USMC (Ret.)**, Wounded Veteran and Operation Impact Hire, Northrop Grumman **(Confirmed)**
 - **Mr. Paul Cofoni**, President and CEO, CACI, Inc. **(Confirmed)**
 - **Mr. Ismael “Junior” Ortiz**, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Veterans’ Employment and Training Services, Department of Labor **(Confirmed)**

- **BG Gary M. Profit, USA (Ret.)** Senior Director of Military Programs, Wal-Mart **(Confirmed)**
- **LtCol Kevin Schmiegel, USMC (Ret.)**, Vice President, U.S. Chamber of Commerce **(Confirmed)**

2:15pm - 2:30pm

Break – Networking & Exhibits

2:35pm - 3:00pm

Closing Keynote Speaker

The Honorable Allison A. Hickey, Under Secretary for Benefits, Department of Veterans Affairs **(Confirmed)**

3:00pm - 3:10pm

Remarks & Acknowledgements from USNI and MOAA

3:10pm - 3:45pm

Networking & Exhibits