



# NEWS RELEASE

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## ***Heidelberg Medical Department Activity officially opens Warrior Transition Company***

Unfurling the Company's guidon to symbolize operational status

**HEIDELBERG**, Germany – The Warrior Transition Company located at the U.S. Army Medical Department Activity-Heidelberg (Heidelberg MEDDAC) unfurled its official guidon in a ceremony at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 3 in Wilson Theater, Nachrichten Kaserne, Heidelberg.

“This ceremony coincides with the ‘fully operational capable date’ mandated by the Army Medical Action Plan,” said WTC 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Steven Perkins. “We already have Soldiers assigned, but we thought this would be a good occasion to let the community know that we’re here and ready to support them,” added Perkins.

The unit guidon is a key symbol of a military unit's existence. The unfurling ceremony is a military tradition dating back to medieval times. The guidon symbolizes the fact that the unit is prepared and ready to execute its mission.

Since June 15, 2007, the Warrior Transition Company (WTC) has provided command and control, primary care, and case management for the Warriors in Transition within Heidelberg MEDDAC's footprint. Forty Warriors in Transition are currently assigned. Since operations began, eight Soldiers have completed their medical evaluation board process and one has completed complex care that required more than six months of treatments.

“We are here to make sure that the Warriors are able to execute their mission of healing and transitioning back to the military or civilian sector. It is a challenging task to ensure that we meet the needs of our Wounded Warriors, but taking care of Soldiers is a rewarding job and that is what we do,” said WTC commander Capt. Chad Hyder.

Over the past few months, the WTC cadre and staff developed procedures and systems that improve this newly established unit's ability to take care of Warriors in Transition.

“We’ve worked countless hours to make sure that our assigned Warriors have the best barracks, access to care and access to services here in Germany,” said WTC squad leader Staff Sgt. Marc Wilson.

Col. Kyle Campbell, commander of the Heidelberg MEDDAC, was the ceremony guest speaker. He recounted one Wounded Warrior’s story as a way to explain why WTCs play an important role.

“I was asking feedback at a Town Hall meeting, and I asked the Soldiers where we could improve; what we could do better. He told me I just didn’t get it. He said he’d gotten more accomplished in one month assigned to the WTC as he had in seven months before in his unit,” Campbell recounted. “It wasn’t that he was in a bad unit; it’s that units don’t have the resources to help a Soldier who needs help with the medical system.”

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Photo Caption: Capt. Chad Hyder, Sgt. Alan Wevodau and First Sgt. Steven Perkins uncase the Heidelberg Warrior Transition Company’s guidon at the January 3 ceremony on Nachrichten Kaserne.