

# Soldier for Life

## Quarterly Connect



### Message from the Director's Office

Quarter 1 | Issue 1 | 9 October 2017

*Welcome to the first edition of Soldier for Life Quarterly Connect. We are excited to share with you our outreach efforts, achievements, and upcoming events. Our office has seen a great deal of change over the last few months, so we would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to your Soldier for Life team. We look forward to continuing to work with our amazing network to assist Soldiers start strong, serve strong, and stay strong.*

COL Tom Anderson  
Deputy Director, Soldier for Life

## Meet Your Soldier for Life Team

### Midwest

**LTC Jon Sowards** continues to make significant impacts for Soldier for Life as he takes on the newly redesigned Midwest region. As we say farewell to his partner, **MSG Stephen Canonico**, we look forward to welcoming a new Midwest Deputy Director in the fall.

[jon.k.sowards2.mil@mail.mil](mailto:jon.k.sowards2.mil@mail.mil)

### Northeast and Europe

**LTC Keith Wilson** comes to us from Fort Benning, where he served as the Squadron Commander for the 5<sup>th</sup> Squadron, 15<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, 194<sup>th</sup> Armor Brigade. He joins **MSG Lorena Wilson** in the Northeast, where they continue to serve their community and lead initiatives to increase awareness for the Soldier for Life program.

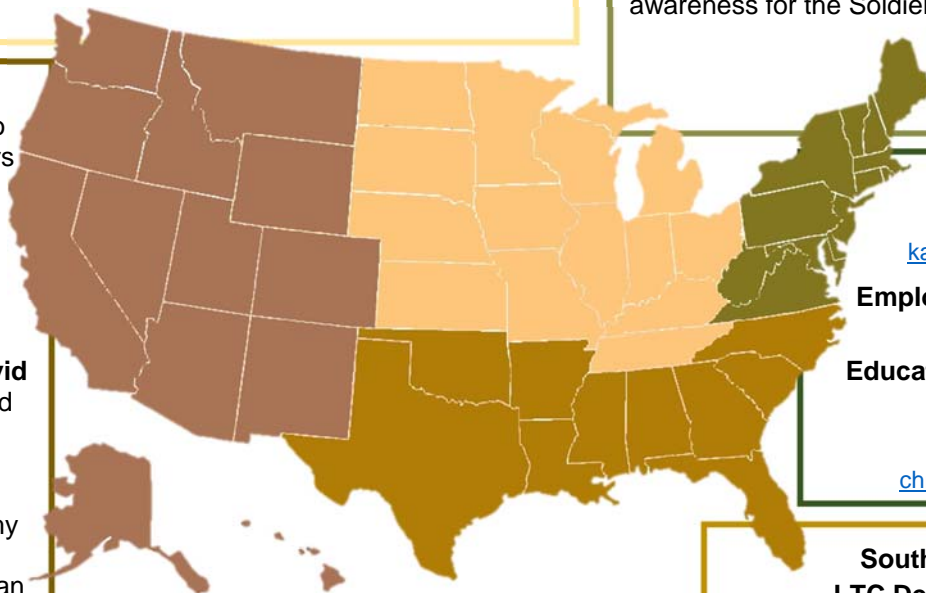
[keith.w.wilson8.mil@mail.mil](mailto:keith.w.wilson8.mil@mail.mil)  
[lorena.j.wilson.mil@mail.mil](mailto:lorena.j.wilson.mil@mail.mil)

### West and Pacific

Soldier for life is pleased to welcome two new members to the West and Pacific regional team.

**LTC Rynele Mardis**, previously an interagency fellow at the Office of the Director for National Intelligence, and **MSG David Caleb**, who formerly served as the Military Outreach Relations Officer at HR Certification Institute in Alexandria, VA, in the Army Training with Industry Program. Together they plan on increasing CSP programming and engaging a wider audience across the West.

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### National Programs

#### LTC Katresha Bailey

[katresha.m.bailey.mil@mail.mil](mailto:katresha.m.bailey.mil@mail.mil)

Employment | **LTC Ramit Ring**  
[ramit.ring.mil@mail.mil](mailto:ramit.ring.mil@mail.mil)

Education | **MAJ Sean McEwen**  
[sean.l.mcewen.mil@mail.mil](mailto:sean.l.mcewen.mil@mail.mil)

Health | **LTC Chris Pace**  
[christopher.c.pace.mil@mail.mil](mailto:christopher.c.pace.mil@mail.mil)

Strategic Initiatives - **Ms. Gabriele Tyler**  
[gabriele.p.tyler.civ@mail.mil](mailto:gabriele.p.tyler.civ@mail.mil)

Army Retirement Services - **Mr. Mark Overberg**  
[mark.e.overberg.civ@mail.mil](mailto:mark.e.overberg.civ@mail.mil)

### South, USVI, and Puerto Rico

**LTC Derwin Brown**, former West Regional Director, continues his role in an all new region. He is joined by **MSG Matthew Black** who has been with the program since April of this year.

[derwin.a.brown.mil@mail.mil](mailto:derwin.a.brown.mil@mail.mil)  
[matthew.g.black.mil@mail.mil](mailto:matthew.g.black.mil@mail.mil)



## Saying Goodbye



Over the last four years, COL Adam Rocke led the Soldier for Life mission with passion, ambition, and enthusiasm. During his time here, he dedicated countless hours to delivering the Soldier for Life message and garnered unwavering local and national support for transitioning service members, military families, and our veterans. His vision was clear, connect Soldiers with opportunities to gain meaningful employment, better education, and available healthcare resources. We are forever grateful for the work that COL Rocke has accomplished and thankful for the time he gave to the mission. The Soldier for Life team wishes Adam and his family well on the next chapter of their journey and congratulations on his retirement.

***Once a Soldier, always a Soldier!***

## Welcoming a New Director

COL Sam Whitehurst joins us from the XVIII Airborne Corps where he has been serving as the Chief of Staff for the last year. The Soldier for Life team is excited to welcome COL Whitehurst and his family, and is looking forward to his guidance and great leadership.



## Soldier for Life Leadership

Director – COL Sam Whitehurst  
Deputy Director – COL Tom Anderson  
SGM William Wilder

## Retirement Services Office

***Did you know***, Army Retirement Services helps over 32,000 Soldiers from all components and their Families retire each year by advising them of their rights, benefits and entitlements? The program also educates and communicates with over 1.25 million Retired Soldiers, surviving spouses, and their Families. In addition, the program assists Families of Soldiers who die on active duty maximize their survivor benefits. Other programs the RSO manages include the CSA's Retired Soldier Council and the MyArmyBenefits website. We urge Soldiers to start planning for retirement 24 months out, and we urge Retired Soldiers to stay connected to the Army and help us hire Veterans and inspire the next generation to serve in the military.

## Hails & Farewells

### Welcome to SFL 2017

COL Tom Anderson  
MSG Matthew Black  
MSG David Caleb  
LTC Rynele Mardis  
MAJ Sean McEwen  
LTC Chris Pace  
SSG Victor Perez  
LTC Ramit Ring  
LTC Keith Wilson  
MAJ Angel Wade  
COL Sam Whitehurst

### Good luck on your next adventure!

Mr. John Agler  
MSG Stephen Canonico  
LTC Crystal Boring  
LTC George Coleman  
LTC Adam Grim  
LTC Jorge Guzman  
MSG Shane Perret  
COL Adam Rocke  
MAJ Amber Ryder  
LTC Ronna Trent

1SG Tony Turman  
Cadet Patrick Wall  
LTC Jerry Woods  
SSG Daniel Young  
COL Roy Walker

## Social Media

**Soldier for Life website relaunches on October 9<sup>th</sup>**  
[soldierforlife.army.mil](http://soldierforlife.army.mil)

**Come visit us on Rally Point**  
[rallypoint.com/organizations/soldier-for-life](http://rallypoint.com/organizations/soldier-for-life)

**Come check out all our sites:**

