

## INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Soldier for Life Program

1. Purpose: To inform Soldiers of the Army's Soldier for Life Program

2. Background. The U.S. Army established Soldier For Life in July 2012 to maintain trust with our Army Family during and after service. This initiative is designed to enable Soldiers, Retired Soldiers, Veterans and Families to leave military service "career ready", and connect to an established network to find employment, education and health resources. Veterans bring value to employers, schools, and communities and we strengthen the current Army and the Nation by encouraging positive transitions. SFL is the US Army's connection arm with the Army network, communities, VSO/MSOs, and industry. It also focuses on the currently serving Soldier population to instill the Soldier for Life mindset of service. SFL works to synchronize the efforts of the more than 46,000 organizations who seek to assist Service Members, Veterans, and Families.. The endstate of the SFL campaign are Soldiers, Veterans, and Families leave military service "career ready" and find an established network of enablers connecting them with the employment, education, and health resources required to successfully reintegrate into civilian society.

3. Recently approved SFL Initiatives:

**Soldier for Life Buttons and Badges** - The Army has also designed a new Soldier for Life lapel button that will be provided to all Soldiers during the transition process. This button allows Soldiers to reflect their continued service as Soldiers for Life after removing their uniforms. The button will be produced in two variations; one for all Soldiers and another for those who reach retirement status. The Soldier for Life Retired lapel button will replace the "US Army Retired" lapel pin that has been distributed since 2007. It closely resembles the Soldier for Life lapel button, but distinctly recognizes that a Soldier's extended service and sacrifice has earned retired status. The Army's decision to issue these new lapel buttons does not preclude continued display of any previously authorized device. Retired Soldiers and Veterans who continue to represent the Army in communities across America are essential enablers of our ability to produce the world's premier all-volunteer fighting force.

**Soldier for Life - Transition Assistance Program (SFL-TAP)** - Beginning 1 October, the Army will implement what will be commonly referred to as the Transition Soldier Life Cycle. Transition Soldier Life Cycle promotes lifelong learning, individual development, and transition-related requirements throughout a Soldier's military career. The Transition Soldier Life Cycle further demonstrates the Army's commitment to supporting Soldiers in all stages of their military career. To complement Transition Soldier Life Cycle, the Army's Transition Assistance Program, formerly known as Army Career and Alumni Program, or ACAP, is adopting a new look and name as part of the effort to synchronize Soldier for Life initiatives. The new name will be Soldier for Life - Transition Assistance Program. Transition Assistance has become a robust and intuitive program combining employment and education workshops and seminars tailored to prepare and connect transitioning Soldiers to meaningful civilian employment and education opportunities. The SFL-TAP offices deliver transition assistance services with a focus on supporting Soldiers in all phases of the Transition Soldier Life Cycle. The Army's Transition Assistance Program now carries the Soldier for Life logo.

**Soldier for Life Centers** - We are establishing Soldier for Life Centers on our posts, camps, and stations where Soldiers and Families can find resources to assist them in making educated decisions and sound plans during all phases of their military lives: in-service, transition, and post transition. In some cases, all related services may not be located in one building, but they will be easily identified by the Soldier for Life logo. Synchronizing the efforts of Soldier for Life - related services furthers our goal of allowing Soldiers to "Start Strong, Serve Strong, Reintegrate Strong, and Remain Strong". SFL Centers are part of the initial phase in implementing my vision that all Soldiers are "Soldiers for Life". As such, transition services are available to Veterans and their Family members after transitioning from active duty.

Once a Soldier, Always a Soldier...a Soldier for Life!