

## **Furniture Donation Transforms SFAC at Fort Campbell**

The roomful of specialized furniture recently donated by the Coalition to the Soldier and Family Assistance Center (SFAC) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky has done a lot more than improve the facility's appearance and décor.

For wounded service members assigned to the U.S. Army's Warriors in Transition (WTs) unit there, the CSAH's gift of eight new La-Z-Boy recliners has instead given them a corner in the 15,000 square foot facility where they can finally get some of the therapy prescribed by their doctors for their recovery, but until recently had been hard to find — peace and quiet.

Like all SFACs located in the U.S. and Europe (33 in total), Fort Campbell's is designed to provide severely-wounded soldiers and their families a "one-stop point of access" to the resources and services they need during and after transition from military to civilian life. But as the home base to the Army's most-deployed combat units for both OIF and OEF campaigns – including the 101st Airborne, the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) – Fort Campbell's SFAC is busier than most.

It's also better equipped and staffed than most others. Aside from extensive indoor and outdoor exercise, the center provides child care, recreation and entertainment, computer and communications services, meeting and conference rooms, as well as access to the advice and information resources needed to manage financial, legal, health-related, employment, housing, educational, family and other personal and professional matters.

Given the hundreds (sometimes thousands) of wounded troops and family members who are in the process of transition during any given month, the normal atmosphere at the SFAC is "high energy, noisy, often chaotic," says director and former WTC chaplain, Michael Britton.

"What's been lacking here is a place to go where you could hear yourself think," Britton stated. "All the complex and challenging information people get here about their lives, and the decision-making that has to be done is overwhelming. People needed a place to be by themselves, with their families, for quiet reflection and conversation."

The chairs arrived shortly after Britton described his concerns to a long-time acquaintance, Coalition board member, Major Gen. John Singlaub, U.S. Army (Ret.) during an earlier visit. Gen. Singlaub had made to the Ft. Campbell SFAC. Since being installed in the SFAC dayroom, Britton says the chairs have been "in constant use."

Commenting on the donation, Robert Vail, Director of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, which oversees the Army's SFAC program, said it conveyed a message of concern for the emotional and physical well-being of wounded soldiers and their families that extended far beyond the confines of the facility.

"Knowing that additional resources are available to Fort Campbell soldiers and families gives a positive outlook on the future of Army support programs," Mr. Vail stated. "Your kindness is admirable and epitomizes the virtues of the American spirit."