



ORIGINS, PURPOSE & VISION



Centurions Watch (CW) is a non-denominational Christian faith-based organization founded and committed to encouraging the men and women in the United States' Reserve Components, and their families, by nurturing strong marriages based upon timeless Biblical principles. Our members, staff and constituents work to strengthen marriages and help service members and their spouses grow in faith in order to sustain healthy marriage relationships.

"When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering." Jesus said to him, "I will go and heal him." Matthew 8:5-7

Recent reports in military publications have shown that since the attack on Americans after September 11, 2001, divorces have outnumbered physical wounds/injuries/deaths within military families by more than 5 to 1. More dramatically, marriage break-ups in these families are causing a related crisis: the number of suicides increased by nearly fifty percent in 2011 over similar rates of incidence in 2010. The ancillary struggles that continue to affect military families include behavioral health issues, unique physical injuries, drug addictions, traumatic brain injuries and post traumatic stress. These conditions within our military families are so numerous as to be almost without calculation; but, we know that these incidents are real and they are profoundly evident and disturbing to a caring American population.

It was a "God moment" which led Army Chaplain (Major) Doug Hedrick to begin the not-for-profit organization he called "Centurions Watch" (Matthew 8:5-13) as a means to help solve the crisis facing Guard and Reserve families. While serving in Iraq as a member of America's Army Reserve, Doug recalls that: "For the first time, I experienced the enormous strains of combat and later how deployment had impacted my life and that of my wife and children." As Doug and his family continued their healing process, the seed for Centurions Watch (CW) began to take root and grow.

Doug, while recognizing the need, also discovered that, while the Active Component branches had Christian faith-based ministries offering family enrichment support, the Reserve Components did not. As Biblical truths began to transform Doug's family, he also observed that Reserve Component families with similar spiritual practices were being restored from the stresses of military life. Thus Centurion's Watch was born.

The marriage strengthening programs that form the heart of Centurions Watch are not derived from psychology and counseling textbooks. They are Biblical! Centurions Watch exists to deliver these precepts and programs systematically and purposefully across America to all who seek them. Our vision is to become the nation's leading voice, uniquely focused and attuned, to equip Guard and Reserve families to handle the hardships of military life through Bible-based seminars and enrichment events.



Following two highly successful military marriage seminars conducted in central Indiana, CW is stepping out in faith to bring its precepts and programs to other states' Guard and Reserve families. Past attendees have said of CW's seminars:

- ★ *"This seminar helped recharge our marriage and identify our life's purpose – living for God"*
- ★ *"Despite dealing with depression and discouragement, this seminar gave us hope"*

While continuing to serve within Central Indiana in 2011, expansion is envisioned in 2012 into Kentucky, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan and southern Indiana. In 2013, five marriage seminars are being planned in CW's expanded markets using copyrighted material and contracted speaker teams. To enhance further the seminar experience and ensure the application of principles taught, CW will facilitate interaction nationally between service couples and Biblically-based education, counseling, and marriage mentors through a network of faith-based providers and supporters that includes volunteer churches, businesses, para-church, and local military community support organizations.

CW intends to bring its expertise to churches and businesses with the goal of helping them to understand better how their organization's culture and capacity can assist their fellow members and employees who are members of America's Guard and Reserve. CW also seeks to increase the number and accessibility of business partners throughout Indiana who provide discounts to all Service families to assist in these difficult economic times. Indeed, this is a tangible way the business community, in particular, can help "support the troops."

Lastly, it is our desire to establish and sustain a dedicated fund beginning in 2012 that will help meet the unique needs of America's Guard and Reserve families. CW will diversify and sustain itself by funding operations through individual contributions, corporate sponsorships, grants, program fees, on-line sales from educational resources and apparel, membership dues and overrides from coupon redemptions.

The leadership of Centurions Watch is prayerfully hopeful that you will partner with us in our patriotic and Christian mission of building strong and healthy Guard/Reserve families in the following ways:

- ★ *Become a volunteer state coordinator of a Centurions Watch Chapter (CWC) to help plan and promote your state's CW programs and activities*
- ★ *Volunteer to serve as a local liaison who will help develop strategic partners with area churches, businesses, and/or local military support organizations to further CW's vision*
- ★ *Lend us your Spiritual gifts by regularly praying for the expressed needs of the organization and the families we support*
- ★ *Become a Corporate Sponsor of one or a series of CW seminars and enrichment events*
- ★ *Extend your helping hands and heart at one of our seminars to assist where needed*
- ★ *Offer your unique skills to help a Guard/Reserve family in need*
- ★ *Invest your financial support into the lives of America's Guard and Reserve families by partnering with CW to achieve its God-given mission and vision*

Further information about Centurion's Watch can be obtained by emailing Doug Hedrick at doug@centurionswatch.org or by going to <http://www.centurionswatch.org>