

For Immediate Release:
Friday, February 26, 2010

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Gov. Schwarzenegger Announces Appointments to Operation Welcome Home

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today announced the appointment of Captain Michael Gerold as executive director and Captain William Hyde Jr. as operations officer for Operation Welcome Home for the California Department of Veterans Affairs.

"Our men and women in uniform put their lives on the line to protect our nation's freedoms. With more returning veterans here in California than in any other state, I am absolutely committed to ensuring these brave men and women are welcomed home with the respect they deserve," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "Operation Welcome Home will provide our honorable veterans with the tools they need to be successful once they return from serving our nation."

Captain Michael Gerold, 41, of San Francisco, served in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1996 to 2010, recently retiring as captain after his service in Afghanistan. Since 2007, he has been a volunteer for Disabled American Veterans. From 1987 to 2010, Gerold was a partner for the Gerold Real Estate Group, an investment and management firm. He earned a Master of Arts degree in communications from the University of San Francisco and a Bachelor of Arts degree in business from the University of San Francisco. This position does not require Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$105,000. Gerold is registered decline-to-state.

Captain William Hyde Jr., 31, of San Francisco, has served in the U.S. Army Reserve since 2007. Since 2007, he has been a volunteer for the American Legion where he served as Commander for Post 911 from 2008 to 2009. Previously, Hyde served in the U.S. Army from 2002 to 2007, including a tour of duty in Iraq. He earned a Master of Arts degree in East Asian studies from Stanford University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from the University of San Francisco. This position does not require Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$73,860. Hyde is a Republican.

In his State of the State address in January, the Governor announced his proposal to establish Operation Welcome Home. The program will put more than 300 veterans to work identifying and making direct contact with the 30,000 heroes returning to California annually to counsel them about benefits and transitional workforce training available to help them enter the workforce and transition successfully from the battle front to the home front. Specifically, Operation Welcome Home:

• Establishes nine regional full-time teams that will assist veterans in finding employment and job training, educational opportunities, housing, mental and physical health care, federal benefits and support for their families.

â€Launches the California Veteran Corps, a volunteer network to reinforce the efforts of the full-time regional teams.

Click [here](#) for additional information on the Governor's proposal.