

AA Insider

Your Guide to American Airlines

American Supports the Troops

Over the decades, American Airlines has supported active service members, as well as veterans and their families, both in their communities and when they travel. American offers its support via in-kind contributions to nonprofit organizations (including the USO, Snowball Express and Honor Flight), and our employees have given their time and efforts to a wide variety of community events and activities that support the military year-round. American also offers special fares, priority boarding and Admirals Club access for qualifying active military.

In a recently begun effort, the American Airlines Fuel Smart and Veterans Initiatives teams now donate a portion of fuel savings generated by employees to Air Compassion for Veterans (ACV), a nonprofit program that annually helps more than 6,000 military veterans and their immediate families travel long distances on short notice for medical, counseling and other rehabilitation services.

The idea for the partnership came from two suggestions from AA pilots: Boston-based captain Dave Bredlow and first officer Terri McCallister suggested donating a portion of fuel savings to a charitable organization, and LeGuardia-based first officer Tom Merquardt, a major in the Air Force Reserve, contacted the AA Veterans Initiatives team about supporting ACV.



Merging the two ideas, the employees developed an ongoing program that uses savings from American's Fuel Smart program to support ACV. In the first year of operation, the program has made significant contributions to its goal of providing veterans access to distant medical diagnoses, treatment, counseling and rehabilitation. Following are some examples of wounded warriors and veterans who have received assistance through the partnership:

- American and ACV provided a round-trip ticket for a staff member of Freedom Guide Dogs to provide and train a service dog for a wounded soldier in Fargo, N.D.
- A veteran in North Carolina and his spouse were given air travel to attend a retreat in Florida for wounded warriors.
- A wounded veteran and his spouse were provided with air transportation to Nashville, Tenn., so he could receive critical medical attention from a specialist.

In addition to these examples, one story

in particular illustrates the wide scope of the program: that of an American soldier who, six months after he arrived in Iraq, was riding in a military vehicle that was hit by an explosive device. Severely injured, the soldier underwent three months of inpatient care at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. Most of his treatment was dedicated to limb-salvage surgeries and to sustaining his life.

After continued outpatient treatment for two years and ultimately having a leg amputated, the soldier continued rehabilitation and healing, including participating in marathon events through Achilles International.

The soldier eventually was provided air transportation on American through the partnership with ACV. He traveled from California to Illinois in October 2010 to participate in the hand-cycle division of the Chicago Marathon, placing fifth out of all bike entries and setting his second-best time and qualifying for any world marathon.

These and many more stories like them are the result of the ongoing efforts of American Airlines employees developing smart methods to save fuel. Through the Fuel Smart and Veterans Initiatives partnership with ACV, more than \$150,000 has been donated since January 2010 to provide air transportation for medical, counseling and rehabilitation services for wounded soldiers.

Please go to www.aircompassionforveterans.org for more information about this special partnership.

Did You Know?

A one-cent increase in the price of a gallon of fuel translates into an additional \$25 million in annual costs for American Airlines.

As high fuel prices continue to burden the industry, American aggressively looks for and implements fuel-saving opportunities suggested by our employees through the Fuel Smart program.

For example, we know that if 100 pounds of unnecessary weight were taken off of each aircraft, American would save more than 1 million gallons of fuel over the course of a year. With that in mind, American replaced nearly 19,000 catering carts with newer, lighter models, reducing aircraft weight by 124 pounds on average. This initiative alone saves almost 2 million gallons of fuel each year.

The commitment of American's employees to Fuel Smart initiatives is making an environmentally friendly difference as well. In 2010, the rate of fuel savings reached 120 million gallons per year, which translated to a reduction of carbon dioxide emissions by 2.5 billion pounds annually.