



## Call of Duty Endowment Created to Help Veterans Combat Unemployment

### Endowment Will Direct Resources to Organizations Helping Soldiers Transition to Civilian Careers - Initial Donation to the Paralyzed Veterans of America will Fund Operations at New Facility in Boston, MA

WASHINGTON, Nov 10, 2009 /PRNewswire via COMTEX News Network/ -- Recent trends show that America's veterans face a new adversary - unemployment. According to statistics from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than 500,000 unemployed veterans between the ages of 18 and 64 currently live in the United States. And amid the greatest economic uncertainty since the 1930s, today's veterans by some accounts endure a jobless rate that is nearly twice the national average.

To help combat these alarming trends, Activision Blizzard, Inc. (Nasdaq: ATVI), a worldwide online, PC and console video game publisher and publisher of the best-selling Call of Duty(R) video game franchise, has established the *Call of Duty Endowment* (CODE). This non-profit public benefit corporation will focus its resources on assisting organizations that provide job placement and training to veterans, as well as engaging the media and public forums to raise awareness about the issue.

At today's launch event in Washington, BG Gary H. Cheek, the Assistant Surgeon General of Warrior Care and Transition and Commander of the Warrior Transition Command, stressed the need to help those veterans returning from service who have had difficulty finding employment: "I could make the case that based upon the service and sacrifice of our veterans that American employers have their own call of duty to ensure they have the opportunity for gainful employment and a viable career," Cheek said. "Our soldiers have a lot to offer: integrity, discipline, teamwork, and personal sacrifice for a greater good. I can think of no stronger candidates for any positions employers might be looking to fill. These brave men and women willingly put their lives on the line to protect the blessings of liberty enjoyed by every business in this great country of ours."

Activision Blizzard created the organization with a commitment to donate and raise millions of dollars to help raise awareness of veterans' unemployment. Recognizing that Infinity Ward's Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2™ is expected to be one of the biggest entertainment properties of the year, and that the Call Of Duty(R) game is extremely popular among troops, Activision chose to give back to veterans by using the proceeds from Modern Warfare 2 to fund the Call of Duty Endowment and raise awareness for this important issue. Infinity Ward's Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2™ was released to gamers worldwide, at midnight on November 10.

To help guide the endowment, Activision Blizzard's CEO, Robert Kotick, recruited an advisory board composed of respected veterans representing the various branches of the military. The advisory council assists in identifying potential organizations that will receive grants from CODE and helps to raise awareness of the issue across the country.

During the event, Kotick highlighted the need for other corporate leaders to step forward and ensure that hiring veterans is a priority. "We embark on this effort as a grateful nation. Business leaders have an opportunity to renew their commitment to the American spirit and to reverse an alarming trend of not recognizing the sacrifices made by the men and women of our military service," Kotick said.

In addition to announcing Activision's commitment to raise millions of dollars, CODE also announced a grant of \$125,000 made to the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) organization. The grant will provide resources to help underwrite the cost of a new PVA Vocational Rehabilitation Services Center in Boston, MA. This PVA program offers vocationally-oriented services to veterans with disabilities, especially those veterans with spinal cord dysfunction.

Homer S. Townsend, Jr., executive director of PVA, expressed how grave the employment issue is for disabled veterans. Speaking at the event Mr. Thompson noted, "PVA estimates the national unemployment rate for veterans with severe disabilities to be over 85 percent. With this grant, and the work already being done by PVA, we aim to make this grim statistic a thing of the past by helping to unleash the untapped talent and potential of this often underutilized part of our workforce."

Moving forward, CODE will have an active online presence through its website at [www.callofdutyendowment.org](http://www.callofdutyendowment.org). This website will house statistics about the issue, resources for veterans and employers, recent news items, and videos about the challenges veterans face. CODE also will award several more grants in the upcoming weeks and months and sponsor several events to bring greater awareness of the issue to a variety of audiences.

Members of the media can visit Activision's Broadcast Media Center to download broadcast quality video, web-ready video and high-resolution images. Members of the media using Pathfire can take advantage of a Pathfire enabled video download. Broadcast Media Center: <http://usngondemand.com/index.php>

*About CODE:*

*The Call of Duty Endowment (CODE) is a non-profit, public benefit corporation created by Activision Blizzard. The organization seeks to help soldiers transitioning to civilian life find work and establish careers and to assist organizations that provide job placement and training.*

*About Activision Blizzard*

*Headquartered in Santa Monica, California, Activision Blizzard, Inc. is a worldwide online, PC and console game publisher with leading market positions across every major category of the rapidly growing interactive entertainment software industry.*

*Activision Blizzard maintains operations in the U.S., Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Sweden, Spain, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Australia, China, South Korea and the region of Taiwan. More information about Activision Blizzard and its products can be found on the company's website, [www.activisionblizzard.com](http://www.activisionblizzard.com).*

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