U.S. ARMY SPECIAL FORCES TEAMS are the first in and most frequently exposed to combat, resulting in a host of conditions and challenges both seen and unseen. Each situation is complex. Every participant is human. The Army and Veterans Affairs can’t always offer a solution that puts every Green Beret on a path to health and wellness. An independent organization can work to cover the gaps.
LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

CASUALTY SUPPORT

As a matter of practice, we immediately provide a $1,000* check to offset historically predictable and unpredictable expenses and a highly specialized rucksack packed with non-trivial essentials to Green Berets that have been MEDEVAC’d out of theater away from their permanent duty station.

ANSWER THE CALL Days after being shot in Niger and mourning the loss of four team members, SFC Brent Bartels 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) was medically evacuated to Landshutl Germany to stabilize his condition prior to arriving at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. When service members are wounded in countries like Niger that aren't Department of Defense declared combat zones, benefits are limited. Since Brent’s clothing was recovered by the enemy during the engagement, Brent arrived at Walter Reed with no clothing of his own. We provided immediate assistance by sending a check for $1,000 to cover emergency travel incidentals for his wife and a GORUCK backpack filled with essential gear—the first he could call his own since arriving at Walter Reed. “I’d like to thank everyone for your donations,” Brent said. “You make me proud to be an American and fight for this great country of ours.”

EXTENDED SUPPORT

The long-term health of a Green Beret’s mind, body, spirit, and family are of the utmost importance to the Foundation. We supplement the care that Veterans Affairs (VA) provides to ensure total wellness for the individual and his family.

DEPLOY THE RIGHT RESOURCES While on serving in Afghanistan, MSG Alvaro Barrientos 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) was traumatically injured when he stepped on an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), which resulted in the amputation of his leg. The Foundation supported him as he surmounted challenge after challenge in his recovery. We helped with travel support so his family could be at his side. We upgraded his wheelchair to a more mobile model than the standard VA issue, which enabled Alvaro to retain mobility and independence. Alvaro then battled an infection and swelling that resulted from a follow-up surgery. The Foundation stepped in to cover the cost of the Game Ready® therapy system, an emerging approach to conquer swelling and phantom pain. “I use it nightly after spending all day in my prosthetic leg,” Alvaro said. “My kids were as excited as I was to use it!”

*In 2018, the Green Beret Foundation Board of Directors approved increasing the Casualty Support check from $1,000 to $2,500.
GREEN BERETS bring incredible passion and focus to their service. Their remote postings mean they often can’t access critical services to support their wellness. The casualties are real. The cost of deployment is high. When it comes time to return, Green Berets don’t want handouts. They want opportunities.
MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY SITUATION

FAMILY SUPPORT

A Green Beret’s family is his first and most important support. It’s critical that the Green Beret Foundation provides services to meet the entire family’s needs.

FORGE CONNECTIONS While serving with 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Afghanistan, Lindsey’s husband SFC Matthew Schiro was shot in the back. After a quick recovery overseas, Matthew was sent back to his team and continued the mission for another four long months. Lindsey felt isolated and was looking for a community she could lean on. After learning that Steel Mags members represented every phase of Special Forces life, Lindsey soon spearheaded its expansion to her home at the time, Eglin Air Force Base. Finding power in numbers, Steel Mags build each other up and extend a hand in times of need. Lindsey found her home with the sisterhood. “There’s always someone who knows what you’re going through. The guys have the brotherhood. The Steel Mags is our sisterhood,” she said.

PROGRAM INCLUDES:
• Steel Mags, a community that offers support and connection for wives, mothers, daughters, and sisters
• Gold Star Family support including advocacy and resources for life
• Travel, lodging, and adaptive equipment assistance for ill or injured dependents
• Educational scholarships for dependents of Green Berets
• Community building by bringing active duty and veteran Green Berets together

2017 INVESTMENT: $549,192
FAMILIES SERVED 2017: 281
SINCE INCEPTION: 994

TRANSITION SUPPORT

We know that a Green Beret’s transition out of the military is one of the most critical times in his life and that’s why we connect Green Berets with mentors, programs, and advocates needed to make his next move a success.

PREPARE FOR THE MISSION AHEAD Warrant Officer Lance Jordan left active duty ready to pursue a dream of becoming a professional golfer while still serving his country in the National Guard. He also connected with the Green Beret Foundation’s Next Ridgeline® program to explore future career options. After playing for three years on the eGolf tour, Lance’s interests merged at the Green Beret Classic golf tournament in Dallas. There, Lance golfed with corporate leaders, including the CEO of his future employer, Pioneer Natural Resources, where he now serves as a budget and planning analyst. “I am not the only Green Beret who has been assisted by the Next Ridgeline program,” Lance said. “I am grateful its resources were there for me.”

PROGRAM INCLUDES:
• Resource library
• Opportunity identification
• Introductions
• Networking
• Mentoring

2017 INVESTMENT: $146,335
GREEN BERETS SERVED 2017: 628
SINCE INCEPTION: 1,728
A STRONG TEAM

WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF THE LONGEST WAR WE HAVE EVER FOUGHT. Deployment frequency for our Green Berets is at an all-time high. Wounded men and their families will require long-term support.

Green Berets who first joined the Army in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks will soon reach 20 years of service. Many have reached the point of retirement from active duty. Those soldiers’ tours may be ending, but a new journey is just beginning.

At the same time, our teams stand ready on the Korean Peninsula, defend against Russian expansion in Europe, and counter Chinese influence across Asia—relentlessly defending our freedom while working to build more freedom for others. At this moment, 80 humanitarian and combat operations continue in 100+ countries.

At the Green Beret Foundation, we must match that pace. We must continue to ensure that our wounded receive the best care possible. We must establish ways for them to re-connect with their families. We must help them imagine what a post-service life can look like. We must continue to advocate for them at every turn so they receive every benefit and opportunity due to them.

The small, intrepid, and humble staff and board at the Green Beret Foundation answer the call every day to support Special Forces families in every way possible. We have not faltered. We will not falter.

We thank you for your support.

SIMEON G. TROMBITAS
Major General (Ret.)
Chairman of the Board of Directors,
Green Beret Foundation

MOMENTUM CONTINUES TO GROW EVERY YEAR. In 2017, we watched our investment in volunteer programs and regional chapters pay off.

Our dedicated and capable cadre of volunteers are on the front lines, helping us “force multiply” both our program and fundraising efforts while increasing staff travel efficiency. These non-paid staff members are vital to our success.

Our Ambassador program, made up mostly of Green Berets, more formally integrated with the Next Ridgeline™ and our regional chapters. This allows for Green Berets who have recently separated from the Army to connect directly with business leaders, mentors, and ultimately their new PURPOSE all while building THEIR legacy—the Green Beret Foundation.

Eight Steel Mag chapters have now been established throughout the nation with Germany and Japan in our sights for 2018. The powerful community fostered by the Steel Mags helps to ensure that all Special Forces soldiers and their families are aware of resources available to them. Further, they quickly discover that it’s OK to request assistance, advocacy, and access to opportunities. That’s why we exist.

Our Liaison Support (LNO) program is made up of active duty Green Berets located at each Special Forces Group. These volunteers act as the eyes and ears for the Foundation ensuring that each Special Forces Group understands GBF’s mission while ensuring that every legitimate gap a Special Forces community member experiences is brought to our attention. Leave no one behind.

Regional Forward Operating Boards (aka chapters) continue to be our strategic focus. We have formally established a chapter in Cincinnati, Ohio while continuing to develop Dallas, Denver, Houston, New York, New England, San Francisco, Tampa, and Washington, D.C.

With your continued support in the coming year, we will continue to build on this momentum. If every conflict across the globe ended tomorrow, GBF would still be needed to fill legitimate gaps in the Green Beret community. We will continue to answer the call of every Green Beret because of your generous contributions.

We thank you for your support.

JENNIFER PAQUETTE
Executive Director, Green Beret Foundation

greenberetfoundation.org
FINANCIALS

IN 2017 WE INVESTED IN the health and wellness of 1,037 Special Forces families. Since our founding, we've served more than 3,500 Green Beret families.

NET ASSETS: $2,058,803
FUNDRAISING EXPENSES: $133,337
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES: $130,249

2017 PROGRAM EXPENSES $1,172,073
- Casualty Support $75,442
- Extended Support $401,104
- Family Support $549,192
- Transition Support $146,335

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS SUPPORTED IN 2017* 1,037
- Casualty Support 24
- Extended Support 104
- Family Support 281
- Transition Support 628

*When the financial investment decreases from year to year yet the number of program recipients increases, this is an indicator that GBF was able to cost share with other organizations, was able to get the service or item donated to the Green Beret, or we negotiated discounts.

82% of every dollar invested in 2017 was in support of GBF’s programs and services.

RESOURCE FOR SUCCESS

WITH THE SUPPORT of donors, foundations, and corporations, the Green Beret Foundation continues to answer the call of our Green Beret community.

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PROGRAM & SERVICES EXPENSES AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL EXPENSES 89% 91% 89% 94% 86% 87% 82% 88%

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

STAND WITH US as we join our nation’s most elite soldiers as we prepare for the mission ahead.
EVERY DAY at the Green Beret Foundation, we honor our commitment to Green Berets past and present, as well as their families, by connecting them with the resources they need to succeed in the mission ahead to prosper and thrive.

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*Member of Special Forces

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Photos courtesy of USASOC News Service, army.mil, 7th Special Forces Group, and the U.S. Department of Defense