U.S. ARMY SPECIAL FORCES GREEN BERETS

18A Detachment Commander: Unconventional Warfare expert. Master planner responsible for advising and leading indigenous and joint forces.

180A Warrant Officer: Assistant detachment commander; second in command. Subject matter expert in unconventional warfare, operations and intelligence fusion, and planning and execution at all levels across the operational continuum.

18Z Operations Sergeant: Responsible for all operational aspects of the ODA and is the most experienced Green Beret on the detachment.

18F Intelligence Sergeant: Conventional and unconventional warfare tactics and techniques in intelligence collection and processing.


18C Engineer Sergeant: Expert in all aspects of demolition, construction, and target analysis.

18D Medical Sergeant: Trauma medicine specialist. Highly trained in clinical, dental, and veterinary care.

18E Communications Sergeant: Technical expert in all means of communication from encrypted satellite systems to field communications equipment.
Dear Green Beret Foundation Family,

As another year of service to the Green Beret community has drawn to a close, we reflect with deepest gratitude upon those whose support has made our efforts possible.

While our Green Berets and their families make substantial sacrifices in the name of freedom both in our homeland and internationally—upholding our core motto, “De Oppresso Liber,” to free the oppressed—they could not do it alone. They stand at the forefront of this mission, but there are countless others, such as yourselves who stand behind them and uphold a support network that enables their efforts. On behalf of these Green Berets operating in the shadows—our nation’s Quiet Professionals—I extend our sincerest thanks.

The mission presses onward, and our commitment remains stalwart and steadfast. In 2018, we invested 85 cents of every dollar into our programs and services, demonstrating that over 4,100 Special Forces families were provided the support they need. At the Green Beret Foundation, we are constantly seeking the next level of service to our Green Berets; in another notable achievement of 2018, we joined forces with the OASIS Group to help provide enhanced assistance with navigating the VA disability claim system. As always, we continue to raise the bar for ourselves, continually setting a new precedent for the level of service that we provide to Green Berets at all stages of their careers.

We thank you, once again, for your steadfast support.

Simeon G. Trombitas
Major General (Ret.)
In 2018, we invested $1,917,529 into the programs & services of 4,173 Special Forces families!

**Family Support:** $772,814
We provide support to the families of our Green Berets through scholarships, the Steel Mags Sisterhood, and resources for Gold Star and Surviving Families.

**Extended Support:** $659,912
We supplement Veterans Affairs care to ensure total wellness for the Green Beret & their families.

**Transition Support:** $369,946
We provide Green Berets transitioning to everyday life the tools and resources they need to be successful in their communities.

**Casualty Support:** $114,857
When one of our brothers is injured in the line of duty, we send him & his family a $2,500 check & essential gear for a temporary hospital stay.

85% of every dollar was invested into our programs and services.

We thank you for your continued support!
A LOOK AHEAD INTO THE FUTURE

The Green Beret Foundation is the premier Special Forces nonprofit organization supporting Green Berets and their families. As Executive Director, I am extremely honored to count myself among a dedicated group of service-minded individuals who recognize this sacred and necessary duty.

Due to the nature of their mission, Green Berets have carried a disproportionate share of wars for many years. Green Berets fight bravely in far off places, often outside the public eye, keeping the rest of us safe and out of harm’s way. During the past 17 years, they have continually deployed at extremely high rates to austere environments around the globe, continuing to suffer the highest casualty rates of any special operations unit – and they will likely continue to shoulder that burden for many years to come. The GBF is here to ease that burden, supporting their next endeavors and assisting in bridging critical gaps through our core programs. These programs are ever-evolving to meet the demands of our growing Special Forces community, and are a vital resource to Green Berets and their families.

In recent months, our team has been strengthened by the addition of new staff, board members, ambassadors, and Active Duty liaisons, while we have been realigning our collaborative partnerships to help us provide the best possible support for our Special Forces community. In the coming year, we will be taking deliberate action to expand upon our core pillars of service, increasing the service offerings within each program. As we do so, our focus will be on effectively communicating the mission of our organization. At the core of this message: our Green Berets are the tip of the spear and the first ones into battle – but they also suffer the highest casualty rates for these same reasons. Our efforts to support them are greatly needed.

As we charge forward into the coming year, I am humbled by the outpouring of love and enduring support for our selfless warriors. Because Green Berets pride themselves in being ‘Quiet Professionals,’ we must lend them our voices and advocate for them in a manner worthy of their diplomacy, tact, and sacrifice. The GBF understands the nature of this sacrifice, and it is our honor to serve them and provide them with the resources they need so that they can succeed in their next mission.

Sincerely,

Brent Cooper
Executive Director
Former Green Beret, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne)
As a matter of practice, we immediately provide assistance to critically wounded U.S. Army Special Forces Green Berets that have sustained wounds in combat all around the world. The Green Beret Foundation stands ready to provide assistance through our Casualty Support Program. Each wounded Green Beret, once medically evacuated out of harm’s way, receives a check for $2,500 to cover family expenses, along with a Special Forces grade durable and versatile GORUCK GR1 rucksack filled with essential gear. The goal is to help cover any inpatient needs, helping to manage what can become a very lengthy and challenging rehabilitation.

Through our Casualty Support Program, we provide:

- A check for $2,500.
- GORUCK rucksack filled with essentials to make a Green Beret’s hospital stay as comfortable as possible.
- Financial assistance for family travel, lodging, and incidentals.
- Financial support for family needs including child care, pet kenneling, and fuel cards.

“I spent the better part of two decades training to prepare myself and my team to be ready for anything. When I got injured in Afghanistan, my team executed as trained and got me out of there. But all that training didn't prepare me for what was next: the struggle within myself that was yet to come. When I arrived at Walter Reed, I was emotional. The guilt of leaving my team, the guilt I felt about my condition compared to others’, all with the added challenge of having only what was on my back when I was evacuated. I felt terrible, alone, and worried about an uncertain future. What I didn't realize was that my brothers and sisters at home had my back all along. They were waiting for me. I was met by a member of the SOCOM Care Coalition when I arrived in my room. He handed me a GORUCK pack full of clothes for my wife and me. He then handed me a check from the Green Beret Foundation, much needed as my wife had paid for transportation and food, giving us space to breathe as the military support caught up. Every time I reflect back, I am overcome with emotions of gratitude. When I needed someone the most, they were there. I can never say ‘thank you’ enough. Thank you for making my family and me a priority; thank you for being our godsend. I am in your debt.”

-Master Sgt. (Ret.) Sean Gifford
19th Special Forces Group (Airborne)
When SFC Richard Stayskal visited a civilian doctor in June 2017 to follow up with severe breathing issues that the Army had written off as “a simple case of pneumonia,” he received news that would change his life and that of his family forever. The Green Beret—who had earned a Purple Heart in Ramadi in 2004 when shot through the lung by a sniper—received a terminal cancer diagnosis, with a year left to live, from a condition that would have been treatable had it been detected earlier. While the Stayskal family grappled with this devastating news, entering into a medical malpractice lawsuit against the government, the Green Beret Foundation was there to provide them with necessary support. “From the moment they learned about my cancer, [the GBF] has been there every step of the way,” Stayskal says. “They helped take a huge burden off our shoulders when it felt like we had nowhere to turn, and they immediately got to work providing top notch support, assisting in any form or fashion needed to help.” This assistance, he says, “really allowed us to focus on my cancer and our family. The Green Beret Foundation has been instrumental in our ability to be where we are today, with professionalism that is above the highest in their field.”

Our Extended Support Program is projected to experience steady growth over the next year due to the deployment frequency of Green Berets being at an all time high. We can expect to continue to support those who are already in the pipeline, and based on the current geopolitical environment, the need will only continue to rise.

**Our Extended Support Program includes:**

- Financial support for alternative treatments and therapies not covered by the DOD or VA.
- Mental health and addiction treatment.
- Adaptive equipment and IDEO braces required for mobility and fitness.
- Treatment-related travel support for both Green Berets and their families.
- Support for service-related medical conditions (including cancer).
Sydney Howk, wife of SGM Luis Howk, began her battle against Stage IV Adrenal Cortical Carcinoma in January, 2018. While the family reeled from the news that she had only been given 6 months to live, medical expenses mounted so quickly that insurance couldn’t initially keep up with payment authorizations. Their savings depleted, the Howks had few options left when the Green Beret Foundation stepped in to provide assistance. “Essentially, the GBF did everything within their abilities to keep our family afloat during an incredibly financially and emotionally strained period of our lives,” says Luis. Providing fuel cards, hotel costs for travel, flying in family members to provide child care, and reimbursing medical equipment purchases faster than insurance ever could, the GBF was also able to ensure that Sydney could afford travel to Washington D.C. for her graduation from Georgetown University, the culmination of 9 years of education and training. “Because of the GBF’s support,” says Luis, “Sydney didn’t miss what was truly the opportunity of her lifetime. The GBF is an organization that mirrors the ethos and warrior spirit of the Green Berets for whom they exist to serve. Their selfless service to the Special Forces Regiment fills the unique gaps in support requirements that the Army and DoD cannot or do not provide. God Bless the Green Beret Foundation!”

A Green Beret’s family is his first and most important support, and so it is critical that the Green Beret Foundation provide advocacy and services to meet the entire family's needs. Our Family Support Program provides direct support for Special Forces families as they navigate the challenges of training, deployments, and life after the military. The spouses and children of Green Berets bear a heavy load, and often require additional support that is just not available by any other means.

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Our Family Support Program includes:

- Gold Star Family support.
- Child care assistance.
- Financial support for care and education of children with special needs.
- Healthcare support for spouses suffering from conditions not covered by the DOD/VA, including cancer.
- The DOL Scholarship Program, for children and dependents of Green Berets.
- The Steel Magnolias Sorority, providing a network of support for Green Beret spouses.
“On September 1, 2012, my life was turned upside down when I was notified by the U.S. Army about my son, Staff Sgt. Jeremie S. Border, being killed in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan while serving with 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne). He had dreamed of earning the coveted Green Beret since he was a little kid, and when he did earn it, I knew all too well the reality of what his job would be and where it would take him. Still, never would I have imagined that he wouldn’t come home. Not a day goes by that I don’t think about Jeremie—or “JBo,” as he’s affectionately called by his teammates—but it’s comforting to know that his legacy lives on in the work and support that the Green Beret Foundation provides not only to Gold Star and Surviving Families like myself, but to the entire Special Forces Regiment. My family and I are incredibly grateful for the love and unconventional support from the Foundation, and their continued efforts to keep us connected to Jeremie’s brothers and the Special Forces community. Six years after losing Jeremie, the connection we have with Special Forces makes us feel like Jeremie’s memory and sacrifice will not be forgotten.”

-Mary Border
Mother of Staff Sgt. Jeremie S. Border
1st Special Forces Group (Airborne)

Our most sacred duty at the Green Beret Foundation is to serve the families and loved ones of our fallen. Our community has suffered 60% of all Special Operations Forces casualties since September 11, 2001. For this reason, our Gold Star Support Program remains a critical focus of our mission. From the beginning, the Green Beret Foundation has been the premier organization addressing the specific needs of our community’s Gold Star Families. Throughout this process, we work diligently to foster a lifelong bond with our Gold Star families, honoring the legacy of our fallen Green Berets by standing beside their loved ones with our promise of steadfast support.

Our Gold Star Support Program includes:

- Payment of funeral costs not covered by the military (including unit memorials, funerals, travel/lodging, and moving expenses).
- Continuous engagement with families to identify gaps in resources.
- Specific support for Gold Star children in the form of therapies and activities.
The Steel Mags Program is an exclusive sisterhood established by the Green Beret Foundation with the goal of addressing the unique and critical needs of qualifying female family members of United States Army Special Forces soldiers. The group consists of Green Beret wives, sisters, mothers, and daughters who have faced challenges and adversity head-on while continuing to demonstrate the warrior ethos. Their combined efforts create a stronger Special Forces Regiment and, ultimately, a better America. Steel Mags serve to build each other up, force multiply their efforts to impact their local communities, extend a hand in times of need, and innovate in their focus of the care and devotion for their Green Berets and the Special Forces Community as a whole.

Our Steel Mags Sisterhood includes:

- Individual family strength and readiness. We believe that if focus is placed on family strength, families will experience stronger marriages, families, and in turn, stronger Green Berets.

- Strength within the Special Forces Regiment.

- Local community strength. We believe that serving others is a very big part of overall health for the entire family unit.

- Complement existing programs yet not duplicate resources and support such as Family Readiness Groups.

- Peer-to-peer mentorship.

- Financial assistance promoting resiliency to improve the performance of the mind, body, and spirit.

In 2018, Green Beret wife Yvonne Wood had an accident that left her with facial and leg lacerations so severe that she required an overnight hospital stay and almost 40 stitches. Just days later, her cousin was killed in the mass shooting at the Borderline Bar & Grill in Thousand Oaks, CA. “These two circumstances were absolutely devastating for me, and for our family,” she remembers. “But within hours, I had leaders from the Green Beret Foundation, as well as leaders and sisters within the Steel Mags, reaching out to me in support.” While Wood was in Hawaii, her Steel Mag sisters from around the country reached out and sent support, while the Green Beret Foundation staff covered all her travel to California for her cousin’s memorial. “Because of the GBF’s undoubted support for one of ‘their own,’ I was able to attend every memorial event with my family to honor my cousin. And their kind words, notes, and gifts in support of my struggle were such a blessing. I am eternally grateful. The GBF is a wonderful organization that truly cares for its GB families.”
We understand that the rising costs of higher education put a financial strain on Special Forces families. For this reason, the Green Beret Foundation provides three merit-based scholarships—the De Oppresso Liber (DOL) 1, 2, and 3—for the children and dependents of Green Berets.

Our Scholarship Support Program includes:

- **DOL1 Scholarship** awarded to the children and dependents of non-commissioned officers.
- **DOL2 Scholarship** awarded to the children and dependents of warrant officers.
- **DOL3 Scholarship** awarded to the children and dependents of commissioned officers.

When Green Beret daughter Keili Keoho needed to transfer universities in order to pursue her academic goals, she was faced with an unforeseen challenge: there were few to no academic scholarships available to her because she had already completed her Freshman year. Fortunately, when she was awarded the 2017 DOL2 Scholarship, new doors of opportunity opened to her that never would have been possible before. “Instead of having to pay out of pocket for school, thanks to the Green Beret Foundation, I was able to cover the balance of my tuition,” says Keili. “The blessing it provided me meant that I could indulge more in school. I joined organizations, held leadership positions on campus, and got involved, purely because I had the honor of having that financial burden lifted off of my shoulders. It also meant having more time on weekends to take off work and spend priceless time visiting with family. Above all, this scholarship helped me to recognize and appreciate the value of my education. This past May, I graduated Magna Cum Laude and have been able to move to an amazing city and pursue my dream career—all thanks to the wonderful support of the Green Beret Foundation.”
For many, separation from the military can also mean losing touch with the Special Forces community. The Green Beret Foundation’s Transition Support program is here to provide Green Berets with the networking opportunities and connections necessary to reintegrate with the Special Forces community within the civilian world. This was the experience of Anthony Aguiniga, former Green Beret with 7th SFG(A) and CEO of Woobies shoes, the first veteran owned and operated shoe company. “When I got out, the biggest obstacle that I had was finding my purpose,” says Aguiniga. “What was I going to do to fulfill my intrinsic motivational needs, my happiness, and also my output to the community around me? The GBF played an integral role in my transition by connecting me to like-minded Green Beret veterans and resources,” he says. Whether through introduction to other Green Beret entrepreneurs or attendance at GBF events, Aguiniga concludes, “the Green Beret Foundation has always been a vessel or platform for us to communicate and outreach each other.”

There is life after military service, but this critical life transition provides its own set of new and complex challenges. For this reason, the Green Beret Foundation works hard to ensure that every Green Beret has the necessary tools to live an empowered, full, and impactful life once their days of active duty military service have come to an end.

Our Transition Support Program provides:

- Expert assistance with the filing and updating of VA disability claims, a program bolstered even further in 2018 by our joining forces with the OASIS Group.
- A solid network of best-in-class partners, supporting career search and placement.
- Collaborative support with The Bennie Adkins Scholarship for Special Forces Soldiers on active duty, recently separated, or retired.
The importance of the OASIS program for the Green Beret community cannot be understated. When Master Sergeant (Ret.) Mike Clark retired in 2014 after 20 years in Special Forces, he had accumulated a number of injuries which had never been properly documented in his records. “I would use my Team Medics to treat me and keep me on various ODAs instead of going to sick call,” he recalls, “and though my attitude may have been noble, I was really setting myself up for failure in the future as far as my benefits were concerned.” Knowing that it is difficult if not impossible to obtain VA coverage for undocumented injuries, he turned to OASIS for help. “As I started trying to understand and prepare my medical records, I was confused about the process and the steps that needed to be taken. John Armezzani and Team OASIS were instrumental in helping break down the process for me, making it simple and helping me devise a step-by-step plan for my transition from military to civilian life.” The services provided by Team OASIS, he says, “are a godsend. They knew how to explain, make a plan of action, navigate, and execute said plan for squaring me away.” Today, Mike Clark is receiving all of the benefits that he rightfully earned. “The service that OASIS provides is necessary and critical for the Special Forces community,” he says. “I am thankful for what Team OASIS was able to do for me and my family.”

In late 2018, the Green Beret Foundation absorbed the formerly known OASIS Group, which provided the Special Operations community a comprehensive understanding of Veterans Affairs processes and systems to ensure fair and thorough evaluations pertaining to disability claims.

**Our OASIS Program provides pre- and post-9/11 Green Berets:**

- Expert assistance with the preparation and appealing of VA disability claims.
- Pre-transition briefings for Green Berets and their loved ones.
- Vocational rehabilitation support and opportunities.

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Since the Green Beret Foundation’s inception in 2009, we have invested over $12.5 million, or 87 cents of every dollar, into our programs and services in support of over 7,600 Special Forces families.
The Green Beret Foundation takes transparency and efficiency very seriously. Each year, we are independently audited by Randy Walker & Co.

Our key financials, including IRS filings, may be viewed on our website at www.GreenBeretFoundation.org, or upon request. We maintain the highest standards of integrity in order to ensure that our donors, partners, and supporters know exactly the manner in which their contributions are being used to support the Special Forces Regiment.

In 2018, the Green Beret Foundation invested 85 cents of every dollar donated into our programs and services directly supporting the Special Forces Regiment. All in all, we invested over $1.9 million in program support activities.

The Green Beret Foundation was awarded the 2018 Platinum Seal of Transparency by GuideStar, the highest level, and was recognized as a Better Business Bureau Accredited Charity as well as a 2018 Top-Rated GreatNonprofits Nonprofit.

Our volunteer Board of Directors is comprised of former U.S. Army Green Berets and executives. We have the great honor of having retired Major General Simeon Trombitas (Green Beret) as our Chairman of the Board. The Foundation executes our daily mission under the leadership and guidance of Brent Cooper (Green Beret) as Executive Director.

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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