



Welcome to the 1st issue of the TACP Bulletin for 2024!

Happy New Years and welcome to the 1st issue of the TACP Bulletin for 2024! We wanted to have a newsletter as a One-Stop shop with spotlights, Memorial & Honor, TACP-A/F assistance, resources/links, podcasts and any up coming events.

If you have any events or topics you want to be covered, please reach out to us via email to: support@tacpassociation.org

You can also reach out directly to one of our newest members of our team and Bulletin Editor **Ruben Salazar (Falcon 31)** via email or Facebook messenger: Ruben.SalazarJr1972@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/Ruben.SalazarJr1972>

REMEMBER THIS BULLETIN BELONGS TO YOU!

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Identity Crisis?

By: Ramiro Villalobos, HAWK 74
TACP-A President

If you follow me, you know that I'll be celebrating my first year officially out of the military and it's been a wild ride! Working remotely, building programs, trying to find my groove in my daily routine and really figuring out what I'm going to do when I grow up? Even moving from the mountains of Colorado Springs back to the red dirt clay and hardwoods of central North Carolina.

Along the way I found myself going back to a lot of the lesson's I learned through foundations like the Honor Foundation and Commit Foundation. Their approach emphasized getting to know yourself and really defining what is your identity? I'll describe it like this: What is your Azimuth in life? Where are you wanting to go and what do you want to do when you get there? Surely those who have donned the Coveted Black Beret know the value and importance having clear direction?

As I've officially taken this seat as your Association President, our team has taken a close look at the Association's own identity? What are our clear and defined roles and what actions are we taking to support our community, our donors, and how are we building partnerships with our fellow AFSW non-profits? Ultimately how are we professionalizing our organization so that when we go to any of the mentioned groups, we can definitively say, what we've done, what we are doing, and what we want to do. Now, like any volunteer organization, we are facing some challenges, but I know that those challenges are minimized when I see the talent that members of this community bring to our organization and that is what we need; YOUR TALENT. Your problem solving, your support, and ultimately your engagement with The Association. So check out our Association's identity statements below and then reach out to us with not just ideas, but ideas that you are willing to jump in and help us lead!

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to fortify and empower current and former Tactical Air Control Party operators and families through proactive welfare initiatives.

OUR VISION

The TACP Association is committed to empowering its community by fostering purpose, belonging, and resilience. We uphold an enduring bond, honor the fallen, and provide mutual support through life's challenges and triumphs.

Ramiro "V-Speed" Villalobos



TACP Association Annual Memorial Challenge



We are excited to announce positive changes and partnerships to improve your organization's fundraising experience this year. For starters, ASOS and our supporters are encouraged to seek out hosting 5ks, adventure races, or other fitness-based events. Of course, if you would like to execute a 24-hour run, you still can; we ask that there be sponsors for each mile/lap that you complete. When you register to host an event this year, we will send you a care package that will include this year's Commemorative flag (Details Below), 20 stickers, and a checklist to assist you in planning your event. We genuinely appreciate what you do, and this single event helps us support resilience-based programs, transition assistance initiatives, and countless immediate needs requests from the community.

Team Registration



DOPE LLC (DOPE Outdoor Packs) is excited to announce we have have joined forces with the Tactical Air Control Party Association (TACP-A) on this year's fundraiser!

How is DOPE LLC doing their part? Flag sale (as well as stickers and swag). It's like a bake sale, but with flags. Fly the flag when you run, ruck, walk, crawl, hike, rollerblade, or whatever during the challenge. Take it on your next outdoor adventure or hang it in your garage, gym, or office as a simple reminder of the impact you made for a Special Warfare Operator and his family.



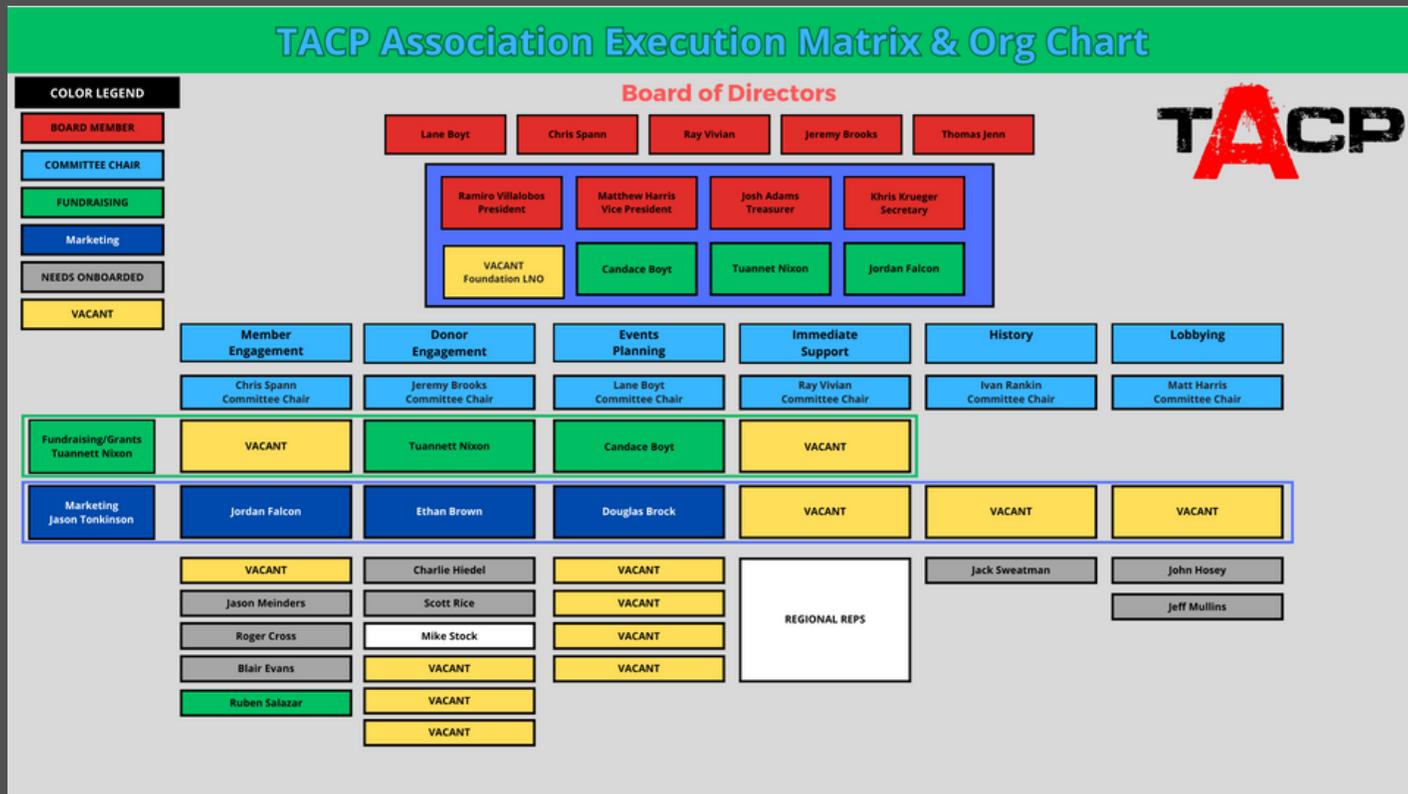
Order Your Flag Today!

Once the pre order ends, we will submit one massive order for the flags. Allow for 4 weeks for the order to process, printing, & shipping. Expect to receive your flag in April, just in time for the annual memorial challenge, which is in May.

We Need your Help!

Please volunteer to share the knowledge and be a part of TACP Association Team!

Email to submit your name and which position you are interested in to: support@tacpassociation.org



Regional Reps Committee Chair

Ray Vivian

North Central

David Jones

Steve Blackman

North West

Dave Devine

Central

Brandon Peterson

South West

Mike Lakin

Alaska

JD Welsh

Hawaii
John Hansen

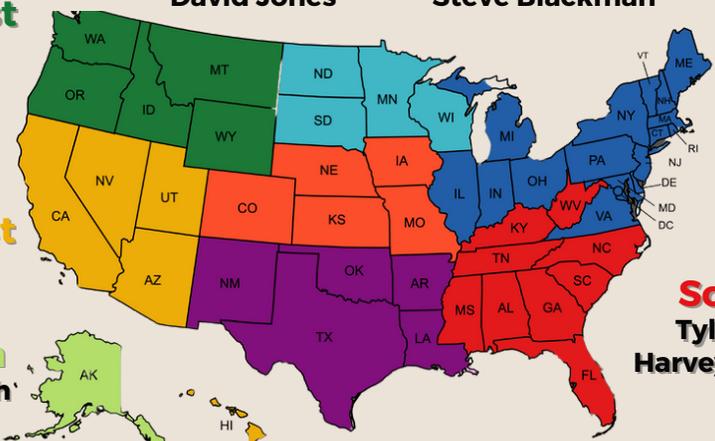
South Central

Jake Torwich (Beaker)

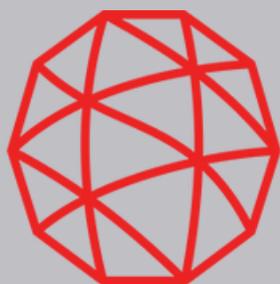
North East

Rick Ames
Jeremy Brooks

South East
Tyler Woodson
Harvey Wagonmaker



Sponsor Highlight



L3HARRIS



If you've ever keyed the mic you more than likely did it on a L3Harris radio. Their support doesn't end there, recently L3 Harris sponsored our upcoming commercial featuring the TACP Association. This commercial is set to debut early spring and will help share the TACP story with the world! Thank you L3 Harris!

TACP Bizz Highlight



ZERO Sugar
ZERO Carbs
ZERO EXCUSES!

Our goal is to provide a delicious, refreshing RTD with all the taste and

ZERO guilt.

Veteran Owned, American Made.
 Founded by veterans, ZEROES strives to provide the best tasting, premium refreshment as our way of continuing to serve America!



<https://drinkzeroes.com/>

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Memorial & Honor

Lon Hopson, Falcon 10

Lon Hopson, a Bronze Star recipient and veteran of the United States Air Force, fell asleep in his Savior on January 4, 2024 at Dayton VA Medical Center. The son of Patricia Rochelle and Richard Hopson.

Lon was born in Sherman, TX on March 16, 1965. He attended Bellevue West High School before joining the military in 1983. While serving his 26 years of military service, Lon obtained an undergraduate degree in Computer Information Systems and a master's degree in Acquisition and Contract Management from Bellevue University, Bellevue, NE. Following in the footsteps of his stepfather Freddie Rochelle Lon enlisted in the USAF at the age of 19 and served as an active member of the Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) for nearly 26 years. In 2009, he retired at the rank of Senior Master Sergeant. Lon was valued service member. A dedicated worker, a great friend and a family man.

Lon and Dee have established an Ohio 529 College Plan for their 13-year-old daughter, Alysha. If you would like to contribute, please use Ugift code: 63P-E14 at the following link. [Ugift](#)



Matt (Del) Delvecchio, Falcon 9

We were notified that Matt passed away of natural causes on 17 Dec 2023 at the age of 58 in Oklahoma City. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Lynette and daughter Lindsay as well as the rest of the Delvecchio family. The Delvecchio family has express their appreciation for all the support and the kind words people have shared about Del.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/matthew-delvecchio-obituary?pid=205923139>



Scott Root, Eagle 14

Scott left for the final rally point on 19 Dec 2023. Undisclosed Details.



TACP AUTHORS



Visual Friendlies, Tally Target Ethan Brown, Falcon 82

The untold heroic stories of air power and its foundational role in the war which dispels many public misconceptions about the use of airstrikes during the war.

With a new century and a new enemy came a new kind of war: low intensity and civilian-dominated, blending austere rural and dense urban environments alike. Into this new kind of war, the American military launched two invasions against terrorist networks and military rivals, relying on airpower—close air support (CAS)—at a scale never before seen in combat.

The Global War on Terror was the “CAS war.” Forward Air Controllers were on the front lines from the very first moments of the war, directing airstrikes against enemies in their safe havens, safeguarding friendly forces and civilians alike to their utmost, and achieving unprecedented success with limited resources. This volume captures the heroic accounts of the first Tactical Air Control Party (TACPs) in Afghanistan and Iraq, and how Close Air Support fundamentally reshaped the American war machine in the first five years of the War on Terror.

[Pre-Order Your Copy Today!](#)

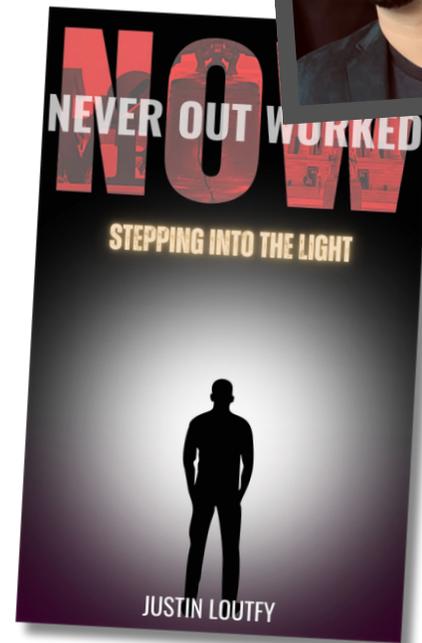
Never Out Worked Justin Loutfy, Raptor 18

In 'Never Outworked,' Justin Loutfy, a former special warfare military veteran turned author and business coach, shares his remarkable journey from humble beginnings to entrepreneurial success. This inspirational guide offers three core principles: forgiveness, unapologetic authenticity, and the relentless 'Never be outworked' mindset.

With unwavering determination, Justin navigates the ups and downs of business and personal growth, providing invaluable insights along the way. Whether you're an aspiring entrepreneur, in a transitional phase of life, or simply seeking holistic self-improvement, this book will empower you to tap into your limitless potential. Join Justin on a transformative journey, and step into the light of your own extraordinary accomplishments.

[Pre-Order Your Copy Today!](#)

<http://www.neverbeoutworked.com/>



SOUND OFF

Suicide Prevention Among our TACP Brothers and Family.

THE PROBLEM

17 VETERANS KILL THEMSELVES EVERYDAY; 47% OF VETERANS DEPLOYED TO IRAQ/AFGHANISTAN POST-9/11 WHO LIKELY SUFFER FROM PTSD OR MAJOR DEPRESSION DO NOT SEEK SUPPORT.



FOUR MAIN BARRIERS STAND IN THEIR WAY

01-Personal and Professional Stigma

43.6% of post 9/11 Veterans fear seeking mental health support will harm their career.

02-Lack of Trust in Doctors

45% believe their friends and family would be more helpful than a professional.

03-Bureaucracy

18 days-is the average wait time for treatment at a VA facility.

04-Geography

15 miles is the mean distance between Veterans and VA mental health services.

SOUND OFF-Supporting Those Who Served On Their Terms

SOUND-OFF APP

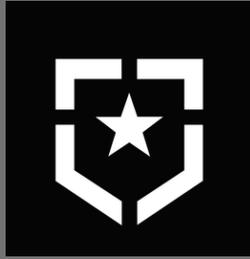
Ramiro Villalobos - Suicide Prevention on FB

Last year, there were tragic suicides among TACP members. It's important to keep in contact with each other throughout the year, and to reach out for help if needed. Programs like Sound-Off offer anonymous support and resources. Reach out to friends and ask how they're doing, and don't be afraid to dig in if needed. Let's help each other out.



SOF MISSIONS

Helping Heroes Find Freedom



OUR MISSION

To empower warriors to find purpose and be resilient.

OUR AIM

To reduce warrior suicide. We provide premier whole health programs to "at risk" veterans and first responders; changing lives and building strong families. To date we have a 100% success rate.

OUR METHOD

To address psychological, physical, spiritual, and social wellness. Care plans are provided through three main delivery methods: medical clinics, coordinated and collaborative care.



Watch for Free at
[SURRENDER ONLY TO ONE - MOVIE](https://thesurrendermovie.com/)
<https://thesurrendermovie.com/>



SOF Missions



FB-SOF Missions



START WITH YOU

Awesome Resource Links for transitioning or during any chapter of your life!

RETIREMENT & SEPARATION CHECKLIST

This transition checklist starts at the 4 year mark; however, it is best that you start as soon as possible.

TOOLS & KITS

Build your Kit so that you're ready to Operate in the Private Sector

MISSION PLANNING

You Decide what is Right for You

VA MEDICAL AND INSURANCE

Your one-stop location to help you navigate through military ETS/retirement

Schedule a 30 min meeting with Ramiro Villalobos (V-Speed)

Your mission is now to focus on you and your successful ETS/Retirement.

YOU Are The Mission!

We Exist to:

TACP

- Immediate Needs Requests
- Member Engagement
- AFSW TAP Program
- Annual Roundup-Reunion Events
- Assist in Resilience Events

We understand that life has uncertainties, and sometimes there is a need to seek extra assistance. The TACPA supports its members in times of adversity through our Immediate Needs Program.

Applications for support are considered on a case by case basis.

HOW TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE

1. Complete the Assistance Request Form
2. Make contact with your regional rep
3. The Association board reviews request
4. And just like JARN, you'll get a response back of supported or unsupported

If your need is urgent and cannot wait for a 24 hour response, please email support@tacpassociation.org & reach out to your regional rep.

THE TACP FOUNDATION IS A 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT SERVES THE TACP COMMUNITY BY MEMORIALIZING THE FALLEN, INSPIRING YOUNG TACPS AND PROVIDING EVERLASTING SUPPORT FOR THE FAMILIES THAT HAVE LOST A TACP DUE TO COMBAT OR TRAINING.



Memorial Program

The TACP Foundation Memorial Program is designed to honor Fallen TACPs within the community and their families. We memorialize these heroes by installing stone memorials at bases that house TACP units across the nation and by supporting memorial events that honor the fallen.

Gold-Star Support

The TACP Foundation provides long-lasting support to TACP families that have lost a loved one in combat, training or tragedy. We do this by financially supporting Gold Star children and providing forums for our families to reunite with the TACP community

Scholarship

The TACP Foundation scholarship program provides (4) four \$3,000 scholarships to TACPs, retired TACPs or children and spouses within the TACP community.

*Titles are hyperlinked

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Memorial & Honor

On this day, Jan 3rd, 2010, we lost
SrA Bradley Randall Smith,
He will Never Be Forgotten
KIA- Operation Enduring Freedom
Kandahar, Afghanistan
(11 Sep 85 - 3 Jan 10)



Bradley Randall Smith
DATE OF BIRTH: September 11, 1985
PLACE OF BIRTH:
Little Rock, Arkansas
HOME OF RECORD:
Troy, Illinois
AWARDS BY DATE OF ACTION:

Silver Star

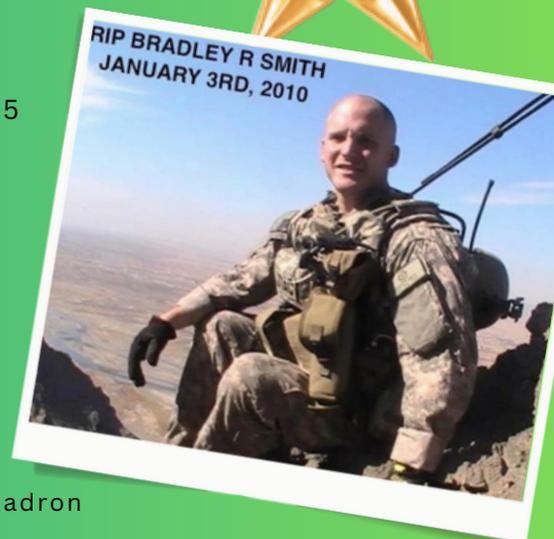
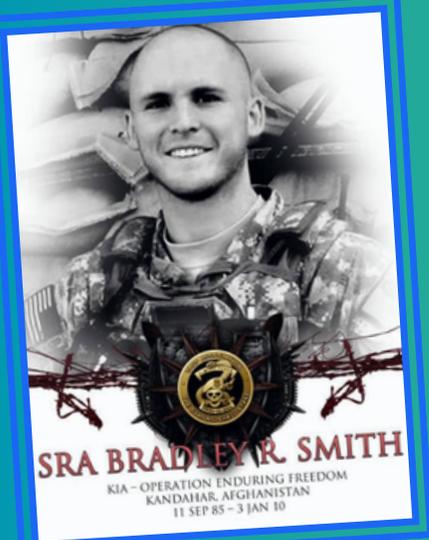
AWARDED FOR ACTIONS
DURING Global War on Terror
Service: Air Force

Battalion: 10th Air Support Operations Squadron

GENERAL ORDERS:

CITATION:

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pride in presenting the Silver Star (Posthumously) to Senior Airman Bradley R. Smith, United States Air Force, for gallantry in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United States while serving with the 10th Air Support Operations Squadron, in action near Badvan village, Afghanistan, on 3 January 2010. On that date, Airman Smith's platoon was ambushed by simultaneous mortar, improvised explosive device, and machine gun fire while on foot patrol, leaving a Soldier and Airman immobilized in an adjacent creek and a second Soldier missing. Airman Smith, returning fire, ran without hesitation through the lethal crossfire into the creek to save his comrades. Still exposed to enemy fire, and without regard for his personal safety, he rescued the disoriented and blinded Airman from the water and recovered the mortally wounded Soldier. Airman Smith then administered rapid first aid to his fellow Airman's head and eyes. After stabilizing the wounded, Airman Smith continued returning fire and coordinated close air support. He controlled three formations of Kiowa attack helicopters, expending all available munitions on surrounding enemy positions. Airman Smith did not hesitate to act upon hearing of the still-missing Soldier's location. He volunteered to proceed 200 meters into the village to recover the Soldier, knowingly exposing himself to continued enemy fire for a second time while disregarding the dangers of the ongoing firefight and the risk, consequences, and threat of further improvised explosive devices as explained by the platoon leader. Determined not to leave a fallen comrade behind, he retrieved the dismembered Soldier and maneuvered toward the casualty collection point. A second improvised explosive device detonated as he approached the collection point, killing him instantly. By his gallantry and devotion to duty in the dedication of his service to his country, Airman Smith has reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force. <https://valor.militarytimes.com/hero/54169>



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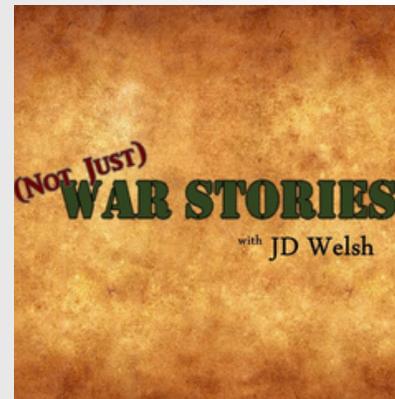
TACP Podcasts on Spotify

(Not Just) WAR STORIES with JD Welsh- Podcast Episode

About

JD Welsh sits down with extraordinary individuals who most people don't know, but should, and listen to them tell amazing stories about war, and other things.

These are (Not Just) War Stories.



Facebook-Not Just War Stories with JD Welsh

Instagram-Just Not War Stories with JD Welsh

YouTube-(Not Just) War Stories

TACP RoundUp Podcast



Trent attended the 2023 TACP Association yearly event, the RoundUp, and talked to as many folks as possible about all the good things happening in the TACP world.

TACP RoundUp: Empowering Air Force Special Warfare Veterans w/ V-Speed

TACP RoundUp: Active Duty to Guard w/ TACP Veteran Jay Kearney

TACP RoundUp: Journey of Resilience - TACP Community Unites & Thrives with Tommy Case

TACP RoundUp: Strength in Brotherhood with Kathy Case

TACP RoundUp: From SERE Training to Global Adventures with Jason Tonkinson

TACP RoundUp: Legacies of Valor - TACP Experience with Jeff Mullins

TACP RoundUp: A Trip Down TACP Memory Lane w/ Historian Ivan Rankin

TACP RoundUp: Resilience, Reorganization, and Realities w/ Peyton Knipple

TACP RoundUp: Building the Foundation of TACP - A Journey from the Past with JP Hosey

TACP RoundUp: Journeys and Joys with Jamie Wiesner

TACP RoundUp: Shaping the Future w/ Veteran TACP Chris Deaver

TACP LED NON-PROFIT

Surf Therapy For Veterans By Veterans

Kevin Laliberte | Hawk 42

Their mission is to increase resilience across the veteran population through surf therapy and community building. Surf therapy combines the physical activity of surfing with structured group activities to help promote physical, psychological, and social well-being with clinically proven improvements in social skills, relationships, emotional regulation, and problem-solving.



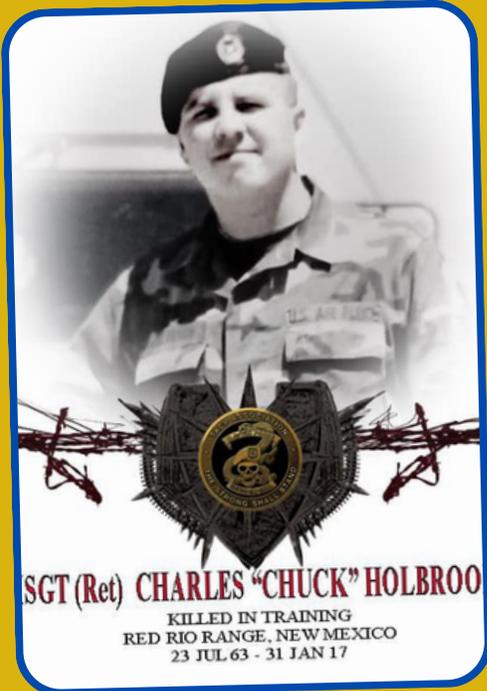
- Surf Brigade is a multi-week program that runs twice a year (Spring and Fall), headquartered in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida.
- Military veterans apply to participate anytime by contacting Surf Brigade through the website or social media.
- During the program, veterans are assigned a battle buddy, whom they will surf with, and are accountable to between sessions.
- Once a week, the team meets on the beach, where veteran cadre members and experts facilitate guided discussions on the top three challenges veterans navigate: Purpose, Narrative, and Community.
- Each guided discussion is followed by surf instruction and a therapeutic surf session as a team. All surf equipment is provided by the program.
- There is no cost to veterans, only an expectation they complete the entire program, remain in close contact with their battle buddies, and keep navigating challenges as a community.



www.surfbrigade.org

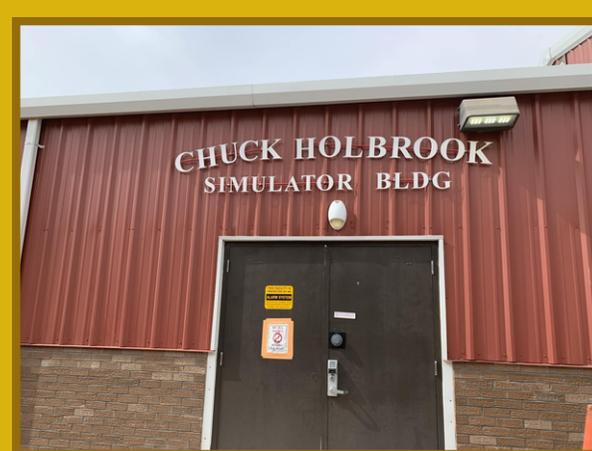
IG- <https://www.instagram.com/surfbrigadeofficial> FB- <https://www.facebook.com/surfbrigadeofficial>

Memorial and Honor On this Day, 31 Jan 2017



Today marks the 7 year Anniversary of MSgt (Ret) Charles "Chuck" Holbrook being killed during an unfortunate training mishap at Red Rio Bombing Range in New Mexico. On Jan 31, 2016, Chuck was demonstrating capabilities of new night operations equipment while working with TACPs from the 7th ASOS, 124th ASOS, as well as some Dutch TACPs. On that evening they were controlling F16s with Instructor Pilots in upgrade from Holloman AFB when the tragedy happened.

Chuck was an amazing man who dedicated his life to serving his country! He served 24 years in the Air Force, 20 of that was as a TACP and once he retired he continued serving another 12 years as a Contractor in the business of working to make our jobs easier in the TACP/JTAC Community as well as other Operators. Chuck was one of my first mentors back at Fort Irwin in 94-97 when I was a knucklehead airman and needed some guidance or a swift kick in the rear. He left a lasting impact on me and was a true brother and friend that I miss every day! He left behind his wife Belen and daughter Alyssa. Love and hugs to you both and your entire family from Shannon and I and the entire TACP Community!! "Eric Ivan Rankin, CMSGT(R)"



Resources and Support Links

Mental Health Resources:

[Sound-Off- Supporting those who served on there terms](#)

[Veteran Crisisline](#)

[Veteran Affairs Mental Health](#)

[Steven A Cohen Military Clinic](#)

[Hope for the Veterans](#)

[Vet Centers \(Readjustment](#)

[Counseling](#)

TACP Links:

[ROMAD LOCATOR](#) (Add or look up your flight # and pics!)

[TACP Association](#)

[TACP Foundation](#)

[AFSW TRANSITIONS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM \(TAP\)](#)

[24 Hr TACP Challenge](#)

[Lightning Challenge](#)

[Facebook TACP Association page](#)

Veteran Outreach Resources:

[Wounded Warrior Project \(WWP\)](#)

[Team Red White Blue](#)

[Warhorsesforveterans](#)

[Guitars4Vets](#)

[VetTix](#)

[Team Rubicon](#)

[Heroes on the Water](#)

[Veterans Of Foreign Wars \(VFW\)](#)

[The American Legion](#)

[Disabled American Veterans](#)

**LIKE WHAT YOU SEE?
WE NEED YOUR
SUPPORT!**



DONATE TODAY!

[Register for VA Benefits and Healthcare](#)

Great Buys!

[TACP Facebook Store](#) or

[TACP Offical Store](#)

[Kinetic Carving Official](#)

[TACP Items on Etsy](#)

[Tactical Air Control Party \(TACP\)](#)

[American 3D Wavy Flag](#)