

PROGRAMS

GOLD STAR FAMILY BENEFITS

SOFund Scholarship [1992]

College/graduate/technical/trade school tuition assistance for children and/or spouse (includes study abroad).

Rick Woolard Scholarship [2002]

Memorial scholarship (\$15,000) may be used at the discretion of the surviving parents in a way they feel celebrates and commemorates their child's life.

Preschool Scholarship [2018]

Provides preschool tuition assistance. (Amount varies)

SPECIAL FAMILY SERVICES

Learning Ability Testing [2017]

Financial assistance offered to families of Active Duty at the local unit after being referred for testing by their medical facility.

MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Scowcroft Scholar [2011]

Tuition assistance (up to \$10,000 a year x 4) for graduating high school seniors of current and veteran unit members entering college the following fall. 500-word essay, 3.5 GPA required, plus minimum 3.0 GPA the next three years.

Phillips Exeter Academy Summer School, Exeter, New Hampshire [2012]

5-week summer school (early July into mid August) tuition (\$10,000) plus travel stipend for high school sophomores or juniors (Gold Star, current, and veteran unit member families), 3.0 GPA required.

David C. Miller, Jr. Fellowship [2016]

Financial assistance for college graduate to study, work or participate in charitable activity (up to \$20,000, limited to 2 years) for students of KIA/KIT/LOD/Suicide/MOH, current, and veteran unit members. Interest should focus on service. 500-word project proposal and 3.2 GPA required.

David C. Miller, Jr. Scholar [2018]

Tuition assistance (\$5,000) for college students of current and veteran unit members for summer abroad to study, work, or participate in a charitable activity. Interest should focus on a career in public service. 250-word essay and 3.2 GPA required.

VOTECH Scholar [2019]

Tuition assistance (up to \$5,000 a year x 2) for students of current and veteran unit members attending community college, trade, or technical school. One page on why specific career field was chosen and 2.5 GPA required.

Red Hat Shelton Challenge [2022]

The Red Hat Shelton Challenge at NC State University is a residential program to help high school students enhance their leadership capabilities to become value-based leaders.

These educational assistance programs are only possible because of the loyal and generous friends of the Special Operations Fund. Our Board of Directors has traditionally paid all non-program expenses which ensures all other donations go directly for the support of the families.



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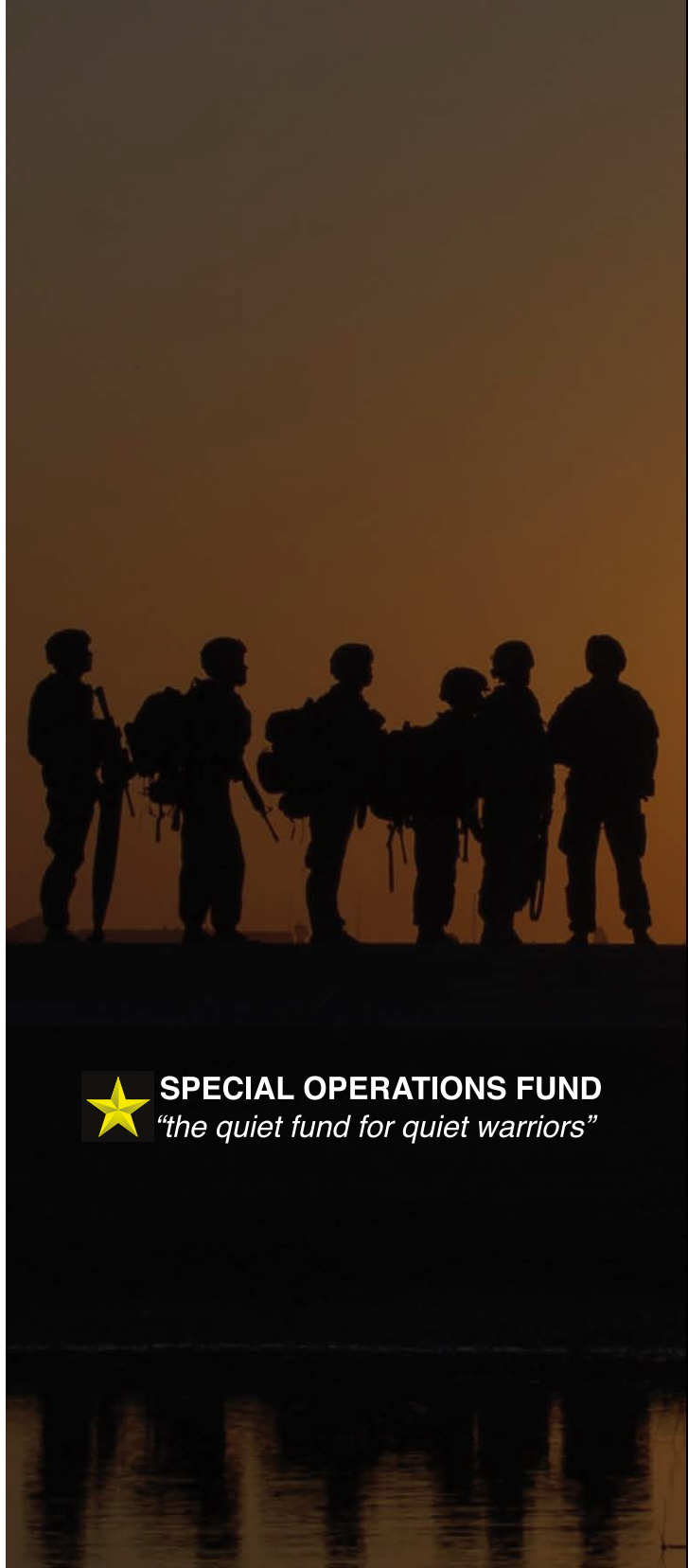
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SPECIAL OPERATIONS FUND

"the quiet fund for quiet warriors"

SPECIALOPERATIONSFUND.ORG

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TAX I.D. NUMBER 52-1765222 THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS FUND IS A 501(C)(3) TAX-EXEMPT, NATIONAL NONPROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION. IRS FORM 990 IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

MISSION





The Special Operations Fund's primary mission is to provide financial support for higher education to family members of personnel who have been killed in action, training, line of duty, suicide, or received the Medal of Honor while serving with six Special Mission Units (SMU) of the Joint Special Operations Command.

"Their foremost request is for someone to watch over their families if they don't come back alive."

— ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNIT COMMANDER

Although other scholarship funds exist, this is the only fund dedicated exclusively to the families of six specific special mission units in the Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force.

More than just a scholarship fund, the Special Operations Fund also provides vital support in these key areas:

-  **Matches scholarships awarded by special operations units.**
-  **Mentors scholarship recipients through active and continuous involvement in their lives.**
-  **Assists severely wounded personnel with unexpected expenses resulting from their injuries.**
-  **Extends emergency financial support to members of this community.**

"Our professional troops can concentrate on their day-to-day duties knowing that as they go in harm's way, should anything happen to them, their families will be taken care of by the Special Operations Fund."

— FOUR STAR AIR FORCE GENERAL

SMUs covered by the Special Operations Fund are specific Navy SEALs, Air Force, Army Rangers, Army Aviators, and Army special operators who conduct special missions.

All are part of the United States Special Operations Command (SOCOM), which was created in the aftermath of Desert One and Grenada to ensure that the United States has the finest possible joint special operations capability.

Units are small and close-knit, and personnel often are involved in highly sensitive operations directly affecting national security. Their missions include global counter-terrorism, unconventional warfare, psychological operations, and counter-narcotics.

QUIET WARRIORS

Because of the sensitive nature of the missions conducted by Special Mission Units, the Special Operations Fund also maintains a low profile in its operations - it is "the quiet fund for quiet warriors."

"I am very proud of my father and the other men in the unit who keep us safe. Thank you for making what he did for us— giving his life — so meaningful. Thank you for helping me with school. It is truly a blessing."

— HEATHER



"No one in my entire life has been there for me and been as understanding, forgiving, encouraging and motivational as the SOFund has been to me. All in all you guys have again and again gone above and beyond for me. Having the degree opens so many doors for so many different career choices and paths, because it's almost impossible to support oneself, much less a family, on a minimum wage salary. I won't have to perform heavy duty manual labor anymore either just to earn decent wages. The quality of my life will be increased and forever changed."

— CHRISTINE

SCOPE

The Special Operations Fund is one of the first organizations called upon by casualty assistance officers when a warrior dies. The only qualification for assistance is the highest one of all — a parent or spouse killed in action, training, line of duty, suicide, or receives the Medal of Honor.

Since its inception in 1992, the Special Operations Fund has disbursed over \$18 million in scholarships which have allowed the survivors of fallen warriors to attain debt-free higher education and other assistance.

Since 2001, ongoing deployments around the world have resulted in dramatic increases in the number of eligible recipients. War is never over for the quiet warriors, and unfortunately, more families will require support from the Fund over the coming decades.

- Since 2004 the Fund has provided grants for merit-based scholarships awarded by the Unit Scholarship Fund, Fort Liberty, NC; the Night Stalker Foundation, Fort Campbell, KY; the Rangers Scholarship Fund, Fort Moore, GA; the Navy SEAL Foundation, Virginia Beach, VA; The Association (USAF), Fort Liberty, NC, and Vigilant Torch Foundation.

- In 2011, the Scowcroft Scholarship was started to provide \$10,000 a year for four years to winners of a competitive application process. Our scholars are enrolled or have attended institutions such as Duke, Yale, Vassar, Harvard, Brown, UNC-Chapel Hill, Vanderbilt, Georgetown, William and Mary, Notre Dame, Appalachian State, and Wellesley.

- In 2012 a partnership was started with Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, NH, by identifying military dependents eligible for their summer school program.



"I loved my time at Exeter! It's one of the best summers I've ever had, and I honestly didn't want to leave! I made great friendships and learned so much from both my peers and teachers. I feel that I gained a lot from their method of teaching... the Harkness Method took some getting used to, but it challenged me, and I found myself enjoying it. Exeter helped open up a different world for me, and I would love to go to an Ivy League school now. I'm not sure what I want to major in, but I'm considering business, medicine, or some major with a focus on international relations."

— ABBY

- In 2015 the Fund launched the David C. Miller, Jr. Fellowship, which provides college graduates \$20,000 for up-to-two years, to study, work, or participate in charitable activities abroad. Fellows have served in Nepal working on a clean-water project; studied at the Sorbonne - Paris in the UAE; and volunteered with a medical team in Zambia.

- In 2017 the Miller Scholar was established. This \$5,000 is awarded to a college student for a summer internship or study aboard.

- In 2017 the Special Operations Fund partnered with a local military unit to provide learning ability testing if not covered by the TRICARE medical insurance.

- In 2018, the Fund began providing tuition assistance for preschool programs. This need was brought to our attention after the death of a warrior who left behind a family with a 3 year old, an 18 month old, and the widow was 7-months pregnant.