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Brigadier General Heidi Hoyle to Speak at Annual EOD Warrior Foundation Ball As an Active Duty EOD Warrior herself, Hoyle's speech at this year's EOD Ball is sure to really hit home

NICEVILLE, FLORIDA— (March 4, 2020) — Brigadier General Heidi Hoyle will be the keynote speaker at the 52nd annual EOD Ball being held at the Emerald Coast Convention Center on May 2, 2020. The joint service Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) community holds the ball annually to celebrate life and commemorate those EOD warriors who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. The Emerald Coast Convention Center is located at 1250 Miracle Strip Parkway SE, in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. Tickets to the ball are \$85 each and can be purchased online at http://weblink.donorperfect.com/EODBall2020.

"Our annual Ball is a night to remember those EOD warriors who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, and to honor their families," explains Nicole Motsek, Executive Director of the EOD Warrior Foundation. "I am incredibly excited to have General Hoyle as the Keynote Speaker for this year's event. She is an incredible leader who knows this community well and is deeply respected for her commitment to EOD Warriors and their families, and to serving this great nation."

General Hoyle is herself an EOD Badge wearer and is a combat-decorated U.S. Soldier who was commissioned as an Ordnance Officer after her graduation from the United States Military Academy. Hoyle has held leadership positions at regiment, company, battalion, brigade and logistics command levels, as well as an instructor and associate professor at USMA, and is currently serving as the 41st Chief of Ordnance and commandant of the Army Ordnance School at Ft. Lee, VA.

"I am proud to have the opportunity at this year's Ball, to represent over 6,000 of our EOD professionals as we commemorate the tremendous sacrifice of those gone before us. There is no place I'd rather be," General Hoyle said."

The EOD Ball on Saturday night will culminate the week's events which includes the EOD Memorial Ceremony held earlier that day at NAVSCOLEOD, Range Rd, Niceville Eglin AFB property. Other events include a golf tournament Friday morning at Shalimar Pointe Golf Course and a live Auction on Friday evening also at the Convention Center, and a Crawfish Boil Saturday mid-day in the parking lot adjacent to the Win. The EOD Ball will host around 1,000 people for an evening of speeches, tradition and dancing.

The EOD Warrior Foundation is a nonprofit organization that helps military EOD personnel and veterans and their families. EOD technicians perform the most dangerous job in the military, as they disarm explosive devices on the battlefields and the home-front. Many EOD personnel come home with debilitating injuries, including lost limbs, blindness, paralysis, traumatic brain injuries (TBI), burns, and invisible wounds of war like post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

For more information or to purchase tickets to the 52nd Annual Ball, visit the website at: www.eodwarriorfoundation.org/events/

About EOD Warrior Foundation

The EOD Warrior Foundation is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for the EOD family by providing educational, financial and emotional support. EOD stands for Explosive Ordnance Disposal, the disarming and disposal of bombs. EOD technicians are highly-trained military members serving in the Army, Marines, Navy and Air Force who are responsible for disarming, rendering safe and disposing bombs. The EOD profession is one of the most dangerous occupations in the military.

On average there are over 6,000 brave men and women serving as EOD technicians who willingly put themselves in harms ways to protect the lives and property of others. Their service includes support to the most complex special operations missions. Additionally, there are over 20,000 Veteran EOD warriors who still face challenges after their separation from the military. The Foundation is proud to assist with Disarming Challenges for EOD Warriors and their families by offering them financial relief, hope

and wellness retreats, college scholarships, and the care of the EOD Memorial Wall, located at Eglin AFB, FL. To learn more about the EOD Warrior Foundation, or see their fundraising events calendar, visit: <u>EOD Warrior Foundation</u>

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