The Air Force MasterBlaster’s Association has generously donated the use of their space to the EOD Warrior Foundation, allowing us to operate out of their building entirely rent-free. This act of generosity will significantly reduce our operating costs, which will allow us to better support the needs of the EOD Community. We are so very thankful to Air Force MasterBlaster’s for their decision, and we are so excited to be in our new space! We’d like to offer additional thanks to Advantage Portable Buildings for their generous donation of a much-needed shed, First Nation Group for their financial assistance, and members of the Eglin EOD Flight for lending their muscle during the move! Our new address is:

716 Crestview Ave
Niceville, FL 32578

We've Moved!

Upcoming Events

July
7/3-7/4: Rowing for Warriors Half Marathon
7/25: 4th Annual EOD Pistol Match & Firearm Raffle

August
8/2: 2020 EOD 5K, 10K, & 1M with Bishop’s Events
8/15: 2020 Carderock Charge 5K, 10K, and Half Marathon with Bishop’s Events
8/28: TSgt Adam Ginett Memorial Golf Tournament

September
9/5: Virginia Beach Ride- EOD Dedication Cycling Series

October
10/1: EOD 136 Memorial Workout
10/10: 2020 5K Through Dusky Tuscany with Bishop’s Events
10/17: Las Vegas Ride- EOD Dedication Cycling Series
Our Heartfelt Thanks

We offer our heartfelt gratitude to the entire EOD Community for your participation and support in all virtual events held over the last three months. As health concerns due to COVID-19 grew, it became increasingly clear that the events of the EOD Memorial Weekend and other seasonal fundraisers would not unfold as they traditionally do. Events like the Bomb Suit Run and Family 5K were transitioned to a virtual status, but the EOD Community adapted to these changes with ease!

When the EOD Warrior Foundation made the difficult decision to cancel the events of the EOD Memorial Weekend and move to an entirely virtual platform, upholding the sanctity of the weekend and honoring our Fallen was our utmost priority. We were unsure how the EOD Community would respond to an online auction and virtual toast, but felt it was important to provide the opportunity for Technicians and their families to come together as they normally would. The response from the Community was nothing short of remarkable! We thank all those who participated in the online auction and virtual toast, and those who tuned in to watch the Memorial Ceremony take place on May 2nd. We have been blown away by the support of this community during these last several months. From the various 5K's that became virtual events to the EOD Weekend itself, the EOD Community proved that nothing would prevent them from adapting, overcoming, and participating—and for that, we thank you!

Scholarship Program

Providing the EOD Community with a robust scholarship program is one of our honor, and this year we awarded 131 scholarships to the children, grandchildren, and spouses of EOD Warriors! Over the next few months, we will be sending a total of $234,000 to various colleges and university’s throughout the country, doing our part to support their education and future.

Every year, the EODWF Scholarship Program opens the second week of November and closes the last week of February. Applications undergo a rigorous review process, and deserving applicants are selected to receive a scholarship between $1,000-$4,000. We offer our heartfelt congratulations to the selected applicants!

2020 Retreats

Thank you for your patience as we navigate through all of the changes with retreat programming for 2020. The safety of our participants and staff is a priority and we are working together with our retreat partners to do our best to serve the EOD family. If you are interested in any of the retreats; please contact Sherri Beck at sherri@eodwarriorfoundation.org

August 14-17: EOD Couples Retreat for Gold Star Parents
September 11-17: EOD Male Warrior PATHH
September 10-13: Wake for Warriors, Gold Star Families
October 15-19: EOD Gold Star Spouse Retreat
On June 1st, after 16 years of philanthropic service, Ken Falke retired as Board Chairman of the EOD Warrior Foundation. Ken was a primary leader in merging the EOD Memorial Foundation and Wounded EOD Warrior Foundation in March 2013, and has helped raise over $11 million for the EOD Community since 2004. We are grateful for all he has done for the EOD Warrior Foundation and our EOD Technicians and their families, and we wish him all the best!

The new Board Chairman is retired USAF EOD Technician and longtime supporter of the Foundation, Greg K. Mittelman. Greg is a former USAF Commander at NAVSCOLEOD, and was a key team member in the transition and opening of the school at Eglin AFB. Greg would like to share the following message:

“I am humbled and proud in continuing to serve the EOD Warrior Foundation and our EOD community as Chairman. We are extremely grateful for Ken Falke’s generosity, his leadership, and for establishing the strategic vision that has gotten us to where we are today. The strength of the EODWF lies within the EOD community and our partners; and, I promise them we will continue to serve the community’s needs with compassion, accountability, transparency, and responsibility.”

We extend our warmest welcome to Greg and look forward to working under his guidance and leadership for years to come!

A Wellness Practice
Transcendental Meditation is a calming, self-regulating practice that allows the body and mind to reset and rest. In many cases, it serves as rejuvenation and lightens tension and stress. There are a variety of meditative practices available and finding one that suits your needs is always recommended. We are highlighting Transcendental Meditation (TM) as one option for your consideration.

The EOD Warrior Foundation has partnered with the David Lynch Foundation to provide five scholarships at no cost to EOD Techs (active, retired or veteran), EOD Spouses or EOD Gold Star Family Members. We encourage you to take the time to learn more about this practice at www.tm.org. If the information sparks your interest, email Sherri Beck at sherri@eodwarriorfoundation.org to apply!
It will come as no surprise to those in the EOD Community that Technicians are at a high risk for blast exposures and emotional stressors which can result in multiple and complex health concerns. Because of this, researchers have taken an interest in evaluating the experiences unique to EOD operators to better understand how these experiences impact the brain and body.

The EOD Warrior Program, led by neuropsychologist Dr. Ryan Brewster, is part of the War Related Illness & Injury Study Center (WRIISC) of the VA in Washington D.C. The goal of this program is to provide EOD Veterans and their healthcare teams with new insights and information regarding what may be causing or exacerbating their health issues. Of course, to do this, they need volunteers to participate!

To qualify to participate in this study, one must be an EOD Veteran with at least a 30% service-connected disability rating. Airfare and lodging will be provided at no expense to the participant.

To learn more about how to participate in this study, head to https://www.washingtondc.va.gov. Participation in entirely voluntary, and will have a direct and positive impact in the EOD Community.

A Special Thank You

Spouse Clubs & Spouse Associations serve a vital and much needed role in the military community and with our EOD Families. They serve as a place of connection, support, and are generous in their donations to the community! Like all nonprofits, Spouse Clubs have been hit hard by the COVID virus. A big thank you to the following groups and their members for their generous support this year, despite the challenges:

Association of Bragg Officers’ Spouses
Barksdale Officers Spouses Club
Belvoir Officers Spouses Club
Cherry Point Spouse Club
Community Spouses’ Club of Fort Benning
Davis-Monthan Officers’ Spouses’ Club
Fort Campbell Spouses Club
Fort Knox Spouses and Community Club
Fort Riley Spouses Club
Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Spouses Club
Kirtland Spouses Club

Lewis Community Spouses Club
Luke Spouses’ Club
Military Spouses’ Association- 29 Palms
Mountain Home Air Force Base Officers’ Spouses’ Club
Mountain Post Spouses Club
Robins AFB Officers’ Spouses’ Club
Scott Spouses’ Club
Seymour Johnson Spouse Club
Wright-Patterson Officers’ Spouses’ Club
Giving for Tomorrow

EOD has been part of your life for years and EODWF is there for you and your family every step of the way. From support to new graduates and their families to scholarships for the grandchildren of Vietnam-era EOD Techs and everything in between, we fully embrace the belief that the EOD Community is for life. We are here for you and are grateful that you are here for us!

Ensure your legacy and support to the EODWF and EOD Community continues by including EODWF in your Will or living trust. For more information, please contact Patricia Adelmann, Development Officer, at 770.655.4028 or patricia@eodwarriorfoundation.org, or speak with your financial or legal advisor. The process is simple, quick, and completely confidential.

Tax Tip: SECURE Act

On January 1, 2020 the SECURE Act (Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement) went into effect. The SECURE Act increased the age at which you have to begin taking required minimum distributions (RMDs) to 72. However, it preserved the ability to make qualified charitable distributions at 70 ½. You can give up to $100,000.00 per year from your IRA directly to a charity without having to include that money in your income. As always, check with your personal tax advisor for the details and advice on your specific situation.

Help Us Help You!

We are continuously striving to meet the needs of the EOD Community, and we are looking to expand the services we provide! Your feedback and ideas will allow us to better identify and meet these needs, so we are asking you to please take a moment to complete a short Community Needs Assessment. As thanks for your feedback, you will have the option to be entered into a raffle to win an EODWF Swag Bag! If you are interested in participating, please email Caroline Miller at caroline@eodwarriorfoundation.org. Thank you!