

The background of the image is a large, semi-transparent seal of the United States Special Operations Command. The seal features a central torch with a flame, surrounded by a rope-like border. The text "UNITED STATES" is at the top, "SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND" is at the bottom, and "WARRIOR CARE PROGRAM" is in the middle. There are also stars on the sides.

United States Special Operations Command

Warrior Care Program  
Care Coalition

2024

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



<b>Conference Agenda.....</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>Lieutenant General Sean M. Farrell, Deputy Commander, USSOCOM Biography...</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>Patriot Award Winner Biography .....</b>	<b>Page 8</b>
<b>Director, USSOCOM Warrior Care Program – Care Coalition Biography .....</b>	<b>Page 10</b>
<b>Cancer Letter to the Force .....</b>	<b>Page 12</b>
<b>Presentation/Panel Overviews.....</b>	<b>Page 14</b>
<b>Guest Speaker Biographies.....</b>	<b>Page 18</b>
<b>Study: Optimizing Brain Health by Mitigating PTSD .....</b>	<b>Page 41</b>
<b>Administrative Information .....</b>	<b>Page 44</b>
<b>Question and Answer Session Guidelines</b>	
<b>Hotel and Conference Center Map</b>	
<b>Exhibition Booth List</b>	



# U.S. Special Operations Command Warrior Care Program – Care Coalition



<b>Tuesday, April 9</b>		<b>Speaker/Moderator</b>
1800-2100	Welcome Reception	
<b>Wednesday, April 10</b>		<b>Speaker/Moderator</b>
0730-0900	Registration	
0900-0905	Administrative Remarks	MSG Mike Haley
0905-0915	Welcome	Mr. Kelly Ammerman
0915-0945	Opening Remarks and Patriot Award	Lt Gen Sean Farrell, USSOCOM Deputy Commander
0945-1045	Exhibit Hall Walk-Through, Networking & Discussion	
1045-1145	Warrior Care Programs Update	SGM Imari Jackson, USA Ms. Jenna Link, USN Col Morina Foster, USMC Col Eli Mitchell, USAF Mr. Kelly Ammerman, USSOCOM
1145-1300	Lunch	
1300-1500	Psychedelics Assisted Therapy Panel	Moderator: COL April Verlo Panelists: MAJ Aaron Wolfgang, MD COL Amanda Robbins, PsyD Dr. Greg Fonzo Dr. Robert Koffman, MD, MPH
1500-1520	Administrative Break/Networking	
1520-1620	Integrated Disability Evaluation System Update	Ms. Molly Gatti
1620-1700	Cancer in SOF Update	COL April Verlo
1700-1715	Administrative/End of Day Remarks	Mr. Kelly Ammerman



# U.S. Special Operations Command Warrior Care Program – Care Coalition



	Thursday, April 11	Speaker/Moderator
0800-0900	Registration/Exhibit Hall	
0900-0905	Administrative Remarks	MSG Mike Haley
0905-1000	Surgeon and POTFF Updates	Col Charles Lutter, LTC Gabby Caldera
1000-1130	Animal Assisted Therapies Panel	Moderator: Ms. Emily Feeley, Panelists: Ms. Tara Mahoney, Ms. Kelly MacCorquodale, Mr. John Rhimer, Mr. Tom Carroll, Mr. Jason Belford, Mr. Kevin "Yoda" Whitenect
1130-1245	Lunch	
1245-1445	Substance Use Disorder Treatment Panel	Moderator: COL Amanda Robbins, PsyD Panelists: Mr. Thomas Turnbaugh, Ms. Jane Olien, LTC Daniel Hart, MD
1445-1500	Administrative Break/Networking	
1500-1700	Suicide Prevention Initiatives Panel	Moderator: Mr. Lacy Cole, Dr. Rayma Saundaraman, LTC Daniel Hart, MD Ms. Georgia Harrison
1700-1715	Final Remarks	Mr. Kelly Ammerman

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**Deputy Commander  
U.S. Special Operations Command**





# Lieutenant General Sean M. Farrell

## Deputy Commander

### U.S. Special Operations Command

Lt. Gen. Sean M. Farrell is Deputy Commanding General for U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. He ensures the readiness of joint special operations forces and, as directed, conducts operations worldwide.

Lt. Gen. Farrell was commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at Florida State University. He is a command pilot with over 3,500 flight hours in the AC-130H Spectre, AC-130W Stinger, AC-130U Spooky and C-130E Hercules aircraft and has flown combat missions in Bosnia and Afghanistan. He has commanded at the wing, group, and squadron levels.

Prior to this assignment, he served as the Deputy Commanding General, Joint Special Operations Command, Fort Liberty, North Carolina.

#### EDUCATION

1990 Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Fla.

1993 Master of Science, Applied Behavioral Science, Communications Systems technology, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

1998 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

2004 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence.

2009 Air War College, Maxwell AFB Ala., by correspondence

2012 Master of Science, National Resource Strategy, National Defense University, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.

#### ASSIGNMENTS

1. February 1991–February 1992, student, undergraduate pilot training, Williams Air Force Base, Ariz.
2. February 1992–December 1993, student, Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio
3. December 1993–November 1994, Program Manager for International Cooperation, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio
4. November 1994–March 1997, C-130E Pilot, Training Officer, Moody Air Force Base, Ga.
5. March 1997–April 1998, AC-130H Pilot, Chief of Flight Safety, 16th Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
6. April 1998–April 2000, Instructor Pilot, Chief of Squadron Safety, 16th Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
7. April 2000–April 2001, Evaluator Pilot, Flight Commander, 16th Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
8. April 2001–April 2002, AC-130H, Chief Pilot, Standardization and Evaluation, 16th Operations Group, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
9. April 2002–April 2003, AC-130H/U, Chief Pilot, Standardization and Evaluation, Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
10. April 2003–February 2004, Chief, Standards and Evaluations AC-130 Branch, Headquarters AFSOC, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
11. February 2004–March 2006, Operations Officer, Readiness Division, J-3, Joint Staff, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.
12. March 2006–January 2008, Operations Officer, 16th Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
13. January 2008–June 2009, Commander, 16th Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla., and Cannon Air Force Base, N.M.
14. August 2009–September 2009, Deputy Commander, 1st Special Operations Group, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
15. September 2009–April 2010, C-130J Program Element Monitor, Secretary of the Air Force, Acquisitions, Global Reach, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.
16. April 2010–December 2010, Chief, Tactical Airlift Branch, Secretary of the Air Force, Acquisitions, Global Reach, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.
17. December 2010–April 2011, Chief, Tactical Airlift, Special Operations Forces and Trainer Division, Secretary of the Air Force, Acquisitions, Global Reach, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.
18. August 2011–June 2012, Student, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.
19. June 2012–June 2013, Senior Analyst, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.
20. June 2013–January 2015, Commander, 27th Special Operations Group, Cannon Air Force Base, N.M.
21. January 2015–June 2016, Commander, 1st Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
22. June 2016–July 2018, Director, Strategic Plans, Programs and Requirements, AFSOC, Hurlburt Field, Fla.





# Lieutenant General Sean M. Farrell

## Deputy Commander

### U.S. Special Operations Command

#### ASSIGNMENTS

23. July 2018–June 2019, Director, Air Force Security Assistance and Cooperation Directorate, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio
24. June 2019–June 2021, Director, Force Structure, Requirements, Resources and Strategic Assessments, U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, FL
25. June 2021 – March 2024, Deputy Commanding General, Joint Special Operations Command, Fort Liberty, NC
26. March 2024 – present, Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, FL

#### SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

1. February 2004–March 2006, Operations Officer, Readiness Division, J-3, Joint Staff, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va., as a major
2. June 2012–June 2013, Senior Analyst, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va., as a colonel
3. June 2019–June 2021, Director, Force Structure, Requirements, Resources and Strategic Assessments, U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., as a major general
4. June 2021 – March 2024, Deputy Commanding General, Joint Special Operations Command, Fort Liberty, NC, as a major general
5. March 2024 – present, Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base FL, as a lieutenant general

#### FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight Hours: more than 3,500

Aircraft Flown: T-37, T-38, C-130E, AC-130H, AC-130W, C-146A, PC-12, U-28, MC-130J, CV-22 and AC-130U

#### MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Superior Service Medal  
Distinguished Flying Cross with "V" device  
Legion of Merit with three oak leaf clusters  
Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one cluster  
Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters  
Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters  
Aerial Achievement Medal with five oak leaf clusters  
Joint Service Commendation Medal  
Air Force Commendation Medal



# Patriot Awardee







# Patriot Award Winner

## Mr. Dave Winters



Black Dagger Military Hunt Club President – Dave Winters has been a part of the military family (Gold Star) for his entire life. His father Norman was a Viet Nam veteran who served 24 years in the Air Force, his brother Scott was an army signal corps soldier who lost his life during a training accident in Korea. He personally knows and works with many combat-wounded veterans (his heart has prepared him for serving others). Dave himself served in the Air Force from 1979-1999 in the supply/logistics/resource management fields. He was stationed in New Hampshire, England, Sicily, Hawaii, Oklahoma and ended his active-duty career at MacDill AFB in Tampa Florida assigned to United States Special

Operations Command (USSOCOM). He currently works for the USAF as a government civilian for the USSOCOM Comptroller as a Business Technologist. His passion is to volunteer and give back to those who have sacrificed for their country. He along with a cadre of dedicated volunteers, many active duty or retired military with special skills, started and support the Black Dagger Military Hunt Club Inc. The public charity (EIN 45-4337304) is a Community Partner with the Veteran Affairs in Tampa, supports the United States Special Operations Care Coalition, other veteran nonprofits, and provides Adaptive Shooting, Hunting, Skydiving, and Fishing Programs. Dave started supporting the USSOCOM Care Coalition when GEN Brown first stood up the program. He has helped the SOF Community by raising tens of thousands of dollars for other SOF-supporting nonprofits. Black Dagger Military Hunt Club Inc. specializes in working with both blind and paralyzed veterans. In fact, Dave and his team were honored at a Congressional Awards Ceremony with The George Alexander Volunteer Service Award by the Blinded American Veterans Foundation. Everything he and his team accomplishes is to equip – encourage – and enable our Nation's warriors.

**Director**

**Warrior Care Program-Care Coalition  
U.S. Special Operations Command**





## **Mr. H. Kelly Ammerman** **Director, Warrior Care Program-Care Coalition** **U.S. Special Operations Command**

Mr. H. Kelly Ammerman was born in Honolulu, Hawaii and raised in upstate New York. Mr. Ammerman previously served in the U.S. Army and retired in November of 2017 with over 27 years of military service, 23 of which were spent in the Special Operations community as a Special Forces Non-Commissioned Officer. Mr. Ammerman entered the U.S. Army in February of 1990. He completed basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. His military service included deployments from Operation Desert Shield/Storm to multiple tours in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Theater Security Cooperation Plans. He served in numerous positions, to include Special Forces



Operational Detachment-Alpha (SFODA) Medical NCOIC, Assault Stack Leader, Company Assault Sergeant, SFODA Team Sergeant, Special Forces Group Current Operations NCOIC, First Sergeant, Senior Military Science Instructor, and culminated in his role as the Senior Enlisted Advisor for the USSOCOM Warrior Care Program (Care Coalition). He assumed the role of Deputy in 2017 and has served as the Director since December 2020. His significant military education includes: Military Legal Specialist Course; Basic Airborne Course; Air Assault Course; Special Forces Qualification Course; Special Operations Target Interdiction Course (SOTIC); Jumpmaster Course; Special Forces Advanced Reconnaissance, Target Analysis and Exploitation Techniques Course (SFARTAETC); Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) Level-C; Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC); Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Course (BNCOC); Advanced Non-Commissioned Officer Course (ANCOC); First Sergeants Course; and the U.S. Army Sergeant Majors Academy (USASMA). Mr. Ammerman is married, has two sons, and is a proud grandfather of two.

# Cancer Letter to the Force





March 5, 2024

U.S. Special Operations Command Teammates,

We are coordinating an in-depth study to characterize cancer risk and diagnosis within the active duty and retired Special Operations Forces (SOF) population. The study is in cooperation with ongoing Defense Health Agency efforts that inform Department of Defense (DoD) senior leaders, healthcare providers, and biomedical innovators, and will focus on personnel that have been assigned to SOF units during their careers. In line with the First SOF Truth, this effort will enable the SOF enterprise to pursue force health protection measures that reduce excess health risk, as well as support our teammates who have been, are currently, or may be diagnosed with cancer.

To accurately characterize cancer risk within the SOF community, we encourage individuals to take necessary steps below to ensure the study team can access their diagnosis:

- Ensure any cancer diagnosis is documented in DoD or U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical records. While there is no need to move ongoing cancer care or surveillance from existing facilities to a DoD or VA facility, it is critical that documentation from external providers is transferred and incorporated into these official DoD/VA medical records.
- Complete routine cancer screenings. For men, these include prostate screenings and colonoscopies. For women, these include breast exams/mammograms, pap smears, and colonoscopies.

People are our competitive advantage. We will support Service members diagnosed with cancer by ensuring they have access to advanced treatment options and robust resources to enable their ability to continue to serve our Nation. The Warrior Care Program and Command Surgeon will share information discovered in the study with the force as it becomes available.

Shane W. Shorter  
Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army  
Command Senior Enlisted Leader

Bryan P. Fenton  
General, U.S. Army  
Commander

# Presentation & Panel Overviews





# Presentation & Panel Overviews

## **USSOCOM Patriot Award**

This award was established by the Commander, United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) in 2007 to recognize individuals who greatly support Special Operations Community (SOF) wounded warriors, their families, or surviving families by providing significant and enduring contributions to the SOF community. The name of the award, Patriot, was chosen because the definition of a Patriot is one who loves, supports, and defends one's country.

**2024 Recipient: Mr. David B. Winters**

## **Warrior Care Program Update**

USSOCOM is a joint Command with members from every branch of Service. The United States Special Operations Command Warrior Care Program – Care Coalition (WCP-CC) works closely with each of the Service Warrior Care Program's (WCP) to ensure optimal care for SOF Service Members and adherence to Service requirements. Each WCP Director or Senior Representative will be part of a panel discussion in which they shall provide updates on their respective programs.

**SGM Imari Jackson (USA)**

**Ms. Jenna Link (USN)**

**Col Morina Foster (USMC)**

**Col Eli Mitchell (USAF)**

**Mr. Kelly Ammerman (USSOCOM)**

## **Psychedelics Assisted Therapy Panel (Research, Therapies, Future)**

Discussing the state and future of psychedelic therapeutic modalities with emphasis on the science, clinical applications, and outcomes of clinical trials within the current authorities granted in the United States, with special interest in veteran participants.

**COL April Verlo (Moderator)**

**MAJ Aaron Wolfgang, MD**

**COL Amanda Robbins, PsyD**

**Dr. Greg Fonzo, PHD**

**Dr. Robert Koffman, MD, MPH**



# Presentation & Panel Overviews

## Integrated Disability Evaluation System Update

**Ms. Molly Gatti**

## Cancer in SOF Update

Discussion on the ongoing Cancer in SOF study, characterizing of cancer cases in the WCP-CC Database, and efforts in the areas of advanced screening and detection, treatment options, and risk reduction.

**COL April Verlo**

## USSOCOM Surgeon and POTFF Updates

USSOCOM Surgeon will provide an overview of ongoing lines of effort. The USSOCOM Surgeon's office provides guidance, oversight, and proponency in order to protect, promote, and advance military medicine. Initiatives are designed to promote and protect SOF warfighter well-being while enhancing and extending operator lethality.

The mission of the Preservation of the Force and Family (POTFF) is to optimize and sustain performance, readiness, longevity for special operations mission requirements through integrated and holistic programs strengthening the Force and Family. The end-state of POTFF is a resilient SOF enterprise with optimized performance across all domains, enabling improved readiness to best meet operational demands for the duration of a SOF career.

**Col Charles Lutter**  
**LTC Gabby Caldera**

## Animal Assisted Therapies Panel

Through an in-depth discussion panel members will share the impact that animal assisted therapy is having on Service Members and their families, how it is being implemented, and the science behind why it works. Audience members will hear from mental health professionals and retired Service Members who will share their professional and personal experience with equine and canine assisted therapies.

**Ms. Emily Feeley (Moderator)**  
**Ms. Tara Mahoney**  
**Ms. Kelly MacCorquodale**  
**Mr. John Rhimer (Ret SEAL)**  
**Mr. Tom Carroll (Ret SEAL)**  
**Mr. Jason Belford (Ret 1/75 Ranger Regiment)**  
**Kevin "Yoda" Whitenect**





# Presentation & Panel Overviews

## **Substance Use Disorder Treatment Panel**

Servicemembers in USSOCOM are specially selected and highly trained in order to accomplish the nation's most crucial missions. Their time in SOF is marked by looming missions and near-term targets in high tempo, high threat environments requiring optimal physical and mental performance. After making their respective teams, alcohol and performance enhancing substances often play roles across biologic, psychologic and social spectra. Understanding the roots and roles of substance use, the risks to which SOF Service Members are exposed, and their physical and mental health trends can help aide their care community in better addressing their needs and helping them heal.

Defense Health Agency (DHA) will provide an overview of the DHA, an overview of the Department of Defense (DoD) and DHA governance that relates to substance use disorder in some manner, touch on stigma related to seeking treatment, the possible impacts of going outside of the system for care and the options for care within the DHA.

**Participants: COL Amanda Robbins, PsyD (Moderator)**

**LTC Daniel Hart, M.D.**

**Mr. Thomas Turnbaugh**

**Ms. Jane Olien**

## **Suicide Prevention Initiatives Panel**

**Participants: Mr. Lacy Cole (Moderator)**

**Dr. Rayma Saundaraman**

**LTC Daniel Hart, M.D.**

**Ms. Georgia Harrison**

# Presenter's Biographies





## **SGM Imari Jackson**

### **Senior Enlisted Advisor**

### **Army Recovery Care Program**

SGM Jackson is a native of Detroit, Michigan. He entered the United States Army in January of 1996, completing One Station Unit Training (OSUT) at Fort Benning, GA, where he earned the title Infantryman. His leadership positions include Team Leader, Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant, Senior Drill Sergeant, First Sergeant, Operations SGM, Senior Enlisted Advisor.

SGM Jackson's assignments include 3rd BN 7th Infantry MECH, Fort Stewart, GA; 1st BN 9th Infantry MECH, Camp Casey, Korea; 1st BN 18th IN MECH, Schweinfurt, Germany; 5th 20th Infantry Stryker, Ft. Lewis, WA; 2nd BN 47th Infantry, Ft. Benning, GA; 2nd BN 1st Infantry Stryker, JBLM, WA; Victory College, Ft. Jackson, SC; 3rd BN 41st Infantry Stryker, Ft. Bliss, TX; USAG Bavaria, Germany, 2nd Squadron 11th Calvary, Ft. Irwin, CA and Army Recovery Care Program, Falls Church, VA.

SGM Jackson has deployed in support of Operation Joint Guardian, Kosovo (Vitina 2001-2002), Operation Iraqi Freedom (Mosul 2003-2004), Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan (Panjwa'i 2009-2010).

US Army Sergeants Major Course, Battle Staff NCO course, Drill Sergeants School, Master Resiliency Course Lv2, and every level of NCOPD. His civilian education includes an B.A. in Leadership and Workforce Development from the Command and General Staff College.

SGM Jackson's military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal second award, Army Commendation Medal six award, Army Achievement Medal fourth award. Drill Sergeant Identification Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge.

SGM Jackson resides in Alexandria, VA with his wife Barbara. He has three children daughter Cecelia; sons Xavier and Damian who is currently serving in the United States Army as a Combat Medic.



## **Ms. Jenna M. Link**

### **Director, Navy Casualty Support Programs (N95)**

### **Headquarters, Navy Installations Command**

Ms. Jenna Link assumed the role of Director, Navy Casualty Support Programs (N95) on 1 October 2022, coincidentally the same date Navy Gold Star (previously N91) and Fisher House (previously N92) officially merged with Navy Wounded Warrior to form Navy Casualty Support (N95).

Jenna joined the CNIC team in 2015 and served in several roles within Navy Wounded Warrior (NWW), including the Quality Assurance Lead, Business Finance Manager, and, most recently, the Business Support Division Supervisor overseeing the program's financial management, policy, training, quality assurance, and marketing efforts.

Previous to her work for CNIC, Jenna played a key role in the stand up of Naval Sea Systems Command's (NAVSEA) Wounded Warrior Hiring Program, serving as the placement lead and substantially contributing to NAVSEA's overall recruitment, hiring, and support of over 3,000 disabled veterans.

Jenna was born into the Navy family in Millington, Tennessee and thoroughly enjoyed her military childhood experience. Her passion for the mission goes far beyond the office as she is also a spouse of an Army Wounded Warrior, with whom she shares 3 wonderful children. Ms. Link graduated from Towson University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.





## **Col Morina D. Foster** **Commanding Officer** **U.S. Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment**

Colonel Foster is a native of Chicago, Illinois. She enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1985, her first tours in the Marine Corps from 1985 -1991 included, Marine Wing Support Squadron 271, Cherry Point, North Carolina and Officer Candidate School, Candidate Administration, Quantico, Va. She achieved the ranks of Corporal 1988 and Sergeant in 1991 while assigned to OCS and was immediately re-assigned to Parris Island, South Carolina to attend Drill Instructor School.

In October of 1996 Colonel Foster was promoted to Staff Sergeant and hand selected as an instructor at the Sergeant's Course, 29 Palms California. After her tour as a Sergeant's Course Instructor, Colonel Foster received orders to 3d Marine Air Wing, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron, Personnel Support Detachment (PSD) Okinawa, Japan. While stationed in Okinawa, Colonel Foster applied for the Meritorious Commissioning Program and was accepted to attend OCS in the fall of 1999. Immediately after OCS and The Basic School (TBS) in October of 2000, Colonel Foster attended the Logistics Officers Course, Camp Johnson, North Carolina. Colonel Foster's tours as an Officer include; 2d Force Service Support Group (2D FSSG), 2d Transportation Support Battalion (2d TSB), Beach and Terminal Operations (BTO) Company.

Colonel Foster holds an Associates in Arts from National University, a Bachelor's Degree of Science with a concentration in Health Care Management from Southern Illinois University, a Master Degree in Supply Chain Management from Pennsylvania State University, and a Masters in Military Science/Studies from the Marine Corps University, Quantico Va., Defense Acquisitions University, North Carolina State Executive Logistics Course, Penn State's Logistics Supervisors Course and several military schools supporting tactical, operational and strategic level leadership and policies . Of notable mention is her selection to Top Level School, Pennsylvania State University, Marine Corps University Fellowship Program where Colonel Foster was the first female to ever attend the program since its inception over ~20 years ago.





## **Col Eli G. Mitchell** **Chief, Warrior Care Division** **Air Force Personnel Center**

Colonel Eli G. Mitchell is the Chief, Warrior Care Division at the Air Force Personnel Center, JBSA-Randolph, Texas, overseeing the Air Force Wounded Warrior Program.

Air Force Wounded Warrior provides personalized case management and support to seriously and very seriously wounded, ill and injured Airmen/Guardians. The program also supports them throughout their transition "back to duty," separation, or retirement, while preparing the Airman/Guardian to manage challenges regardless of injury or illness.

Colonel Mitchell received his commission in 2002 from the U.S. Air Force Academy. His career includes Flight Commander, Director of Operations, Liaison Officer to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Commander. Prior to assuming his current position, Colonel Mitchell was the Deputy Commander, Special Warfare Training Group, JBSA-Lackland, Texas, responsible for the initial skills training for Combat Controllers (CCT), Pararescuemen (PJ), Special Reconnaissance (SR), Tactical Air Control Party (TACP), Special Tactics Officers (STO), Combat Rescue Officers (CRO), and Tactical Air Control Party Officers (TACP-O). He is also a parachutist, military freefall parachutist, combat diver, and Ranger qualified.





## COL April Verlo

### Warrior Care Program-Care Coalition U.S. Special Operations Command

COL April Verlo works for the Warrior Care Program – Care Coalition for United States Special Operations Command.

She was formerly the Deputy Command Surgeon and Force Health Protection Officer at USSOCOM held the same positions at 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces Command (Airborne) and Special Operations Command Africa and commanded the 5<sup>th</sup> Medical Detachment (Preventive Medicine) in Korea.

April holds a Master of Science in Public Health from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College and is nationally credentialed as a Registered Environmental Health Specialist and Registered Sanitarian.

She has published peer reviewed articles in The Journal of Special Operations Medicine and is pending publication of a book chapter in Critical Topics in Military Occupational Health.





## **MAJ Aaron Wolfgang MD. Brooke Army Medical Center**

MAJ Aaron Wolfgang, MD is an Army psychiatrist at Brooke Army Medical Center where he is currently the OIC and Program Director of the Residential Treatment Program. He also currently serves as an SME for DARPA and as the Novel & Emerging Therapeutics Deputy Consultant to the Office of the Army Surgeon General. This summer, he will begin serving at Walter Reed as the Associate Program Director of the Psychiatry Residency Program

MAJ Wolfgang was first trained in MDMA-assisted therapy in 2019 and psilocybin-assisted therapy in 2021 during his fellowship training at the Yale School of Medicine where he now serves as adjunct faculty. While there, he became experienced in delivering psychedelic-assisted therapy in clinical trial settings. He has since devoted his career to improving access to the most promising novel therapeutics for Service Members with posttraumatic stress and their families.







## **COL Amanda P. Robbins Command Psychologist U.S. Special Operations Command**

COL Amanda Robbins, Psy.D. is the Command Psychologist, United States Special Operations Command, MacDill AFB, Florida. As special staff officer to the Commander and Staff, she provides subject matter expertise on all psychological matters related to current operations, assessment and selection, brain health, research, and behavioral health coordination. A native of Columbia, South Carolina, she received her Army commission in 2004. She completed her Master's Degree and PsyD in Clinical Psychology at the University of Denver and holds a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Psychology from Furman University.





**Mr. Greg Fonzo**  
**Assistant Professor and Co-Director**  
**Psychedelic Research and Therapy**  
**University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School**

Greg Fonzo is Assistant Professor and Co-Director of the Center for Psychedelic Research and Therapy in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School. He completed his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at the San Diego State University/University of California-San Diego Joint Doctoral Program, and he completed his postdoctoral fellowship in biobehavioral research at the Stanford University School of Medicine.

Dr. Fonzo's laboratory utilizes non-invasive neuroscience tools such as neuroimaging and brain stimulation probes to elucidate neurobiological mechanisms of: a) stress-related mental health disorders such as posttraumatic stress disorder, anxiety, and depression; and b) evidence-based treatments such as psychotherapy and antidepressant medications. His research also focuses on designing and establishing mechanisms and efficacy of novel neuroscience-informed interventions, with a particular focus on psychedelic-assisted therapies and neuromodulation.

He was the 2020 winner of the prestigious One Mind Rising Star Award for his novel research on focused ultrasound neuromodulation. His research is funded through the National Institutes of Health, several private foundations, and philanthropic gifts. His work and that of his collaborators have been published in top tier psychiatry/neuroscience journals, including Nature Biotechnology, Nature Human Behaviour, Science Translational Medicine, Molecular Psychiatry, The American Journal of Psychiatry, Neuron, Biological Psychiatry, and JAMA Psychiatry.





## **Dr. Robert Koffman, MD, MPH** **Military Liaison and Sunstone Therapist**

Dr. Robert Koffman, MD, MPH, is a highly experienced psychiatrist and therapist at Sunstone Therapies. With a distinguished 30-year career as a naval medical officer, he has dedicated himself to improving mental health care and providing support to service members. As the former Chief of Clinical Operations at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence at Walter Reed, he developed a renowned holistic recovery program for combat-wounded veterans. Dr. Koffman, a disabled veteran himself, brings a deep understanding of the unique challenges faced by veterans and actively works to enhance their access to non-stigmatizing psychological services.



In addition to his expertise in psychiatry, Dr. Koffman is a seasoned medical acupuncturist and an acclaimed expert in Animal Assisted Therapies (AAT). He recognizes the powerful role animals can play in therapeutic settings and incorporates their presence into his practice. Alongside his extensive qualifications, Dr. Koffman is a graduate of the Center for Psychedelic Treatment and Research at CIIS, showcasing his commitment to exploring innovative approaches to mental health care. Dr. Koffman is joined by his loyal service animals, Ron and Mattis, who provide support and companionship throughout therapy sessions. Together, they create a warm and inclusive environment for clients seeking healing and transformation at Sunstone Therapies.



## **Col Charles W. Lutter III**

### **Director, Preservation of the Force and Family**

### **U.S. Special Operations Command**

Col Charles W. Lutter III is the Director for Preservation of the Force and Family for United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), MacDill AFB, FL. He serves as the senior advisor to the USSOCOM J3 (2-Star General), leading front office staff management operations while prioritizing tasks, coordinating and adjudicating functions across nine divisions and 1,300 personnel. Additionally, Col Lutter supports Headquarters USSOCOM and the Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict facilitating multilateral Key Leader Engagements with U.S. international partner nations in collaboration with Special Operations Forces (SOF) Foreign Liaison Officers and the U.S. Department of State. Prior to his assignment to Headquarters USSOCOM, Col Lutter served as the Commander of the 12th Special Operations Squadron. He is a Senior Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) pilot and Senior Navigator in the USAF having flown multiple aircraft logging more than 2,100 flight hours in the B-52H, T-43A, MQ-1B, and MQ-9A.

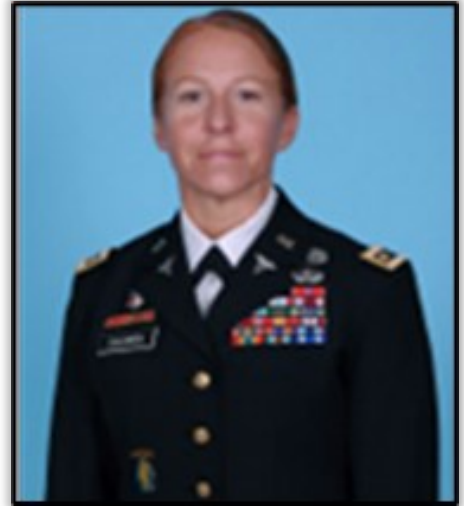


Col Lutter is a graduate of the University of Texas, San Antonio, receiving his commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corp in 2001. Upon graduation, he attended USAF Joint Undergraduate Navigator Training at Randolph AFB. After two assignments as an Electronic Warfare Officer, he was handpicked to serve on the initial cadre that stood-up the USAF Undergraduate RPA Pilot Training and Basic Sensor Operator Course in 2009 before going through the program himself to become an MQ-1B pilot in 2010. His entire RPA career has been with SOF, serving with the 3rd Special Operation Squadron, 12th Special Operations Squadron, 27th Special Operations Group RPA Operations Center and as an Action Officer on the Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) Air Staff.



## LTC Gabrielle Natalia Caldara, DrPH, MS U.S. Special Operations Command

LTC Caldara graduated with a degree in cellular biology from Siena College in New York. She joined-- the Army as a laboratory technician and attended Basic Combat Training, at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Her first assignment was at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), Belgium where she served as a laboratory technician and the NCOIC of Hematology. She completed her Master's Degree in Human Relations while assigned to SHAPE. Gabrielle then applied to Officer Basic School and became an Environmental Science and Engineering Officer (ESEO). She served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division and deployed to Iraq from 2006 – 2008. She then was assigned to the Southern European Task Force/US Army Africa in Vicenza, Italy for 3 years. She graduated Airborne school and was assigned to 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida in 2011. Gabrielle worked as the ESEO for 7th SFG(A) and deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom with 1/7 in Kandahar, Afghanistan from 2012-2013 and again deployed with 7th SFG(A) Headquarters Support Company in 2014 as the Medical Planner and ESEO. She was selected for Long Term Health Education and Training in 2015 and graduated with her Doctorate in Public Health - Community and Behavioral Health in May 2018. Gabrielle joined the medical team at Special Operations Command Africa in Stuttgart, Germany. Four years later, Gabrielle was assigned to the USSOCOM Surgeon's Office as the Force Health Protection Officer. In the future, Gabrielle hopes to pursue a degree in behavioral neuroscience or monastic service. Contact information: [gabrielle.caldara@socom.mil](mailto:gabrielle.caldara@socom.mil)





**Mrs. Emily Feeley**  
**Chief of Career Transition**  
**Warrior Care Program-Care Coalition**  
**U.S. Special Operations Command**

Mrs. Emily Feeley has been the USSOCOM WCP-CC Chief of Career Transition since August of 2018. Prior to joining the USSOCOM WCP-CC team in 2016, as a Career Transition Coordinator, Emily was a Human Resources Manager. She enlisted in the Army in 2005, as an intelligence analyst. While stationed in Germany Emily met her husband and they eloped in Denmark. After being medically separated from the Army Emily went on to obtain her Bachelor of Science degree in Healthcare Administration and Management from the University of Phoenix.



Her experience as a Human Resources professional exposed her to many areas that leave Service Members and employers at a disadvantage during the transition and hiring process. As an Army Veteran and military spouse Emily understands the impact that transitioning out of the military can have the Service Member and their family, and the importance of making this process less stressful. Her professional and personal experience is what drives her passion to help bridge the gaps between transitioning Service Members and employers. Helping to create customized opportunities and teach both sides how to better understand each other.

In addition to her passion for helping Service Members Emily is an avid horsewoman and photographer.



## **Ms. Tara Mahoney, LCMHC** **CEO, Equine Immersion Project & Immersion** **Foundation**

Tara Mahoney is a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor. She graduated from Boston College and holds a Master's in Counseling with certifications in Forensic Psychology and Veteran Behavioral Health. Since 1996, Tara has counseled in diverse settings including a correctional facility, NYC homeless shelter for 450 Veterans, in-patient psychiatric hospital, Vet Center, Family Drug Court, DBT Out-Patient Clinic and private practice.



For the past decade, Tara has combined her professional calling with her lifetime passion for horses. She has focused her education, experience and energy into the field of animal-assisted therapies. She is a Board Member of Horses and Humans Research Foundation as well as Co-Chair of the Education Committee whose purpose is to invest in and disseminate ethical rigorous research for the advancement of global knowledge of horse-human interactions. Tara is the Chair of the Equine Services for Heroes Committee with the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Int'l) and Mentor to Certified Equine Specialists in Mental Health Learning (ESMHL) nationally. Her current roles as CEO of Equine Immersion Project (EIP) and Equine Immersion Foundation (EIF) are the highlight of her career. EIP is a mobile project which has provided trauma-informed equine assisted services to thousands of Wounded, Ill and Injured promoting whole person health, decompression, leadership, empowerment and POTFF throughout the US. She is honored to serve those who have served-Veterans, active duty service members, other government agencies, law enforcement/first responders as well as their families and supports.



## **Ms. Kelly MacCorquodal** **Chief Operation Officer, Equine Immersion Project**

Kelly is a lifelong horsewoman having trained and competed in the international arenas of fox hunting, eventing, and dressage. Each year, she presents at national conferences regarding the efficacy of the horse as an agent of change. Having facilitated equine assisted services to thousands of active-duty, special forces, veterans, and families/supports, she brings depth and breadth of expertise to the Animal Assisted Therapies Panel.



After her son was wounded in 2008 during one of the deadliest battles in Afghanistan, she decided to dedicate her time and talent to share therapeutic opportunities. She empowers Veterans, Service Members and their families with an open heart and open mind. She understands the importance of advocacy as she has walked alongside many Wounded, Ill and Injured service members and their families on their healing journey.

Her 17'2 Belgian Draft (Pete) and service dog in training (Goose) contribute greatly to her work with the Equine Immersion Project.

In her spare time, she owns a specialty construction company and is active in many organizations including the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship, International (PATH, Int'l), Horses and Humans Research Foundation- Education Committee and a contributing author to "Integrating Horses into Healing" (Meola, 2023).





## Mr. John Rhimer U.S. Navy, Retired Lead Wrangler, Equine Immersion Project

John served 15 years 6 months before being medically retired due to injuries sustained in Combat. His military career started in 1992, After basic training in 1992, his talent was recognized and he was accepted and received orders to Basic Underwater Demolition/School (Bud/s) or Seal training in 1993 in class 189, finishing with class 191 due to injuries. Upon completion of Bud/s he was given orders to Seal Team 3 in Jan 1994-1999.

John got to Seal Team 3 and launched into a fast paced lifestyle with high demands on him, being the department head of 2 departments (Weapons and Diving). Upon completing 2 deployments he was tasked with being an instructor in the Seal Team for forming Platoons to deploy. While in this department John decided to step up his game and screen for a unique Command; Naval Special Warfare Development Group (NSWDG). This required him to once again go through a fierce Selection course where 50% are let go; he was 1 of 24, out of 42 men trying out for the command, becoming the Lead Breacher (the use of methods to enter anything) of his Team. After a deployment to Bosnia, the war started and combat deployments were regular in Afghanistan and Iraq. John conducted 6 combat deployments before being shot with an AK 47 at close range in Jan 2006, this ended his military career with a medical discharge in Sept 2007.

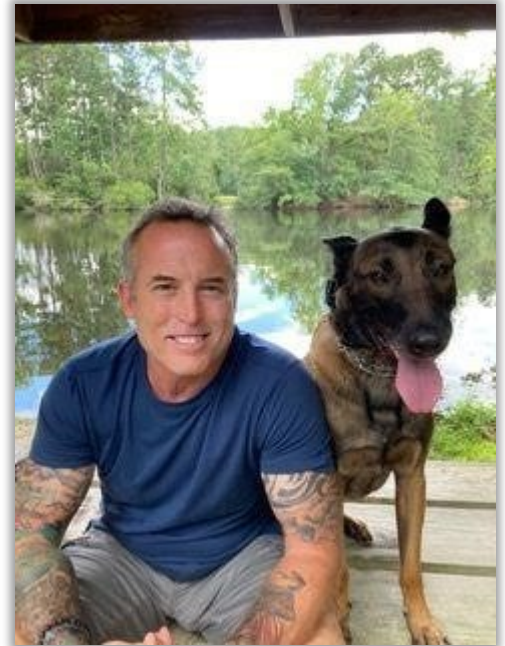
While an Operator at the command John served in many ways, the first being the Master Breacher of the Squadron, the Load Planner of all movement of troops and all gear on every trip and recall to deploy, He is an expert in Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN), and was an outstation Commander for representation of Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) in 2 locations. This position entailed daily interaction with Other Government Agencies (OGA), Intelligence briefings to the Chief of Base (COB) as well as the Chief of Station (COS), Regular Briefing to the Higher Headquarters of the battle space, Planning and briefing of the operators, and coordination of fixed wing assets to provide Air coverage for our operations.

John retired in Sept 2007, and was directly hired by Osen-Hunter Group as the lead instructor for the support personnel at NSWDG which he identified while on a deployment. This gave John a clear approach to the course curriculum which he developed. The contract ended for Osen-Hunter and he was asked to accept a GS12 position in Oct 2009.

The new GS position gave him more freedom to take on new challenges at the command NSWDG. The training moved from basic to advanced training quickly, now involved with every individual that came through the gate to prepare them for war, in Mind set, physical endurance, field craft skills, combat tactics, shooting and driving. His training took him to assisting the Sqd. Operators on large scale exercises. His drive and determination moved him into a GS-13 position being the Lead Training Instructor of the command.

This position held \$1.5 million in weapons and optics and was accountable monthly and training thousands of command members. The position wasn't just training, it was curriculum development, logistics of movement, berthing, coordination of outside contractors, contract submission, schedules.

John left the command in Nov 2019 due to brain trauma over his 20-years of service. He was ready as he had given his all. John's medals and awards include " a Bronze star, purple heart, a whole bunch of other stuff..." John is the proud father of three children, grandfather to two, and recently engaged. With his fiancé and K9 service dog, he shares his horsemanship and heart in the arena and on the trail.





**Mr. Tom Carroll**  
**U.S. Navy Retired**  
**Chief of Wellness, Equine Immersion Project**

Tom is an entrepreneur and small business owner. In 1989, he graduated from Naval Special Warfare Center BUD/S- Class 178. He became a SDV pilot and then contributed as an advanced training instructor for future SDV Operators in piloting and navigating mini submersibles. Awards include 2 Navy Achievement Medals.



Tom's family dynamics dramatically shifted after sharing a weekend event with his two teenagers. He immediately recognized the impact of horses to connect and heal strained interpersonal relationships through connection and laughter with trained professionals who understand military cultural competency and trauma informed care. After attending the program, Tom felt called to share this modality with active duty service

members to support up-stream interventions before a crisis. His lifetime dedication to studying physical, spiritual, and emotional wellness contributes greatly to the field. In the past year, Tom has joined the Equine Immersion Project travel team as the Chief of Horse and Human Wellbeing and Wrangler.



## Mr. Jason Belford U.S Army, Retired

First Sergeant (R) Jason Belford enlisted in the United States Army on April 15, 2005. He completed Basic and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Moore (Benning) GA. First Sergeant (R) Belford has served with the 10th mountain division stationed out of Fort Polk, LA where he did two deployments with 2/4 Infantry Battalion before going to Ranger assessment and selection program. He served in the 75th Ranger Regiment 3rd Ranger Battalion in all duty positions through First Sergeant. He also served as the Bravo Company First Sergeant in the Officers Candidate school (OCS) prior to retirement.

First Sergeant (R)Belford's awards and decorations include two Bronze Star Medals, three Meritorious Service Medals, seven Army Commendation Medals, two Joint Service Achievement Medals, two Joint Service Commendation Medals with V&C Device, five Army Achievement Medals, The National Defense Service Medal with Silver Star, six Army Good Conduct Medals, The Afghan Campaign Medal with Silver Star, The Global War on Terror Service Medal, two Humanitarian Service Medals, The Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with the Roman Numeral 4, The Army Service Ribbon, The Overseas Service Ribbon with Roman Numeral 8, the Operation Enduring Freedom Medal, Operation Inherent Resolve Medal, and the NATO Medal.



First Sergeant (R) Belford has earned the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Expert Infantryman's Badge, United States Army Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist Badge, United States Army Pathfinder Badge, Air Assault Badge, Master Rated Military Free Fall Badge, Brazilian and Canadian Foreign Jump Wings. First Sergeant Belford has completed 12 Combat deployments totaling 66 months (5.6 Years) spread across four countries. He has an associate degree in General Studies. He is a prolific speaker and advocate for mental health and suicide prevention within the special forces community including his recent keynote speeches at the 25th Infantry Division Suicide Prevention Senior Leader Conference (Hawaii, 2023)and USSOCOM Suicide Awareness Conference (Tampa, 2023). His book coming out in 2024 is titled *"The War Inside Me"* and a documentary that will tell his story in hopes to continue to spread his message of "You Matter". First Sergeant (R)Belford is currently working as a personal bodyguard for multiple executive level clients in California and is the founder of Violent Six. First Sergeant (R) Belford is married to Kirstan Belford from Clearfield, PA. As a blended family, they have seven children, one grandson and a Belgian Malinois named Havoc. RLTW!



## Mr. Kevin “Yoda” Warrant Officer (R) Director K9-Project

“Yoda” joins the Animal Assisted Therapies Panel as the Director of K9-Projects with the National UDT/Navy SEAL Museum (Trident House Charities). The Navy SEAL Museum’s K9 Project “serves the warriors of the Special Operations community and their families... Partnering with Baden K-9 in Ontario, Canada, with the generous support of dedicated donors, the Navy SEAL Museum has donated multiple working dogs to deserving veterans of the Special Operations community. This unique



program creates an effective platform to help veterans assimilate back into civilian life by facilitating a special relationship between warrior and dog. The bond between elite operator and elite canine provides the connection and fellowship many veterans often find lacking when transitioning back into civilian life. Many of our warriors have expressed they often feel structure missing or their purpose is lost after leaving years of training and combat behind.”

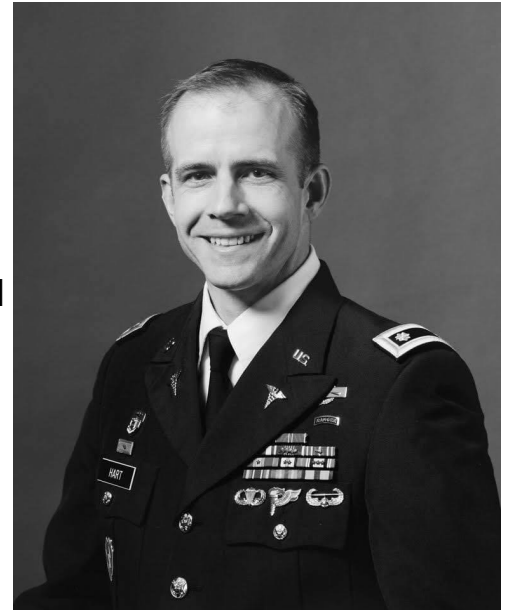
K9 Kroesy is the Project lead dog and member of the SEAL Tactical Demonstration Team (SEAL Museum). Kroesy is a Dutch Shepherd and joins Yoda as a multi-purpose working/service dog. Yoda has served over two decades with CANSOF as a Tier 1 Operator.



## LTC Daniel Hart, MD

### U. S. Army Special Operations Command

LTC Daniel Hart, MD commissioned from the United States Military Academy as a US Army Infantry Officer in 1997 and served in positions from rifle platoon leader to rifle company commander to battalion executive officer. In 2012, he transitioned to the medical field where he discovered an unexpected passion for supporting mental health as a psychiatrist. He graduated from the Uniformed Services University in 2016, finished residency in 2020 and in 2022, as he explained to his children, he finished "29th grade" with the completion of the National Capital Consortium Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship. He and his wife have been married for twenty-six years, and they have ten children. He specializes in care of combat trauma in his adult clinic and care for children and adolescents at the Child and Family Behavioral Health Services. His interests including incorporation of spirituality in overall wellbeing and sub-strategic international relations. He now serves as the United States Army Special Operations Command Psychiatrist at Fort Liberty, North Carolina.





## **Mr. Thomas Turnbaugh University of Maryland School of Social Work**

Thomas Turnbaugh is a licensed clinical social worker with a specialization in mental health. He graduated from the University of Maryland School of Social Work in Baltimore, Maryland in 2005. He has almost 20 years of experience in providing social work services to at risk populations across the life span in both the public sector and DoD. For the last twelve years he has worked military medicine both at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland and at Fort Belvoir in Alexandria, Virginia. He has worked the full continuum of mental health, which includes, outpatient, Intensive outpatient, and inpatient behavioral health. Currently, he is serving at the behavioral health subject matter expert for the east region at DHA's TRICARE headquarters.



## **Ms. Jane Olien MSSW Defense Health Agency Behavioral Health Clinical Management Team**

Ms. Jane Olien is a member of the Defense Health Agencies Behavioral Health Clinical Management Team, servicing as the substance use disorder clinical care Program Manager. Ms. Olien is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker holding an MSSW from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She completed her undergraduate work at the University of Colorado.

Ms. Olien is responsible for SUD policy development and implementation at the DHA level, working to standardize and streamline the way in which policy is implemented at the MTF level. She has over 30 years of experience in clinical healthcare delivery both in the public and private sector.

Ms. Olien was raised on Air Force bases across the world as the daughter of airman who served 30 years before retiring. She served as a USPHS officer and served as the Chief of Outpatient Behavioral Health clinic at BAMC while detailed to Joint Base San Antonio. She worked on the development and implementation of the SUD RTF at BAMC and the outpatient Trauma focused IOP. She also stood up the Healthcare Resolutions Program at BAMC. Ms. Olien also served as the Director of the Austin Vet Center prior to returning to the DoD.





**Mr. Lacy Cole**  
**Operations Officer South**  
**Warrior Care Program-Care Coalition**  
**U.S. Special Operations Command**

Mr. Lacy Cole was born in Jacksonville, Florida and raised in Pilot Virginia. Mr. Cole previously served in the U.S. Army and retired in March of 2018 with over 26 years of military service, over 24 of which were spent in 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne). Mr. Cole entered the U.S. Army in August 1991. He completed basic training at Fort Lewis, Washington, and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Dix New Jersey. His military service included multiple overseas deployments: Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and Puerto Rico. Mr. Cole had seven deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq.



Mr. Cole retired in 2018 and worked with SE2S as a Training Resource Model analyst supporting 7th SFG(A) for 2 years before moving to his current job as the SOCOM WCP South Operations Officer. Mr. Cole graduated Magna Cum Laude from Troy University in 2017 with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and a minor in Military Operations.

His military education includes: Food Service Specialist Course; Basic Airborne Course; Special Forces Qualification Course; Jumpmaster Course; Military Freefall Parachutist Course; Special Forces Advanced Reconnaissance Target Analysis and Exploitation Techniques Course (SFARTAETC); Special Forces Ops/Intel Course; Advanced Special Operations Course; Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) Level-C; Advanced International Morse Code Course; Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC); Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Course (BNCOC); Advanced Non-Commissioned Officer Course (ANCOC); Joint Special Operations Forces Senior Enlisted Academy Course, and the U.S. Army Sergeant Majors Academy (USASMA). Mr. Cole's awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star (3OLC), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, (1OLC), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal (6OLC), Army Good Conduct Medal (8th Award), National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army NCO Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Inter-American Defense Board Medal, NATO Medal, Special Forces Tab, Combat Infantryman Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, Military Freefall Badge, Parachutist Badge, Australian Parachutist Badge, British Parachutist Badge, Netherlands Freefall Parachutist Badge, and Netherlands Parachutist Badge.

Mr. Cole is married with two children.





**Dr. Ramya Sundararaman**  
**Deputy Director, Defense Suicide Prevention Office**  
**U.S. Office of the Secretary of Defense**

Dr. Ramya Sundararaman is a nationally recognized, published expert in suicide prevention in the United States. She is Deputy Director of the Defense Suicide Prevention Office within the U.S. Office of the Secretary of Defense. Dr. Sundararaman is a public health physician with certification as a Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt, Project Management Professional, and Health Information Management, and Certified Defense Financial Management. She has over two decades' experience in suicide prevention strategic planning, surveillance, research, and evaluation. She led the creation of the Defense Strategy for Suicide Prevention and Veterans Suicide Prevention Strategy. Dr. Sundararaman was the expert on suicide prevention for the U.S. Congress, supporting Members of Congress in their deliberations on key legislative areas, including the 2010 health reform law, and the mental health parity law. She set up and managed technical assistance for the national Suicide Prevention Resource Center. She also developed and led the Massachusetts Suicide Prevention Program. Dr. Sundararaman has conducted psychological autopsy and postvention research, trainings, and facilitated meetings across the country, providing evaluation guidance for all 50 states with their suicide prevention programs.



## **Ms. Georgia Harrison Licensed Clinical Social Worker 7th Special Forces Group**

Ms. Georgia Harrison is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) working with 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) as a Behavioral Health Clinician with the Psychological Performance Program (P3). She was born and raised in Columbiana, Alabama. Ms. Harrison worked at the Bay Pines Veterans Affairs (VA) Hospital from 2012 to 2016, providing services as an Inpatient Psychiatry Social Worker and a Case Manager in the Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM) program. She commissioned into the U.S. Navy in 2016 and honorably discharged in June 2021. While serving, she fulfilled the role of Suicide Prevention Coordinator and Lead for the Sailor Assistance and Intercept for Life (SAIL) program at Command Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan. She also provided embedded mental health services to Naval Construction Group 2 as a Clinician and Team Lead for the Psychological Health Team. After leaving military service, she assumed the role of Suicide Prevention Coordinator at U.S. Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) from May 2021 to December 2023.



Ms. Harrison graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Psychology in 2009. She graduated from Florida State University with a Master of Social Work (MSW) in 2012 and is scheduled to graduate with a Doctorate of Social Work (DSW) from Tulane University in May 2024.

# Study: Optimizing Brian Health By Mitigating Posttraumatic Stress Disorder



# STUDY: OPTIMIZING BRAIN HEALTH BY MITIGATING POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

Principal Investigator: Shannon R. Miles, PhD  
Clinical Psychologist at James A. Haley  
Veterans' Hospital  
P: 813.972.2000 ext. 6728  
E: [Shannon.Miles@va.gov](mailto:Shannon.Miles@va.gov)



## THE PROBLEM

PTSD impairs performance and military careers. About 8% of Special Operations Forces (SOF) operators and enablers have PTSD. That means nearly 1 in 10 SOF operators and enablers are not functioning at their peak performance. Impaired performance not only affects the individual operator/enabler, but also teammates, family, and the force. **While effective treatments for PTSD exist, SOF personnel are not getting them.** We need to understand why SOF are not starting PTSD treatment.

## STUDY AIMS

### Aim 1 - Identify what helps and hurts SOF getting PTSD treatment

We will conduct an anonymous survey over 6 months of at least 1,526 SOF community members from USASOF, NSW, AFSOC, and MARSOC. **No information provided in the survey can be linked back to you. Your leadership will NOT get your responses. No one reviewing the study will have access to any personal information.** We want operators/enablers, healthcare providers, command/leadership, GS employees, and policy makers to all provide their expertise.

### Aim 2 - Engage with SOF personnel to overcome challenges to getting PTSD treatment.

We will conduct qualitative interviews with 24 SOF personnel to generate solutions to the barriers identified in Aim 1.

### Aim 3 - Educate

We will partner with a Command Advisory Group that includes healthcare providers, families, and veterans who previously served in SOF to translate the survey (Aim 1) and interview (Aim 2) results into policy recommendations and educational material. Group members include: LTC (Ret) Katryna Deary, MSN, APRN; COL (Dr.) Paul Boccio, Dr. Lindsay Wright; and Command Chief Master Sergeant (Ret) Gregory A. Smith.

## THE ASK

### #1 Complete the survey

### #2 Encourage operators and enablers to complete the survey

Estimated start date 29 SEP 2023,  
30 month duration

## BENEFITS

The results will be used to improve PTSD treatment-seeking among SOF personnel. Ultimately, this study will help to optimize brain health by increasing access to PTSD treatments that can enhance mental and affective performance. Reducing PTSD symptoms in SOF personnel will also improve the health of the family units and communities.

This study involves **minimal risk** to participants. There is no experimental intervention.

Funded by USSOCOM Broad Agency  
Announcement Extramural Biomedical Research  
& Development  
USF IRB Study # 005177  
To verify the study is VA research, contact USF  
IRB at (813) 974-5638 or [RSCH-IRB@USF.EDU](mailto:RSCH-IRB@USF.EDU)  
OMB Control # 0704-0654



# OPTIMIZE



## POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD) TREATMENT IMPROVES PERFORMANCE AND BRAIN HEALTH

We're seeking:

- Operators • Enablers
- Leadership/Command • Providers
- Contractors and GS Employees Serving SOF

We want your advice on how to get SOF personnel  
into effective PTSD treatments.

Help your community by completing an anonymous survey:

**No information provided in the survey can be linked back to you.**  
Your leadership will **NOT** get your responses.

[tinyurl.com/OptimizeSOF](https://tinyurl.com/OptimizeSOF)



OFFERED BY: JAMES A. HALEY VETERANS' HOSPITAL, TAMPA, FL  
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: DR. SHANNON MILES  
FUNDED BY USSOCOM  
USF IRB STUDY # 005177  
TO VERIFY THE STUDY IS VA RESEARCH:  
USF IRB AT (813) 974-5638 OR RSCH-IRB@USF.EDU  
OMB CONTROL # 0704-0654



# Administrative Information





# Question and Answer Platform: Slido

We are trying a new platform to maximize our Q&A sessions this year, Slido!

From our Slido page you can ask questions anonymously or using your name, upvote questions or like a question, and see moderator and audience answers.

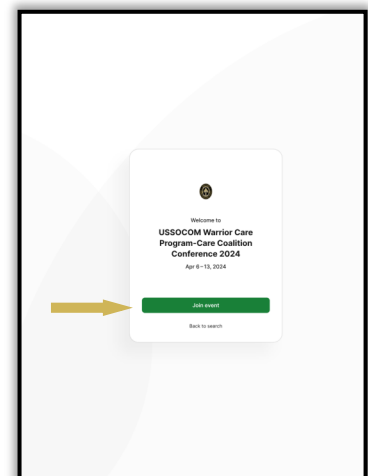
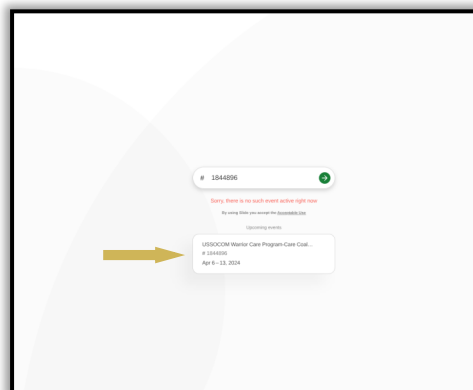
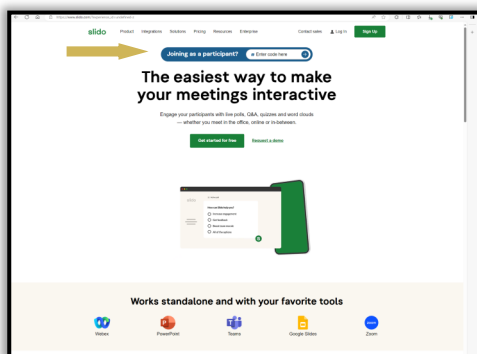
**Q&A Sessions:** At the end of each panel and presentation there will be a Q&A Session. Through Slido you can post your questions at any point during the panel or presentation and it will be asked during the Q&A session by a WCP-CC staff member.

**Networking:** During the conference you can utilize the Ideas Tab to create topics and collaborate with other attendees.

**Don't wait! Connect now, by going to Slido.com and entering in our conference code.**

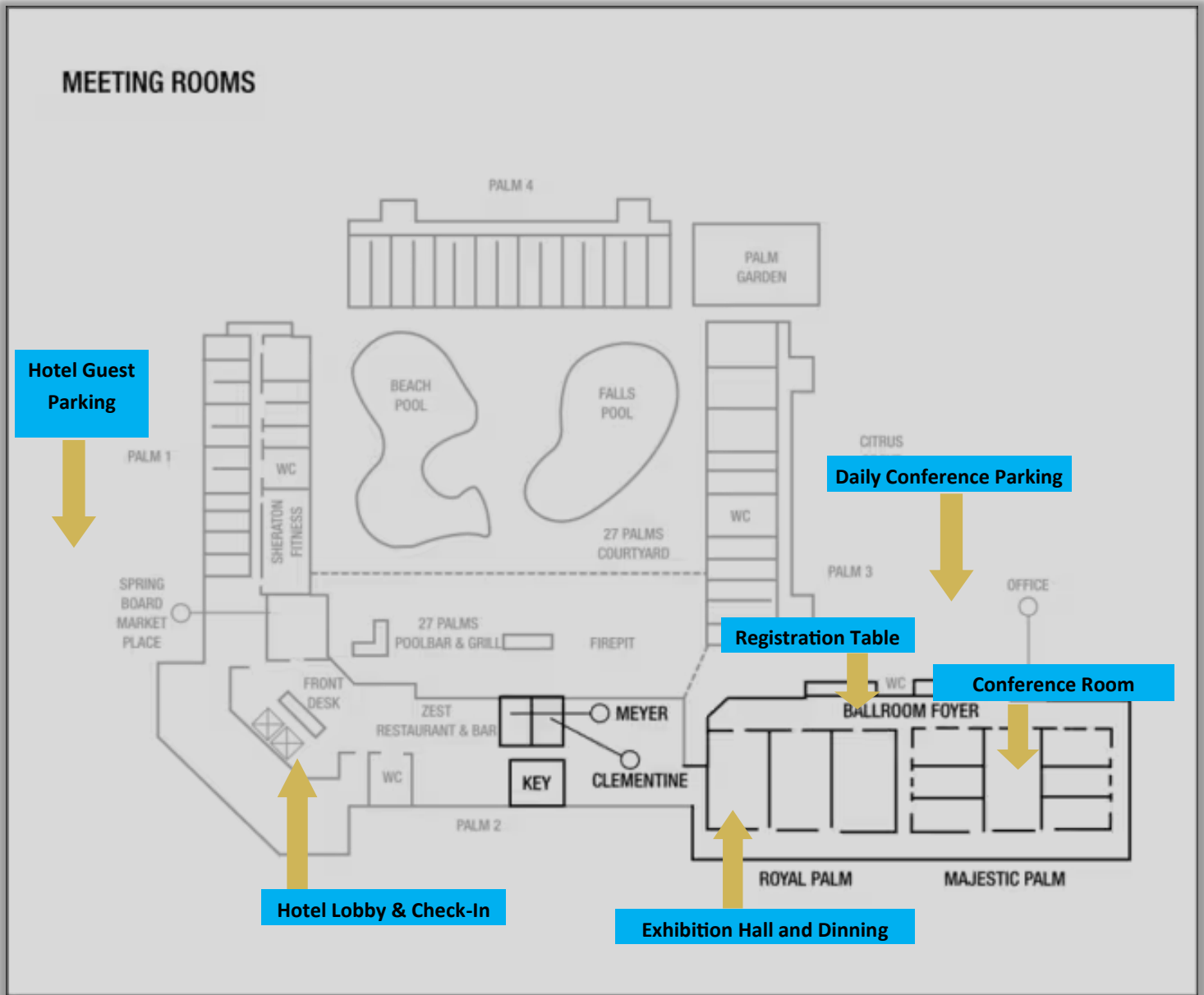
- ◆ **Website:** Slido.com
- ◆ **Conference Code:** #1844896 (2024 U.S. SOCOM Warrior Care Program-Care Coalition (WCP-CC) Conference)

## Access Guide





# Hotel & Conference Center Map







# Exhibition Hall Booths

Acadia Healthcare	Operation Heal Our Patriots
Army Ranger Lead the Way Fund	Operation Healing Forces
Blue Star Families	Operation Motorsport
BlueEQ	Operation Warrior Resolution
Camaraderie Foundation	PACER - South Texas VA Health Care System
Camp Corral	Readiness for SOF Transition (R4ST)
Defense Health Agency Communications and Public Affairs	Road Home Program at Rush
Desert Winds Recovery Center	Security Halt Media
DHA Traumatic Brain Injury Center of Excellence (TBICoE)	Semper Fi & America's Fund
DHS / HSI (Homeland Security Investigations)	SHARE Military Initiative/Shepherd Center
Discovery Behavioral Health	SOF Missions
Eagle Rock Camp	SOF Network
Emory Healthcare Veterans Program	Sound Off
FOCUS/ USSOCOM/ UCLA	Special Forces Charitable Trust
Green Beret Foundation	Special Operations Solutions Fund (SOS Fund)
Henry M. Jackson Foundation DoD/USU Brain Tissue Repository	Special Operations Warrior Foundation
James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital Research	Special Operations Warrior Golf Foundation
James Haley VA, Tampa PREP / IETP	Sunstone Therapies
La Amistad Behavioral Health Services	Tactical Mind Solutions
Laurel Ridge Treatment Center	Tampa VA PREP/SABIRR
legacy healing center in Ft Lauderdale.	Task Force Dagger Special Operations Foundation
Lotus River Wellness, LLC	The Barry Robinson Center
Luke's Wings	The Honor Foundation
Mainstay Medical (ReActiv8 Life)	Three Rangers Foundation
Maxim Healthcare Services	Tree House Recovery
Military & Family Support Svcs	Triangle Springs Hospital - Help For Heroes
Military Adaptive Sports (MAS)	UF Health
Military Warriors Support Foundation	UHS (Universal Health Services) Patriot Support Programs
Military Family Clinic at Aspire Health Partners	United States Trager® Association
Move United	VA Palo Alto - IETP and Polytrauma Rehab
NVLSP/Lawyers Serving Warriors	Wounded Warrior Project

United States Special Operations Command  
Warrior Care Program Care Coalition

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