The mission of TAPS is to honor our men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to America, both in and in support of the military mission, by caring for all those they loved and left behind.
TAPS History

1994
TAPS founded with the support of SECDEF and SECVA, benchmarking the best peer based support programs in America.

1997
TAPS is recognized as a Veterans Service Organization; the Chairman, JCS Shalikashvili directs the Services to connect all surviving families with TAPS.

2001
TAPS is the only private organization at the Pentagon Family Assistance Center with the Red Cross after the 9/11 attacks.

2008
TAPS reaches 25,000 survivors in its care.

2009
Chairman, JCS Mullen calls TAPS the “Gold Standard” in care for the surviving military family.

2010
TAPS and USMC formalize protocol followed by USN, USAF, USCG, NG, DynCorp (over 15,000 surviving family members connected to immediate care since May 2010)

2012
Chairman, JCS Dempsey says TAPS "represents the best of America"
Meeting the Mission

CORE SERVICES

1. Peer-based **EMOTIONAL SUPPORT** providing comfort and care for all who are grieving a death from those who truly understand.

2. **NATIONAL MILITARY SURVIVOR HELPLINE**, answered live, 24/7/365 with care from peer professionals; responding immediately to needs of callers, including survivors, caregivers, volunteers, and grief professionals.

3. **COMMUNITY BASED GRIEF SUPPORT**, including connection to unlimited free clinical grief counseling; trauma resources; local area support groups individually researched for each survivor.

4. **CASE WORK ASSISTANCE**, including pro bono legal assistance, emergency financial resources, information on state and federal survivor benefits, connections to private support for survivors.
PEER BASED EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

★ Peer Mentor Network
Supporting the bereaved through a network of peer mentors. Mentors are trained volunteer survivors who have also lost a loved one and are now standing ready to reach out and support others.

★ Military Survivor Seminars, Retreats, and Good Grief Camps
Seminars and retreats for adults and Good Grief Camps for children and teens in locations across the nation (and internationally), giving survivors the opportunity to share, grown, and help each other heal.

★ TAPS Online Community
Providing secure chat rooms, message boards, blogs, peer group discussion sites, social media outlets, and an extensive website at www.taps.org.
TAPS Core Services

NATIONAL MILITARY SURVIVOR HELPLINE

★ 24 Hour Access
Answered live since October 1994, TAPS support is available any time of the day or night. Some of the most challenging times for survivors are during the nighttime hours.

★ Website Live Chat Feature
TAPS now offers visitors to our website the ability to immediately connect with our Helpline staff through a live chat feature to address questions, find information, and connect with resources.

★ Grief and Trauma Support
TAPS has dedicated peer professionals as well as access to leading experts in the field of grief and trauma to assist survivors who contact us.
COMMUNITY BASED GRIEF SUPPORT

★ Counseling Connections
TAPS facilitates connection to free and unlimited grief counseling services for all who are grieving a Navy death through our partnership with VA Vet Centers, the Give an Hour program, and grief specialists through the Association of Death Education and Counseling who offer pro-bono volunteer services.

★ Community Based Support Services
TAPS provides all survivors with a personalized directory of carefully researched bereavement resources and support groups in their local communities. Survivors can review and find comfort right in their home town.

★ TAPS Care Groups
TAPS Care Groups are regular, informal gatherings of survivors located in communities across the nation. Groups are co-facilitated by a TAPS Peer Mentor and a grief counselor.
CASE WORK ASSISTANCE

★ **Advocacy**
TAPS serves as an advocate for families through research, problem solving, private and public agency networking, and issue resolution/referral.

★ **Legal and Financial Assistance**
Through connection with various non-profit agencies, Military Spouse JD Network and others, TAPS can connect survivors to needed professional advice and assistance.

★ **Educational Scholarship Opportunities**
TAPS connects children of service members to information and details on accessing available benefits for continuing education.
Why It Works

★ TAPS is *survivors helping survivors heal*. The power of peer connection sustains itself over a lifetime.

★ TAPS is connected to the leading grief and trauma resources and care across America AND connected to the military community.

★ The TAPS Peer Support Network provides a one-on-one connection with a trained survivor and various forums to connect and find understanding, hope, healing and a place to honor their loved ones.
## By the numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>228,380</th>
<th>Calls to date to our Military Survivor Helpline with staff responding 24/7/365 continuously since October 1994</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>Average number of incoming survivor calls per day in 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Average number of outgoing survivor calls per day in 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96</td>
<td>Minutes - Average time spent with a new survivor on the first call</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Number of direct support services provided for the new survivor (including a peer mentor, counseling appointment, case work assistance, personalized bereavement resource report, care package)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>TAPS Staff: (66 are military survivors or family members, all with advanced education and training)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Minimum contact per year TAPS with each survivor (including the magazine, cards, invitations, messages of hope and inspiration, e-Newsletters, chats)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$8.5M</td>
<td>Annual funding (from CFC, annual gala, foundation grants, private donations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$0</td>
<td>Cost to the taxpayer!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**WHO WE ARE**

**RELATIONSHIP to Our Loved One:**
- 36% Parents
- 19% Spouses
- 20% Children
- 11% Siblings
- 14% Extended Family and Friends

**SERVICE BRANCH of Our Loved One:**
- 63% Army
- 15% Marine
- 9% Navy
- 5% Air Force
- 8% Coast Guard and Other

**NEW SURVIVORS in the TAPS Family:**
2010 – 2014: 18,735

**VOLUNTEERS in 2014:**
Volunteers: 2,205  Hours: 46,530
TAPS – Distribution of all Survivors
58 EVENTS FOR SURVIVORS IN 2015

10  Survivor Seminars and Good Grief Camps
5   Good Grief Camp Outs
16  Adult Survivor Retreats
4   International Partnership Events
21  Team TAPS running events

★  21st Annual National Military Survivor Seminar & Good Grief Camp
★  7th Annual National Military Suicide Survivor Seminar & Good Grief Camp
EDUCATION SERVICES

- Assistance with VA education benefits, state tuition waivers and private scholarships.
- Memorandum of Agreement with VA
- Facilitating understanding of benefits between survivor and school
- Online portal with information on individualized education benefits
- Over 800 surviving spouses, children and siblings assisted in 18 months
- Saved survivors over $49.2 million in education assistance
MILITARY SURVIVOR EDUCATION ASSISTANCE

Find scholarships and grants for postsecondary education and training exclusively for the military survivor community. Select the search information below that best describes your situation and your interest. For more information, email education@taps.org or call 800-959-TAPS (8277).

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

1. I AM A SURVIVING...
2. OF A SERVICE MEMBER THAT SERVED IN THE...
3. WHO PASSED AWAY...
4. I LIVE IN...
5. I WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL IN...
6. I AM SEEKING A...

Next
Find scholarships and grants for postsecondary education and training exclusively for the military survivor community. Select the search information below that best describes your situation and your interest. For more information, email education@taps.org or call 800-959-TAPS (8277).

**YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR UP TO 32 SCHOLARSHIPS:**

- **Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship**
  - Amount: Full in state tuition, Basic Allowance for Housing, Book stipend
  - Length: 36 months

- **Survivors and Dependent's Education Assistance (DEA)**
  - Amount: $1,003 per month
  - Length: 48 months

- **Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**
  - Amount: Varies
  - Length: Renew annually

- **Iraq and Afghanistan Pell Grants**
  - Amount: $5,080 maximum/year
  - Length: Renew annually through FAFSA

- **Alabama- GI Dependent's Scholarship Program**
  - Amount: Waiver of full tuition
  - Length: 5 years

- **American Legion Legacy Scholarship**
  - Amount: Varies
  - Length: Renew annually

- **American Legion Auxiliary**
  - Amount: $2,500-$3,500
  - Length: Renew annually

- **AMVETS**
  - Amount: $4,000
  - Length: Renew annually

- **Army Aviation Association of America- Families of the Fallen Scholarship**
  - Amount: Varies
  - Length: Renew annually

**CONTACT US**

Please enter your contact information so that we may further assist you:

Enter Name
Enter Phone Number
Enter Email Address

Submit Information
TAPS

to education

Name: Ashlynne Haycock
Phone: 800-959-6277
Email: ashlynne.haycock@taps.org

Answers:
I AM A SURVIVING...
Child

OF A SERVICE MEMBER THAT SERVED IN THE...
Army

WHO PASSED AWAY...
In combat

I LIVE IN...
Alabama

I WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL IN...
Alabama

I AM SEEKING A...
Bachelors

SCHOLARSHIPS:
Marine Gunnery Sergent John David Fry Scholarship
Survivors and Dependent’s Education Assistance (DEA)
Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
Iraq and Afghanistan Pell Grants
Alabama- GI Dependent’s Scholarship Program
American Legion Legacy Scholarship
American Legion Auxiliary
AMVETS
Eligibility Criteria

**KILLED IN ACTION** - Means died in combat, in “hostile” engagement. This excludes training accidents, suicides, illness, and all other non-service connected deaths.

**LINE OF DUTY** - Refers to all service connected deaths, including training accidents, combat-related, suicides, illness, but excludes non-service connected deaths.

**ACTIVE DUTY** - The use of this term is used by many scholarship funds but excludes those who died in the Guard or in the Reserves in a non-federal status.

**SCHOLARSHIP** - Money set aside to pay tuition and other school expenses by a federal, state or private organization.

**WAIVER** - Many states offer this non-monetary scholarship which waives payment of fees and tuition (and sometimes offers room, board and books). Does not cost the states anything, but gives free tuition to the families of the fallen.

**DEPENDENT** - Refers to a spouse, child or stepchild who is a DOD ID card holder, yet many states exclude step-children even if they are DEERS eligible.

**DIED VS. KILLED** – Many scholarships use these critical terms interchangeably. “Died” includes all manner of death, while “killed” implies a hostile act.
Military Survivor State Tuition Waivers

- Tuition waiver
- Scholarship
- No benefit
### Mission

To provide our Nation’s 5.5 million pre- and post 9/11 era military and veteran caregivers with peer support and services to reduce their isolation and increase their connectedness, engagement, hopefulness, knowledge and skills.

### Goals

- Reduce caregiver isolation
- Increase caregiver connectedness
- Increase caregiver engagement, hopefulness and wellbeing
- Increase caregiver knowledge and skills

### Objectives

- Create a Network of 1,000+ partners
- Train master trainers, peer mentors, peer facilitators, peer moderators
- Provide: one-one one peer mentoring; online peer communities and peer support groups

### Outputs

- Peer Mentor Program
- Online Peer Support Community
- Community-based Peer Support Groups
- Resource Library
- Master Calendar
- We Care Magazine

### Outcomes/Impact

- Connectedness
- Engagement
- Hopefulness
- Knowledge
- Skills
TAPS and the Armed Forces

TAPS honors our fallen Service Members by ensuring that the loved ones they may leave behind are not forgotten.

Together, we can help each other heal.

www.taps.org
800-959-TAPS