



Backgrounder

Navy SEAL Foundation Provides Help on the Home Front

(Virginia Beach, Va.) – In January 2011, two notable organizations dedicated to supporting the Naval Special Warfare community came together to form one unified group. The SEAL-Naval Special Warfare Foundation and the Navy SEAL Warrior Fund merged to create the **Navy SEAL Foundation**, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides support in times of adversity and achievement to U.S. Navy SEALs, Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen, Naval Special Warfare support personnel and their families.

“We’ve brought together two very successful organizations dedicated to supporting the Naval Special Warfare community,” said retired Vice Adm. Albert “Bert” Calland, III, chairman of the [Navy SEAL Foundation](#). “The merger makes it easier for families to come to one place for assistance and support, while enabling the foundation to respond rapidly to their needs.”

A Mission that is Right on Target

Headquartered in Virginia Beach, Va., at the [SEAL Heritage Center](#) at the Little Creek campus of the Joint Expeditionary Base, the Navy SEAL Foundation’s mission is to provide assistance to the Naval Special Warfare community during times of tragedy, as well as to provide special events, educational opportunities and projects that honor warriors.

“If an active-duty member of our community has been injured or has died in combat, we are there—helping the family with everything from memorial services to arranging for transportation for family members who live far away,” said James A. Smith, the foundation’s executive director. “The whole idea is to take the burden of the

cost away from the families and help them with the planning. They have enough to concern themselves with during this time.”

Smith brings a first-hand perspective to the job. A retired Navy SEAL, he brings 29 years of operational and leadership experience in Special Operations to the Navy SEAL Foundation. Smith graduated Basic Underwater / SEAL (BUD/S) training in December 1983 with class 125.

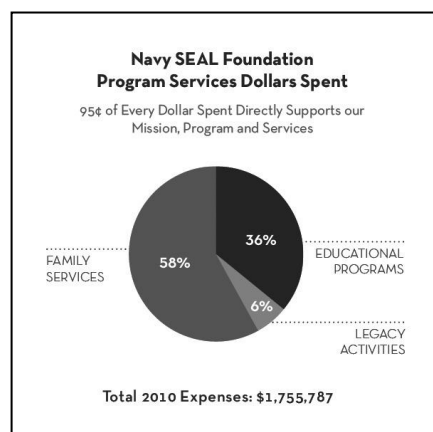
The philosophy and direction of the Navy SEAL Foundation is guided by a board of directors, many of whom, like Smith, are former U.S. Navy SEALs and high-ranking retired military leaders. Since the merger, the board has moved swiftly to develop a branding campaign, promote its cause and raise funds.

Competition and Camaraderie

Throughout the year, the Navy SEAL Foundation hosts a full calendar of [special events](#) across the country to raise awareness while offering an opportunity for others to become involved. From gala affairs to sports outings, Naval Special Warfare alumni, family and friends can support the Foundation at a variety of local events as well as nationally-syndicated programs including “Frogs for Freedom” motorcycle rides or “Birdies for the Brave” golf showcase events produced in partnership with the PGA TOUR.

“These are wonderful experiences, and the return we receive is tremendous, not just in dollars—but in the enthusiasm and support we receive from participants all over the United States,” said Kristi Cummings, a board member who champions the events on behalf of the Navy SEAL Foundation.

Another notable event is the [Navy SEAL Tribute Celebration](#) held each fall at Half Moon Bay Golf Links overlooking the California coastline. Located just south of San Francisco, the weekend fundraiser includes a pair of golf competitions on the course's two award-winning courses, a clambake dinner and gala celebration. In 2010, the SEAL



Tribute raised a half million dollars to support the Navy SEAL Foundation.

The Navy SEAL Foundation offers traditional giving opportunities as well, including online donations, planned giving and an endowment society. Donations are tax deductible, and 95 cents of every dollar spent by

the Navy SEAL Foundation directly supports its mission program and services. The Foundation is certified by the Independent Charities of America as a "Best in America" Charity.

Honoring our Warriors, Supporting their Families

In addition to providing tragedy assistance, the foundation hosts family events to boost morale; awards scholarships and provides educational assistance to active duty personnel, their spouses and children; and preserves the history and heritage of the Naval Special Warfare community.

Today, there are approximately 8,300 Naval Special Warfare personnel, including more than 2,300 active-duty Navy SEALs and 600 Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen operating throughout the world, in addition to reserve personnel, support personnel and civilians.

“These warriors are at the tip of the spear in the Global War on Terror, exhibiting extraordinary skill, courage and commitment,” said Calland, who concluded his active duty career as Deputy Director of the CIA and he is presently an executive vice president for security and intelligence integration at CACI International, Inc.

“It’s paramount for the Foundation to support their families and support staff here at home.”

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