



*For Immediate Release*

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## Special Ops Survivors Announces Selection of Executive Director

*Erik Kramer named Executive Director of venerated non-profit which serves and supports the Gold Star spouses of fallen warriors from all branches of US Special Operations Command*

**Big Sky, Montana - November 11, 2019** – Special Ops Survivors announced today that Erik Kramer has been selected to serve as the organization’s Executive Director effective December 9, 2019. Special Ops Survivors was formed 17 years ago and serves the Gold Star spouses of special operations forces from the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), including US Air Force Special Operations Command (USAFSOC), Marines Special Operations Command (MARSOC), US Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) and Naval Special Operations Command (NAVSOC). Special Ops Survivors is the only non-profit organization which maintains the singular mission and focus in supporting the widows of all branches of US special warfare. Special Ops Survivors also coordinates closely and directly with USSOCOM and other non-profit organizations which also serve the special warfare community.

Mr. Kramer will serve as Special Ops Survivors’ top executive position and will report directly the organization’s board of directors. “I am excited and humbled to be selected from a group of so many highly qualified candidates. I look forward to serving those families whose loved ones have paid the ultimate price while serving our country” said Erik. Mr. Kramer most recently served as the CEO for the Emerging Technology Institute, a technology company focusing on unmanned systems, artificial intelligence, robotics, and electronic warfare that supported the Department of Defense as well as first responders. Erik’s service to our country included serving in the US Army Special Forces branch as lieutenant colonel. As a Special Forces officer, Erik served in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Congo, Iraq, and Kosovo at various levels of command from detachment command to battalion level equivalent. His final military assignment was at the Pentagon, in the office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations & Low Intensity Conflict. He went on to say about this new position and Special Ops Survivors, “I consider becoming the executive director of the Special Operations Survivors my sacred duty.”

“We are thrilled to welcome a gentleman of Erik’s caliber, experience and quality of character to our organization” said Andy Wirth, Chairman of the Special Ops Survivors Board of Directors. Wirth added, “Very much like the ethos of the special warfare community we respectfully serve, Special Ops Survivors seeks to quietly, but with optimal impact and efficacy, execute our mission, which is ultimately to serve the widows of our nation’s special warfare operators. We know that Erik will be a tremendous asset as we seek to enhance and expand the support, programs and services we provide to our survivors.”

Special Ops Survivors services are available to the nearly 500 Gold Star spouses associated with USSOCOM forces by providing individual and group emotional support, emergency financial assistance, education and career advancement grants, child-care credits and more. The organization hosts an annual conference, The Special Ops Survivors Resiliency Retreat, which provides for world class programming and activities for the survivors.

Special Ops Survivors [Mission & Purpose Video Link](#)

Special Ops Survivors As featured on ESPN 10 November, 2019 [Video Link](#)

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About Special Ops Survivors: Special Ops Survivors was founded in 2002 and 501c3 not-for-profit organization, incorporated in the State of California. The organization is a Guidestar Gold participant and maintains a board of directors consisting of all volunteer-patriots, which includes representatives from all four branches of US Special Operations Command. Special Ops Survivors, is committed to providing unparalleled support to the widows of all special operations forces with the consistent objective of ensuring the quality its programs by adhering to the following organizational values: Respect - Seeing survivors as people and not statistics; Access - Making our services available to All Who Qualify; Sanctuary - Supporting an environment where survivors can grieve and heal without judgment; Teamwork - Complementing the aid provided by other benevolent groups while focusing on the surviving spouse.