

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MSOF AND HOME BASE PARTNER TO CREATE SPECIAL OPERATIONS HEALTH FOCUS IN HOME BASE'S NATIONAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Collaboration on special ops health aims to deliver evidence-based resources for service members, veterans, families, and providers.

St. Petersburg, FL - May 10th, 2021

The Military Special Operations Family Collaborative (MSOF) and Home Base, a Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital Program, are excited to announce their partnership to formally and academically study the unique health patterns, engagement strategies, and treatment options for Special Operations Forces (SOF) and their families. This collaboration fills a gap in existing public health research into the unique health needs of America's elite SOF operators and the family members who support them.

"MSOF is proud to collaborate with Home Base to initiate needed and necessary care and support to the special operations community," shared KaLea Lehman, Executive Director and Founder of MSOF. "This community has extraordinary strength and they deserve resources and care that meet their needs to succeed in service and after." Operators delay care an average of 13.4 years for all non-catastrophic injuries (1). Only 13% of SOF families believe resources meet their needs, and 18% of SOF families feel able to pursue their goals (2). These facts present unique challenges for leaders, health providers, and other stakeholders in the SOF community.

The primary goals of this partnership are to improve care and support of SOF at all levels, develop innovative data collection and sharing opportunities, and create SOF-specific public health training, tools, and resources. Additionally, MSOF seeks to jointly host an annual SOF health summit to highlight research findings, health and care opportunities, and identify community needs and gaps in care in the special operations active and veteran community.

For more information on the Home Base's National Center of Excellence and MSOF programs, please visit homebase.org or email home@msofc.org.

ABOUT HOME BASE

Home Base, a Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital Program, is dedicated to healing the invisible wounds for veterans of all eras, service members, military families and families of the fallen through world-class clinical care, wellness, education and research. As a National Center of Excellence, Home Base operates the first and largest private-sector clinic in the nation devoted to providing life-saving clinical care and support for the treatment of the invisible wounds to include post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, anxiety, depression, co-occurring substance use disorder, family relationship challenges and other issues associated with military service.

ABOUT MILITARY SPECIAL OPERATIONS FAMILY COLLABORATIVE

The Military Special Operations Family Collaborative (MSOF) is a public health initiative designed to enable the success of America's Special Operations warriors and families through collaborative health and well-being research and programs. MSOF is motivated by bold ideas and driven by the knowledge that SOF families are unique, misunderstood, isolated, and in need of comprehensive, easily accessible support.

(1) Searcey (2016) <https://nyti.ms/2dElkYT>

(2) MSOF Research (2018).

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