



**FIRST THERE FOR**

**COMBAT CONTROLLERS**

**THE AIR FORCE'S SPECIAL WARFARE ELITE OPERATORS**



**Combat  
Control  
Foundation**

**[CombatControlFoundation.org](http://CombatControlFoundation.org)**

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# WHAT IS A COMBAT CONTROLLER?

Air Force Combat Controllers (CCTs) are some of the most highly trained, special operations forces in the world. Trained as elite air traffic controllers, their unique skill sets make them the deadliest warriors on the planet. They specialize in controlling airspace in combat and austere environments, calling in precision air strikes and delivering humanitarian support around the world as the first, "first responders" to arrive during a disaster.

There are approximately 600 active Combat Controllers in the Air Force, making them much smaller than their better-known counterparts. Their training consistently washes out more than 80% of the men seeking to wear the scarlet beret. And their training pipeline is longer, more demanding and costlier than that to become a Navy SEAL or Army Green Beret. Some of the military's

most difficult missions have been and continue to be executed by Combat Controllers who operate in remote or hostile environments. Acting as a lone operator who is attached other special operations forces, their certifications include open and closed circuit combat diving, military free fall (HALO) and staticline parachuting, unconventional vehicle insertion such as motorcycle/ATV and snowmobile, and fastrope.

Each CCT is also a certified USAF air traffic controller, so that they can more effectively establish control of all airspace and assets available to these unique operators and it is this that makes them truly, the most lethal individuals to walk a battlefield in the history of human warfare.



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# OUR MISSION

The Combat Control Foundation (CCF) is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit charity that provides programs of support to all eras of our nation's Combat Controllers, their families, and other members of the military special operations community. Combat Control Foundation has the Pillars of Support for the Combat Control Community.

**We are First There 4 Resiliency, Wellness, Education and Heritage support.**



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# FIRST THERE 4 RESILIENCY

Through our **First There 4 Resiliency (FT4-R)** program, we are dedicated to extending our support to combat controllers and their families when unexpected needs arise, during times of crisis and adversity. The **FT4-R** program also assists Gold Star Families, providing them with financial assistance to address expenses related to the dignified transfer of remains, memorial services, and travel costs. Our goal is to alleviate the burdens they face during these challenging moments and help them navigate through difficult times.

The Combat Control Foundation is First There as a steadfast support system, ensuring that the children, spouses, and parents of fallen warriors are not alone in the aftermath of their loss. We are committed to providing a range of services to assist them during the years that follow, such as grief counseling, rejuvenating retreats, thoughtful remembrance gifts, and tailored kids' camps. Our aim is to offer solace, healing, and a nurturing environment to those who have endured such profound heartache, helping them navigate their journey of healing and remembrance.

The **Combat Control Foundation is First There** in our commitment to extend support to warriors who face the unfortunate circumstance of losing a parent or sibling. We stand as a reliable presence, ready to provide support during this challenging time. Our aim is to ensure that these warriors receive the support they need to navigate through their grief, heal, and find solace.

We perform a crucial role in bolstering the resilience of even the most accomplished individuals by providing support that alleviates the multitude of stressors they encounter. This assistance proves invaluable in enhancing their well-being and ability to overcome challenges.



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# FIRST THERE 4 WELLNESS

The demanding nature of Combat Control duty takes an imbalanced toll on the well-being of warriors and their families, both physically and mentally. In instances where a Combat Control Team (CCT) member sustains critical injuries or falls ill, our **First There 4 Wellness (FT4-W)** program steps in to offer essential financial, logistical aid and preventive care. By alleviating the burdens associated with these circumstances, we enable them to prioritize their healing journey and focus on their well-being.

In addition, our **FT4-W** program extends our support to family members who may be facing difficulties or limitations. Furthermore, a significant number of veterans grapple with the enduring consequences of sustained combat. The Combat Control Foundation remains steadfast in our commitment to be First There in promoting the well-being of our warriors, families, and veterans. We strive to ensure their continued health and provide the necessary assistance and resources to support their overall wellness.



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# FIRST THERE 4 EDUCATION

Within the Combat Control Community, accessing educational and developmental opportunities can pose significant challenges for both warriors and their families.

Through our **First There 4 Education (FT4-E)** program, we aim to empower Combat Control Team family members by providing scholarships for higher education and training. We are committed to supporting quality education opportunities for dependent children, especially in geographically separated duty locations where the right educational choices are vital for the student's overall success. The goal of **FT4-E** is to ensure that education remains accessible and attainable for the families within the Combat Control Community.

The support we offer supplements the funding available through available Air Force government programs, providing additional financial resources that would not otherwise be accessible. The Combat Control Foundation holds steadfast to its commitment to be First There in prioritizing the education of our warriors, families, and veterans. We strive to ensure they have the necessary means to pursue their educational goals and unlock their full potential.



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# FIRST THERE 4 HERITAGE

Rooted in a legacy that dates back to World War II, the Combat Control Community stands on a foundation of immense pride. The extraordinary accomplishments of these warriors deserve everlasting remembrance and acknowledgment. Furthermore, it is imperative that we, as a collective, make every effort to foster a strong sense of connection within the Community. By providing distinctive and unwavering support, we ensure that the bonds between its members remain unyielding.

Through our **First There 4 Heritage (FT4-H)** program, we actively preserve and cultivate the profound legacy of the Combat Control Team brotherhood, including their families. We achieve this by organizing engaging summer camps and teammate connect events, fostering a sense of camaraderie and continuity. By doing so, we uphold the significant heritage these warriors have established. Additionally, we offer financial support for the development of fitting national memorials and monuments, ensuring their enduring recognition and reverence.

The **Combat Control Foundation is First There** in its dedication to safeguarding the rich history and fostering a strong sense of community among these exceptional warriors, their families, and veterans.



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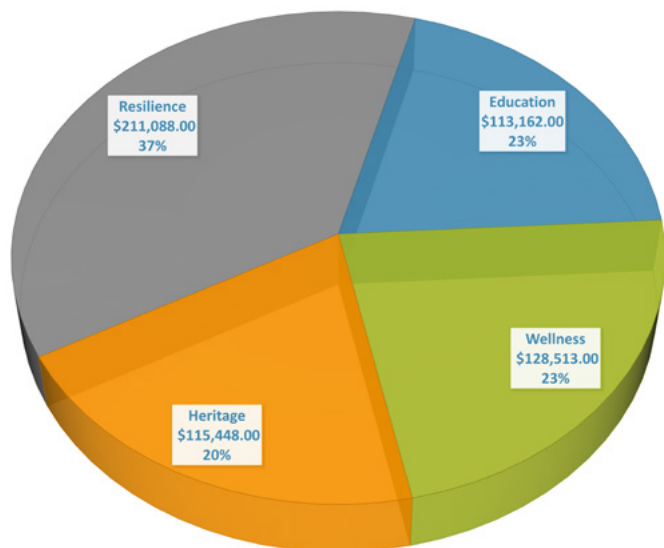


# CARE PROVIDED

## SUPPORT WE'VE PROVIDED SO FAR

The Combat Control Foundation (CCF) works relentlessly to be First There for our Combat Control community. We are thankful to those who joined us and stand with us in support of our courageous combat controllers. Through our First There programs, our initiatives embody our commitment to their resiliency, education, wellness, and heritage, ensuring they receive the support they need. Listed below is what CCF has accomplished since 2021, spending \$568,212 through our First There programs to support our community since we commenced operations.

FIRST THERE PROGRAMS SPEND SINCE 2021



The Combat Control Foundation always prioritizes the privacy of our combat controllers and their families. However, we want to offer some specific examples of how your donations have been utilized. The majority of these examples involve individuals or families who have received support from the CCF. We hope that these examples demonstrate the impact of the support provided by our donors and the CCF. Lastly, we want to express our gratitude on behalf of the recipients who have benefited from the generosity of our donors. They are truly grateful, and we at the Foundation feel privileged to be stewards of these donations.



*"I am a proud recipient of a CCF Scholarship. With this award and support from the Combat Control community I will be using this scholarship to help pay tuition costs."*

**Samantha James**  
**Business Administration**



*"Thank you to the Combat Control Foundation for sponsoring my participation in the Next Step Transition to Business program at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth."*

*Paired with experience from a 24 year career in Combat Control, the rigorous and immersive program at Tuck's school of business has accelerated development of my business acumen. Today I am better positioned to transfer my proven results oriented skill-set from the battlefield to the business community and support my family due to the support of the Combat Control Foundation and it's donors."*

**CCT First There - OL1998**



# DAN SHILLING AND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CCT

**NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER**

**Medal of Honor Recipient John Chapman  
and the Untold Story of the World's Deadliest  
Special Operations Force**

## ALONE AT DAWN



**DAN SCHILLING &  
LORI CHAPMAN LONGFRITZ**



After spending 30 years operating in some of the most austere environments and combat engagements in the world, retired Air Force Lt. Col. Dan Schilling is comfortable being uncomfortable. Schilling served as an Air Force Special Tactics Officer and, before that, a Combat Controller. He is dedicated to sharing the history of the world's deadliest and most humanitarian special operations force.

Schilling is the New York Times bestselling author of *Alone at Dawn: Medal of Honor Recipient John Chapman and the Untold Story of the World's Deadliest Special Operations Force*.

The book is the definitive chronicle of the legacy and impact of Air Force Combat Control and includes the story of MSgt. John Chapman, whose extraordinary heroism on a frigid mountainside in Afghanistan in 2002 resulted in his receiving the only Medal of Honor action ever captured on video and the first and only for the USAF since the Vietnam War.

Of his fellow CCTs Schilling says they are “the thinking man’s special operator” and requires each Combat Controller to shoulder the burden of responsibility for the survival or death of every friend or enemy on the battlespace in which they operate. They must understand combat in four dimensions, tracking and coordinating every ground and air asset involved on their mission in order to call in air strikes on enemy forces, coordinate air assets for reconnaissance and intelligence gathering, all while maintaining communication with every ground and air asset.

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# LEADERSHIP & BOARD



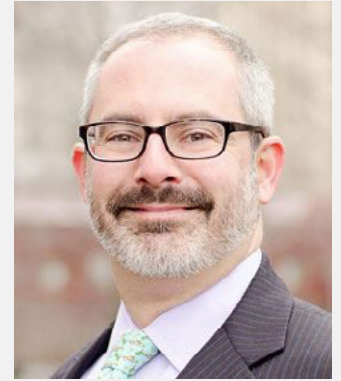
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SSgt (Sep), USAF  
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**Bernie Oder**  
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**Kyle Stanbro**  
MSgt (Ret), USAF (CCT)



**Javier Trujillo**  
Sgt (Sep), USAF (CCT)

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