

The background of the entire image shows the silhouettes of several military personnel, identified as combat controllers, standing in a grassy field. They are wearing helmets and carrying equipment, including long, thin antennas that rise into the sky. The scene is backlit by a low sun, creating a dramatic silhouette effect against a clear, light-colored sky.

WE ARE FIRST THERE FOR

COMBAT CONTROLLERS

THE AIR FORCE'S SPECIAL TACTICS ELITE OPERATORS



COMBAT CONTROL
FOUNDATION

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

Our **First There 4 Resiliency (FT4-R)** program provides mission critical support for combat controllers, their families, and Gold Star families during challenging times. From emergency assistance like home repairs, rent relief, and medical travel to grief counseling, we're here to help meet urgent needs and honor sacrifices.

Our support covers funeral and memorial expenses, sponsorship of remembrance events, and logistical aid, ensuring a dignified farewell for fallen heroes. To strengthen resilience, we've provided for day-to-day necessities such as cell phone coverage, daycare, and hotel stays, as well as unique opportunities like retreats, and recreation to foster healing.

We have also assisted with financial barriers to professional requirements, covering costs for certifications, legal needs, and counseling. Whether providing tickets to a game for a Gold Star family or funding a retreat to promote mental wellness, our commitment is unwavering: to reduce stress, promote well-being, and empower our community to face life's toughest challenges with strength and resilience.



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FIRST THERE 4 WELLNESS

The demanding nature of Combat Control duty takes a toll on the well-being of warriors and their families, both physically and mentally.

Our **First There 4 Wellness (FT4-W)** program provides crucial financial and logistical aid to Combat Control Team (CCT) members who sustain critical injuries or fall ill. By relieving the associated burdens, we empower them to prioritize their healing journey and well-being.

We also extend our support to family members facing difficulties, and we remain committed to promoting the well-being of warriors, families, and veterans. Our goal is to ensure their continued health by providing the necessary assistance and resources for their overall wellness.



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FIRST THERE 4 EDUCATION

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.



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FIRST THERE 4 HERITAGE

Our **First There 4 Heritage (FT4-H)** program is committed to preserving, educating and honoring the legacy of the Combat Control Community.

With initiatives like historical interviews, memorials, reunions, and public educational events, we ensure that the extraordinary acts of service and enduring brotherhood within the community are celebrated and remembered.

Through recognitions like the *Combat Control Foundation's MSgt John A. Chapman 'Service Before Self' Award* and support for Combat Control graduations, we strengthen the bonds that define this proud legacy and educate others about the exceptional contributions of Combat Controllers.



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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. Since we commenced operations, in 2021, we have spent over \$1 Million through our programs to support our combat controllers, their families and the AFSPECWAR community.



WE ALWAYS PRIORITIZE THE PRIVACY OF OUR COMBAT CONTROLLERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. HOWEVER, WE WANT TO OFFER SOME SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF HOW YOUR DONATIONS HAVE BEEN UTILIZED. 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.

"The Combat Control Foundation really helped me out when I was in a tough spot. I truly don't know where I'd be if they hadn't been there for me, I ran into some issues that really took a toll on me and my family. The Combat Control Foundation lined up and funded care that the DOD wouldn't. It helped me tremendously. I'm so thankful that the Combat Control Foundation is available for me and my brothers in arms now. I hope that I will be able to pay it forward soon."

-Combat Controller



"My name is Jack Fanning. I was a Combat Controller until I was paralyzed in 2010 during a military freefall jump. The last 4 years I've been dealing with a wound on my bottom. Combat Control Foundation raised money for me so that I could rent a Clinitron bed which is the best and softest bed out there. This has absolutely helped my wound in a huge way. They even

purchased me a new van so that when I travel to and from appointments or anytime I'm driving the van is a much smoother ride for my wound. In addition to that, they have provided me with funds to help with caregiver costs. These things have 100% impacted my life in a positive way and I can't thank them enough. My quality of life has been so much better with the help of Combat Control Foundation."

DAN SHILLING AND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CCT

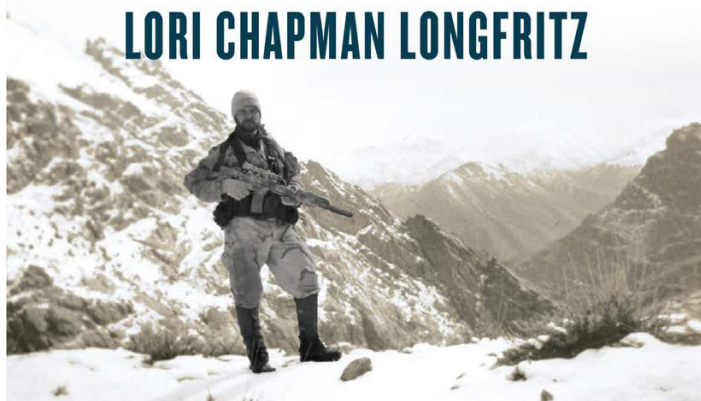
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

**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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