

## ★ MISSION

Challenged Athletes Foundation's® (CAF) Operation Rebound® (OR) program strengthens the mental and physical well-being of veterans and first responders with permanent physical injuries by providing them opportunities to use sports and fitness to re-integrate into our communities and by empowering them through sports to lead productive, active and fulfilling lives.

## ★ WHAT WE DO

OR provides direct funding for sports equipment, training and competition expenses. OR also supports sports clinics for Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals throughout the year. Goals:

- Empower through sports all who have served honorably.
- Integrate our athletes back into society.
- Provide inspiration, awareness and mentorship for our athletes and their families.

## ★ THE NEED

Unprecedented numbers of service members are returning home with severe injuries-loss of multiple limbs, paralysis and brain injuries-while, funding has declined to help them reengage in life.

- An estimated 40,000 disabled veterans are OR eligible.
- Maintaining a healthy lifestyle has proven to mitigate veteran healthcare costs.
- Most OR beneficiaries are low-income earners, living on Social Security or earning under \$25K annually.
- Athletic equipment, travel and training can cost thousands of dollars, making participation untenable without support.
- On average it takes three years of support to truly empower an athlete.

## ★ WHAT SETS US APART

Unlike other programs that require attendance at specific events or participation in certain training programs, CAF Operation Rebound empowers individuals through sports by providing them the resources necessary to participate in the sport or recreational activity of their choosing.

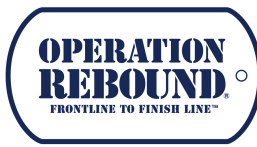
- Open to active duty and veterans of all eras
- Tailored support to meet individual sporting needs
- Focus on integrating athletes into sporting activities that include able-bodied participants.



>> **“Being involved in sports makes me feel as though I am whole again and can accomplish anything I put my mind to.”**– 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Melissa Stockwell, U.S. Army (ret.). [Read Melissa’s full story here](#)



>> **“Since receiving my tennis chair through CAF, I have been playing tennis nearly everyday and am now ranked in the top 5 in the Mid-Atlantic for wheelchair tennis. Thanks to CAF, who made all this possible. -Moon Choe, Marine Corps veteran. Read Moon’s story [here](#) on pg. 5**



## ★ THE GROWTH

Since 2004, OR has empowered over 2,000 injured troops and first responders to excel in life through sports. Between 2018-2022, OR has experienced a 20% average grant request growth rate per year. On average, 35% of the grantees each year are new.

## ★ THE SOLUTION

To meet OR's ever growing demand and provide each athlete impactful support, the OR grant budget needs to increase significantly from it's current level (\$575,000 to \$850,000)

## ★ THE IMPACT

Over the next 3 years, over 1,800 injured troops will be empowered through sports . The result being:

- Decreased use of medication.
- Increased employability potential.
- Mentors created.



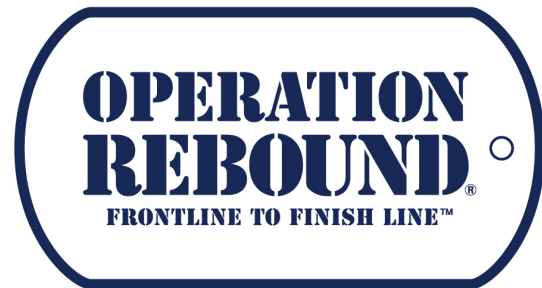
>> "After being injured, I felt lost. Being a part of Operation Rebound makes me feel a part of a team again."-Sergeant Sam Cila, U.S. Army National Guard (ret.) Watch Sam's full story [here](#)

Thank you for helping our injured troops get from the Frontline to the Finish Line. Watch them do so [here](#)

**DONATE**  
[CLICK HERE](#)



>> "Before being introduced to CAF I was 310 lbs. and restricted to an automatic wheelchair. Since then I've lost 70 lbs., have earned my black belt and have opened my own martial arts studio. CAF Operation Rebound has truly changed my life."– Major Anthony Smith, U.S. Army (ret.). Watch Anthony's full story [here](#)



CAF Operation Rebound  
9591 Waples St.  
San Diego, CA 92121  
[nico@challengedathletes.org](mailto:nico@challengedathletes.org)  
858-210-3525