The mission of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) is to facilitate peer-based emotional support and critical resources for all those grieving a military loss. For over 27 years, TAPS has offered support to all survivors without regard to relationship to the deceased, branch of service, or circumstances, or geography of death.

Throughout the year, TAPS hosts Survivor Seminars and Good Grief Camps where all those grieving the death of a military loved one may come together in a safe space to learn coping strategies, gain a network of support, find resources, and share their grief journey with others who truly understand.

These programs have been developed based on benchmarked best practices, extensive research, and years of experience. At TAPS, we understand grief is unique to each survivor, it is not linear, it does not follow a timeline, and connecting with others who share a similar experience is an important part of healing.

“The best part about the seminar is the people who attend it. They understand what you are feeling. They understand what you have gone through. They understand your loss. As time goes on, you discover new ways of channeling your energies, pounding out the grief.”
Surviving Adults find a caring atmosphere where they are able to share about their loved one and express grief among those who understand the shared experience of military loss. Whether new to grief or years beyond their loss, TAPS meets survivors where they are in their journey, normalizing their experience, delivering vital resources, sharing coping tools, and identifying a long-term support network once they return home. Survivors gain a new ‘family’ to walk beside them as they adjust to their new life.

Young Survivors attending Good Grief Camps are invited to participate in the Littles, Middles, Teen, or Young Adult groups to engage with others their own age.

Military Mentors are paired with each Good Grief Camper. Military Mentors are active-duty service members who complete training and volunteer to serve as a companion and a guide for our youngest survivors through the program. They offer careful attention and the military connection now missing from these young lives. Campers participate in fun activities, establish coping skills and support systems, and learn that they are not alone in their grief.

Survivors and Mentors participate in Good Grief Camps free of charge. TAPS provides lodging, meals, ground transportation, special events, counseling and Mentor support. The program is fully staffed by trained personnel provided by TAPS.

Sponsorship funding for TAPS Survivor Seminars and Good Grief Camps enables our families to come together for a healing experience that will profoundly change their lives and allows them to move forward toward a “new normal” surrounded by support. Survivors at the Seminar represent all Branches of Service, relation to the deceased and loved ones’ cause of death.

Contact Development@TAPS.org for information on sponsorships and volunteer opportunities.
Military Survivor Seminars & Good Grief Camps

2022 Schedule

JANUARY 28-30
Northeastern Regional Military Survivor Seminar and Good Grief Camp
Hershey, Pennsylvania

FEBRUARY 25-27
Southeast Regional Military Survivor Seminar and Good Grief Camp
Jacksonville, Florida

MAY 27-30
28th Annual National Military Survivor Seminar and Good Grief Camp
Arlington, Virginia

JULY 8-10
Mountain Regional Military Survivor Seminar and Good Grief Camp
Denver, Colorado

AUGUST 26-28
Southern Regional Military Survivor Seminar and Good Grief Camp
San Antonio, Texas

OCTOBER 6-9
14th Annual National Military Suicide Seminar and Good Grief Camp
Dallas, Texas

NOVEMBER 18-20
Western Regional Military Survivor Seminar and Good Grief Camp
Los Angeles, California

"TAPS has allowed me to get to know and mentor the children of a friend lost after an Iraq deployment. Spending the weekend with them and bunch of other great kids has been very fun and sometimes hilarious. I think it’s important that we don’t lose our connections with these kids. Their lives will never be the same without their moms and dads. It’s not their fault and I am honored to now be ‘Uncle Matt’ and privileged to help them to remember their parents who fought for this country." - Major Matt Sterni, USMC