

MISSION:

"What do you do?"

- Our mission is to preserve and support the community of US Air Force Pararescue and Combat Rescue Officer service members, veterans, and their families – regardless of Major Command or duty status.

THE NEED:

"Why are you doing this?"

- As leaders we saw unmet needs within our community and worked to resolve them with available Air Force tools
- The PJF represents our enduring commitment to meet the needs of our community with every asset at our disposal

"Why is this needed?"

- PJs and CROs perform several simultaneous roles known (taken alone) to be high-risk for Post-Traumatic Stress
- The extreme physical demands on our operators routinely result in orthopedic and neurological damage
- That others may live - asking for help can be perceived as burdening the team and risking the mission
- Seeking care can mean isolation from the team, pay reduction, elimination from the career field or medical discharge

PROGRAMS:

"What services do you provide to accomplish your mission?"

- Physical and psychological education, consultation and therapy for both rehabilitation and prevention
- Tragedy assistance: financial and logistic support when a community member is killed or severely injured
- Transition and education support through a growing network of nonprofits, employers and schools

"Don't government resources do this already – with my tax dollars? Why should I pay twice?"

- We leverage our experience to help PJs and CROs access and make the best use of government resources
- Our personal experiences with these resources – both good and bad – inform the content of our programs
- DoD programs are rapidly evolving, but exist primarily to maximize use of human capital = expedite return to duty
- The VA is limited by funding and the need to provide generalized care to satisfy the broadest population of veterans

"Other nonprofits have the same mission, how are you different?"

- We partner with parallel nonprofits to make use of their resources and multiply the impact of donor funds
- The PJF is the only nonprofit with a sustainable, long-term plan to meet the needs of PJs and CROs across commands
- We are the only nonprofit focused on the health and prosperity of PJs and CROs exclusively

ORGANIZATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND PROCESSES:

"Do your organizing documents clearly define how you accomplish your mission?"

- No. Our charter allows us to fit our policy to the mission, instead of adjusting our mission to fit policy

"If your bylaws don't spell out your procedures, how are you held accountable?"

- As in any 501(c)3, directors are legally accountable; we are also members of the community we serve
- We manage donations IAW best-practices established by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB)
- Read our IRS form 990 and annual report (due Q1 2017), compare us to other nonprofits, then vote with your wallet

"How do you select program participants?"

- For our first programs, we reached out to people we felt could best represent the PJF and our mission
- Directors asked unit Chief Enlisted Managers to identify potential participants and solicit for volunteers
- Future participants will be chosen based on need, availability, commander's input and our capacity

"How do you ensure your programs don't undermine AF leadership's intent and medical standards?"

- Our goal is to provide services that allow leaders at all levels more freedom to focus on the mission
- We are advised by the PJ Medical Director, plus AF Surgeon General and School of Aerospace Medicine staff
- Programs involving current service members are coordinated through, or directed by, the unit commander
- Precedent exists: Army, Navy and Marines all have nonprofit services on base – we're just 70 years behind