

# *Robin Rand*

*General (Ret.), United States Air Force*

*Colorado Springs, CO*

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Dear SSG Fox SPGP Reviewers,

I am writing to request your support to expand the innovative work of the Brother's at War Resiliency Workshops. I first met Jake in the 2008 timeframe in DC when he premiered his documentary called "Brothers at War." Gary Sinise was the executive producer, and the documentary told "our (my) story" of the experience of serving in the war in Iraq." It remains a powerful documentary that is timeless. I occasionally share it with close friends who afterwards look at me and say "I had no idea."

Since then, Jake has dedicated his life to helping our defenders and their families prepare for deployment, transition back into society after deployment, and cope with the loss of comrades, brother, sisters, moms, dads, spouses. Under my leadership of the Gary Sinise Foundation we began to sponsor his workshops and seminars. He went to Shaw AFB in 2020, after several suicides by our Airmen assigned there. By all accounts, his seminar was overwhelming received.

This is personal to Jake. He tragically lost one brother, and has two other brothers in the Army (infantry) who have combined for over 14 deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Somalia. The workshops provide invaluable experiences for military and veteran families. The GSF has funded this work in entirety for the last few years, I have learned that you can't sweep suicides under the rug...I have also learned, that addressing suicides and good suicide prevention is not a "simple block you can put a checkmark in."

Jake's seminars offer hope, resiliency, and empathy. I have witnessed first-hand the impact of these workshops on helping to prevent our warriors from suicide. We can never do enough for our defenders and their loved ones, but we can always do a little more.

Very Respectfully,



- Robin Rand,  
General (Ret), United States Air Force  
Former Chief Executive Officer  
Gary Sinise Foundation