

OPERATION DENALI 2009

http://www.theveteranscoalition.org/operation_denali



The physical struggle to survive and overcome visible combat wounds is obvious to the casual observer, but it is the battle of rediscovery that is the longest, most hard fought struggle a Wounded Warrior must face.

There is an insidious threat, buried in the soul of every warrior who has left a part of himself upon the field of battle. To fall prey to this threat is to become the greatest casualty ...he who forgets himself - what he once was and what he can still be. To be this casualty is to give up the fight, to wallow in your condition with no trace of hope, no recognition of what is still possible.

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OPERATION DENALI 2009

OUR MISSION:

Enable four Warriors wounded in the Global War on Terrorism to overcome devastating combat injuries and successfully summit 20,320 ft Denali, the highest mountain in North America, symbolizing the strength of our Nation and those who defend it.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To raise awareness for the needs of severely injured service men and women
2. To work together to overcome our physical limitations and achieve a common goal made to seem insurmountable by the impact of our injuries on our lives
3. To demonstrate by performance and example that no obstacle is so great that the human spirit cannot overcome it

"It's been one year since the IED strike ripped through my body and changed my path so quickly. My body is still intact, sort of. Not all of my men were so lucky. But I'm no longer the man I once was. My left arm is titanium from wrist to elbow and then some. I lost 50% of the muscle mass in my arm and five inches of my ulnar nerve. I'll need more surgery in the future. I don't have feeling in my left arm, leg or several fingers and can't fully control its use. My brain has become adept at suppressing the pain. As time crawls by, I struggle to rediscover my own ability. Slowly, I am gaining strength.

I won't be that casualty who forgets who he was or can't see what he can still be. After months of hospitalization, 8 surgeries, and the constant pain of therapy, I allowed my wounds to convince me that chance was gone, but not anymore. I will climb this mountain to remember who I am and for the Wounded Warrior's like me, to shrug off the limits of perception formed within the scars of our wounds. If my fight to not be 'that guy' can be an inspiration to another Warrior, then I don't want it to be a secret. And when I summit, I want likeminded Warriors at my side because I know that I am not alone in this desire."

----- Major Marc Hoffmeister, Team Leader, Operation Denali

OPERATION DENALI CLIMBERS

Matt Nyman

Iraq 2005

In 2005, I was on a little bird helicopter in Iraq when we crashed. I was tossed into the rotor. It cut off my right leg below the knee, cut and crushed my left foot, compound femur fracture, and collapsed lungs. All I have done is dreamed about climbing a big mountain and since I got hurt, it just made me want to do it even more to prove to myself I can overcome anything. I will do whatever it takes to do this expedition.



Marc Hoffmeister

Al Hillah, Iraq 22 April 2007

It's been one year since the IED strike ripped through my body and changed my path so quickly. My body is still intact, sort of. Not all of my men were so lucky. But I'm no longer the man I once was. My left arm is titanium from wrist to elbow and then some. I lost 50% of the muscle mass in my arm and five inches of my ulnar nerve. I'll need more surgery in the future. I don't have feeling in my left arm, leg or several fingers and can't fully control its use. My brain has become adept at suppressing the pain. As time crawls by, I struggle to rediscover my own ability. Slowly, I am gaining strength. This may have slowed me down, but it won't prevent me from achieving my dreams. Denali is the next step along my path of rediscovery.



Gayle Hoffmeister

*Team Mentor,
Spouse of Wounded Warrior/Army Veteran*



Jon Kuniholm

Haditha, Iraq 01 January 2005

Following the loss of my right arm in Iraq on New Year's day in 2005, the most basic of things became a challenge: writing my name, putting on a pair of pants in the morning, tying my shoes, cutting a steak. After putting up a ceiling fan that Spring with my 5 year old son, I realized that as long as I was patient enough, I could do whatever I wanted. Climbing Denali is a task that many able bodied folks would never undertake. By being part of a team tackling that task while sharing the additional challenges of disability, I hope to inspire others with similar challenges. I hope as well to remove the limits placed on their expectations of what they can achieve. This won't make getting dressed, eating, or anything else any easier, but it's my hope that it will make any challenge seem possible, and less of a chore to undertake.



David Shebib

Hawr Rajab, Iraq December 2006

It has been over a year since I almost died in a road side bomb attack in Hawr Rajab, Iraq. My wounds were so severe the average person would not have survived, with a severed carotid artery being the worst of a mile long list of other injuries. The doctors at Walter Reed thought the left side of my body would be paralyzed because of the stroke I had suffered from my injuries. After two weeks in ICU and a remarkable recovery, I am not paralyzed. I am not going to let my injuries prevent me from doing what I want to do in the future in the Army or in life. Once my recovery is finished, I plan on returning to full duty in the Army and taking on whatever life throws at me. I plan on summiting Denali in one years time with fellow warriors wounded in Iraq. I believe it would be the ultimate challenge for disabled war veterans to summit Denali. It is a way of bringing us closure from the wounds of war and a starting point on the rest of our lives.



Bob Haines

*Team Mentor
US Army (retired)/current Colorado Springs Firefighter*



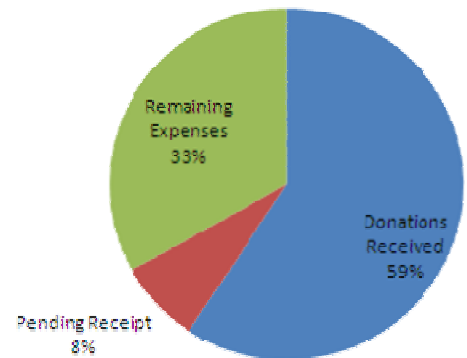


EXPENSES

1. Guide Fees	\$5800 ea x 6	\$ 34,800.00
2. Key/specialty gear shortages		\$ 1,417.25
3. Mountaineering course tuition	\$2500 ea x 5	\$ 12,500.00
4. Denali National Park Fee	\$250 ea	\$ 1,500.00
5. Air Fare Travel for Denali	\$1000 ea x 3	\$ 3,000.00
6. Air Fare for Mountaineering course	\$1000 ea x 2	\$ 2,000.00
7. Course Equipment Rentals		\$ 737.28
8. Personal Equipment Expenses	\$2500 ave x 6	\$ 15,000.00
		\$ 70,954.53

STATUS OF FUNDS RAISED

Donations Received	\$41,826.68
Pending Receipt	\$5,375.00
Remaining Expenses	\$23,752.85
Total Required	\$70,954.53



SPONSOR ENDORSEMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

Mount McKinley \$25,000

Logo on webpage and recognition as Title sponsor in naming of climb,
 Acknowledgement in all press release/blogs of companies contribution,
 Photo with company flag/banner on summit.
 Photo of company representatives with team,
 Team Speaking Engagements
 Company logo on climber vehicles and gear
 Company logo on t-shirt

Mount Whitney \$10,000

Logo on webpage and recognition as sponsor,
 Photo of company representatives with team
 Acknowledgement in all press release/blogs of companies contribution
 Company logo on climber vehicles and gear
 Company logo on t-shirt

Mount Elbert \$5,000

Logo on webpage and recognition as sponsor,
 Photo of company representatives with team
 Acknowledgement in all press release/blogs of companies contribution
 Company logo on t-shirt.

Mount Rainier \$1,000

Logo on webpage and recognition as sponsor
 Acknowledgement in all press release/blogs of companies contribution

OPERATION DENALI IN THE NEWS



Media

Rock And Ice	Mountain Hardwear boosts Disabled Expedition	http://www.rockandice.com/inthemag.php?id=298&type=onliner
Mountain Hardwear	Mountain Hardwear Announces Expedition Sponsorship Recipients for 2009	
Veterans Coalition	Operation Denali 2009	http://www.theveteranscoalition.org/operation_denali/
Alaska Star	Mammoth Mission	http://www.alaskastar.com/stories/021909/New_img_1001.shtml
KTUU News	Iraq Vets fight a War of Perception	http://www.ktuu.com/global/story.asp?s=9690706
Anchorage Daily Newspaper	Despite daily pain, veteran pushes to train, compete	http://www.adn.com/sports/story/668656.html
Purple Heart Magazine	Operation Denali 2009	http://www.purpleheart.org/Membership/Files/Magazines/2008/2008-6-Nov-Dec.pdf http://www.theveteranscoalition.org/home.htm
Veteran Leader Magazine		
Army.mil	Wounded warriors train to surmount Mount McKinley	http://www.army.mil/-news/2008/08/12/11612-wounded-warriors-train-to-climb-mount-mckinley/
Alaska Post	Wounded warriors train to surmount Mount McKinley	http://www.usarak.army.mil/PAO/newsreleases-08/080808-110.htm
I-Report	Wounded warriors train to surmount Mount McKinley	http://www.ireport.com/docs/DOC-60687
Military Photos.net	13 Aug 08 Posting	http://www.militaryphotos.net/forums/showthread.php?t=139878
You Tube	Operation Denali	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1v1jRHkTA8&feature=related
NM National Guard	44th Army Band concert tour takes them "North to Alaska"	https://www.nm.ngb.army.mil/band/44th%20goes%20north%20to%20Alaska.pdf
The Monitor	45th Army Band concert tour takes them "North to Alaska"	http://www.fbmonitor.com/2008/08august/082108/pdf/082108part1.pdf
The NM Minuteman	46th Army Band concert tour takes them "North to Alaska"	http://www.aqppublishing.com/pubs/national_guard/NMMinuteman.pdf
Army Well Being	Wounded warriors train to surmount Mount McKinley	http://www.armywell-being.org/skins/wblo/display.aspx?ModuleID=f6c229ca-03ae-4c81-8d0a-81a5a0c208f9&Action=display_user_object&CategoryID=26a08978-92ee-475b-9745-bf15dff77d6a&ObjectID=f30516a1-661f-4577-bf74-095497839fc9&AllowSSL=true http://www.veteranshour.com/veterans_journal.htm
Veterans Hour	Wounded Warriors Train to Climb Mount McKinley	
Daylife	Iraq Vets fight a War of Perception	http://www.daylife.com/article/0bbFfAn28N1M9
Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and Wounded Heroes News and Stories	Wounded warriors train to surmount Mount McKinley	http://germanamericanfriendshipbracelet.blogspot.com/2008/09/wounded-warriors-train-to-climb-mount.html

Non Profts

AW2	Striving for the Peak	http://aw2portal.com/CS/blogs/directors_blog/archive/2008/05/14/Striving-for-the-Peak.aspx
Operation Never Forgotten	Wounded Warrior Billboards	http://www.operationneverforgotten.org/wounded_warrior.shtml
Operation Never Forgotten	Wounded Warrior Billboards	http://www.operationneverforgotten.org/wounded_warrior_billboard_1.shtml
Operation Never Forgotten	Wounded Warrior Billboards	http://www.operationneverforgotten.org/stories_denali_1.shtml
Family Ties Foundation	Dave Shebib	http://www.familytiesfoundation.org/our-heros/

Blogs

AMS	2008 Mountaineering Season	http://alaskamountaineeringschool.blogspot.com/
A Soldier's Mind	Wounded Warriors Aim For The "Top"	http://soldiersmind.com/2008/08/19/wounded-warriors-aim-for-the-top/
Citizen Tom	OPERATION DENALI	http://citizentom.wordpress.com/2008/04/25/operation-denali/
Pros and Cons	Operation Denali	http://prosandcons.us/?p=6521
Citizen Tom	OPERATION DENALI	http://www.blognetnews.com/virginia/feed.php?channel=196&iid=116750&y=2008&m=04&d=25

TRAINING/CLIMB TIMELINE



June 2009

- 1-Jun-09 Orientation, gear check, NPS registration, pack lunches, fly to Base Camp, distance: 60 miles, elevation gain: 6850'.
- 2-Jun-09 Base Camp: organize, acclimate, review glacier travel and crevasse rescue.
- 3-Jun-09 Single to Ski Hill, Camp 1, 7,800', distance: 5.5 miles, elevation gain: 600'.
- 4-Jun-09 Carry to Kahiltna Pass, 9,700', distance: 5 miles, elevation gain: 1900'.
- 5-Jun-09 Move to Kahiltna Pass, Camp 2, 9,700', distance: 5 miles, elevation gain: 1900'.
- 6-Jun-09 Single to 11,000', Camp 3, distance: 1.5 miles, elevation gain: 1300'.
Purple Heart Trail Dedication
- 7-Jun-09 Rest day
- 8-Jun-09 Carry to 13,500' around Windy Corner, distance: 1.75 miles, elevation gain: 2500'.
- 9-Jun-09 Move to 14,200', Camp IV, distance: 2.75 miles, elevation gain: 3200'.
- 10-Jun-09 Back carry 13,500' cache, distance: 1 mile, elevation gain: 700'.
- 11-Jun-09 Carry to 16,200' , distance: 1 mile, elevation gain: 2000'.
- 12-Jun-09 Rest at 14,200'.
- 13-Jun-09 Move to 16,200 feet or 17,200', Camp V, distance: 1.75 miles, elevation gain: 3000'.
- 14-Jun-09 Rest day or move to 17,200 feet, C amp VI, distance: 1.75 miles, elevation gain: 3000'.
- 15-18 Jun 09 Summit days, distance: 4 miles, elevation gain: 3120'.
- 19-Jun-09 Return to 14,200 feet or 11,000', distance: 2.25 miles.
- 20-Jun-09 Return to Base Camp, 7,200', distance: 11.25 miles.
- 21-Jun-09 Fly back to Talkeetna.



How to support us:

All donations/grants are fully tax deductible and processed by the Veterans Fund of the United States, a non-profit veterans service organization with an IRS determination of 501 (c) (3) and ID #23-287794. Any funds not used to finance the climb will be contributed to the Wounded Warrior Project and the Veterans Coalition to enable their continued support of Warriors in need. Donations/grants may be directed to the below address:

The Veterans Fund of the United States (or VFUS)
805 So. Township Boulevard
Pittston, PA 18640-3327
570-603-9740

Further details available online at:
http://www.theveteranscoalition.org/operation_denali/

For questions, please call:

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