

Resource Kit: Preparing Yourself to Speak with Military Survivors

by TAPS Communications



Nearly all TAPS families are trauma survivors. Before reaching out to a surviving military family member for an interview, we recommend making yourself familiar with resources and techniques for interviewing trauma survivors and realize that these stories require sensitivity.

The Dart Center for Journalism & Trauma (a project of Columbia Journalism School) has produced the following studies to help prepare reporters to speak with trauma survivors:

- **Best Practices in Trauma Reporting**
- **Covering Children and Trauma**
- **Tragedies and Journalists**

Additionally, for any stories related to or including the topic of suicide, please review our **Best Practices for Reporting on Suicide** guide. This guide includes tips on how to use safe language in your reporting and provides additional resources and training opportunities for reporters looking to learn and grow in this area.

You can also call **800-959-TAPS (8277)** or email **media@taps.org** to be connected with a member of our communications team who can discuss story ideas, help connect you with surviving military families, and talk through any questions or concerns you may have.

About TAPS

The Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) is the leading national organization providing compassionate care and survivor support services for the families of America's fallen military heroes. Since 1994, TAPS has offered support to all those grieving the death of a military loved one through peer-based emotional support, connections with grief and trauma resources, grief seminars and retreats for adults, Good Grief Camps for children, casework assistance, connections to community-based care, online and in-person support groups and the 24/7 National Military Survivor Helpline, all at no cost to surviving families. For more information, please visit TAPS.org or call 202.588.TAPS (8277).

