

# MARSOC

## f o u n d a t i o n

Volume 1, Issue 1

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### How the MARSOC Foundation helps MARSOC personnel and their families

- Assists wounded & injured MARSOC personnel with advanced rehabilitation programs & equipment, advanced vocational training, and operational health & performance programs & equipment
- Assists the families of MARSOC personnel with health & welfare challenges through funding, advocacy & services
- Supports memorials & services that commemorate fallen MARSOC personnel through funding for travel costs to memorial services, and construction & upkeep of memorials
- Supports reintegration & transition assistance for MARSOC personnel through funding for family reintegration activities for MARSOC personnel returning from combat & contingency operations, Veteran's Disability Claims support, mentor programs with business leadership and career transition activities

### Foundation Hosts Inaugural Event

On May 11, 2012, the MARSOC Foundation hosted its inaugural event which consisted of participation in a MARSOC Open House on Camp Pendleton and a Commissioning Ceremony at La Costa Resort and Spa in Carlsbad. The Open House included a MARSOC brief and tour of the 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion headquarters building, training at the Range 130 training facility, and a display of gear, weapons and vehicles. Participants caught glimpse of what MARSOC Marines and Sailors do for a living and had the opportunity to shoot a wide variety of weapons under the expert instruction of active duty MARSOC Marines.



*MajGen Lefebvre (Center) with Jim McKee & Al Sniadecki (Force Recon Association) at MARSOC Foundation Commissioning Ceremony*

The event transitioned to a Commissioning Ceremony at La Costa Resort and Spa in Carlsbad, where attendees were treated to dinner followed by a brief about MARSOC presented by Major General Paul Lefebvre, Commanding General, Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command. The Foundation recognized excellence on the range by presenting High Shooter Awards to Derek McDonald, Gary O'Toole and Cormac O'Hanlon.



*Jack, Austin & John Greenway enjoying Range 130*

The Foundation would like to thank the TriWest Alliance, Silverback 7, and the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP) for co-sponsoring the event.



*High Shooter Award Recipients (Left to Right): Cormac O'Hanlon, Gary O'Toole & Derek McDonald*



### Ride430 to Benefit MARSOC Foundation

On October 10th, a special group of road cyclists will make their way from Scottsdale, Arizona to Camp Pendleton, California, covering 430 miles over four days. The Ride 430, previously known as the Ride for Semper Fi, is an annual cycling challenge where participants raise funds for injured military service members and their families. Riders are fully supported along their journey and are privileged to share the road with wounded Marines and Sailors.

Since its inception in 2009, the ride has raised over \$1,000,000.00 for wounded Marines and Sailors. This year, the MARSOC Foundation, along with the Knights of Heroes Foundation and the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund, will benefit from the proceeds raised during this road cycling journey from Arizona to California. Please visit the Ride 430 at [www.ride430.com](http://www.ride430.com) to learn more about this amazing event!

## Thank you to our donors and volunteers

The MARSOC Foundation expresses deep appreciation to:

TriWest HealthCare Alliance and Silverback 7 for generously sponsoring the MARSOC Foundation Commissioning Ceremony and the volunteers from NAIOP San Diego for their support in organizing and executing the event.

Ruckpack Combat Nutrition for including the MARSOC Foundation in their "10% Back Pact" Program.

The Free Wheel Foundation for coordinating and sponsoring the Scottsdale Gun Club Auction and including the MARSOC Foundation as a beneficiary of the 2012 Ride 430.

Our numerous volunteers who have helped take the Foundation from inception to near full capability in less than six months. Your patriotic support has allowed us to direct all available resources to the Marines, Sailors, and their families.

## Message from the President

MARSOC warriors are at the tip of the spear in the Global War on Terror, exhibiting extraordinary skill, valor, and commitment. In volatile and treacherous environments, these brave warriors continue to push forward in support of our national security -- even as much of the military reduces their overseas commitments. While recent years have brought significant loss and difficulty for MARSOC personnel and their families, battlefield wounds and loss of life have spiked higher this summer. Now more than ever, these warriors and their heroic families need our support.

Brian Fuller

## Foundation Helps Injured "Cycle Through" Recovery

Sometimes it is the simplest of things that can aid a wounded individual on their road to recovery. For two MARSOC warriors fully engaged in their rehabilitation, it was the addition of two wheels that added a new "path" on that journey.

Both Justin Wilson and Matt Lampert hope to some day return to their love of running. They needed a stepping stone to help them reach

that goal, and for both, that came in the form of cycling for cross-training and to enhance their strength and endurance.

While Justin's bike allows him to bring along his son and navigate the open roads, Matt's bike allows him to train on routes that the cyclists encounter during the Tour de France, experiencing the same challenging ascents and descents traveled by professional riders.

Matt has redeployed and was able to bring his bike with him.

Special thanks to Don & Amber Eldridge from DNA Cyclery in Mesa/Scottsdale, Arizona, as well as the Free Wheel Foundation for assisting with Justin's wheels.

We applaud both Justin and Matt and hope to see them both lacing up their running shoes very soon!



Left Photo: HM1 Justin Wilson utilizing the mountain bike purchased by MARSOC Foundation to recover from combat injuries he sustained in Afghanistan. The new bike will prep him for running in the near future.

Right Photo: Capt. Matt Lampert with Foundation President Brian Fuller and his Tour de France ProForm bike. Matt is currently utilizing the bike while forward deployed in Afghanistan. He is currently MARSOC's first double amputee to battle back from his injuries and redeploy back to Afghanistan.

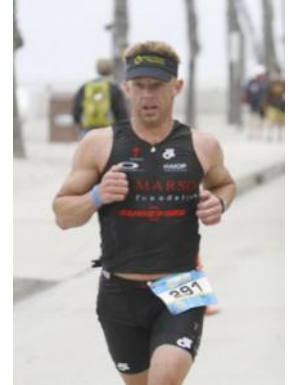


# Miles for MARSOC Community Athletes Raise Over \$27,000 for Foundation

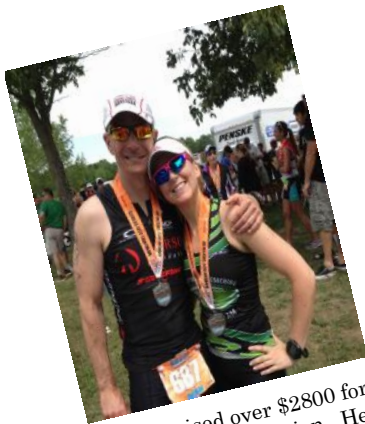
The Miles for MARSOC program, where individuals register for an event of their choice (or create their own, like our sailing couple, the Marvil's, who has raised over \$1400 on their journey from Panama to Chesapeake Bay) and raise funds on behalf of the Foundation, has been a main source of fundraising since the Foundation's inception in 2011. Community athletes create their own fundraising page and seek support from family and friends to meet fundraising goals that reward them not only with the satisfaction of making a difference in the lives of MARSOC personnel, but also allows them to earn race kits for cycling, triathlons, and running events.

Miles for MARSOC currently has three athletes training for upcoming events, including Derek Abbey (competing in the Twin Cities Marathon later this fall), Phil Maxwell (competing in next month's LOTOJA Classic, a 206-mile road bike challenge), and John Dailey (training for the Grindstone 100, an ultra-marathon covering 101.85 miles and gaining over 4000 feet of elevation in Virginia).

If you are interested in becoming a Community Athlete, please email [schristian@marsocfoundation.org](mailto:schristian@marsocfoundation.org) for more information. Give those training miles some extra meaning by joining Miles for MARSOC!



Rob Hilton competed in Ironman Texas and raised over \$3200. Congrats on the podium finish, Rob!



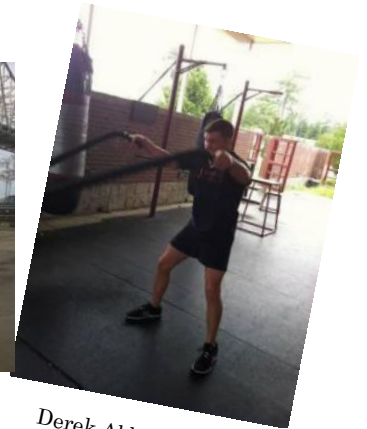
Vic Zilani raised over \$2800 for the MARSOC Foundation. He was one of our first Community Athletes. Thanks, Vic!



Dan Dinsmore raised over \$3000. He created brochures and a video for his campaign. Way to go, Dan!



Miguel Aguilar ran with his sister in the Crescent Connection Bridge Run and raised over \$3300! Thanks, Miguel!



Derek Abbey is in training for the Twin Cities Marathon this fall and has raised over \$2800 so far! Awesome job, Derek!



Phil Maxwell, all smiles while training for LOTOJA Classic. Go, Phil!

Andy Christian competed in Ironman St George and raised over \$10,200! Thanks, Andy!





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**MARSOC Foundation Progress Report  
 Since Inception in December 2011**

- Provided 2 wounded MARSOC personnel with training equipment to assist in rehabilitation
- Funded etchings on MARSOC Memorial at Camp Lejeune
- Moving assistance for wounded MARSOC Marine needing to relocate for proximity to site of rehabilitation services
- Funded travel for active-duty MARSOC personnel to attend the funerals of eight fallen comrades
- Funded travel for family members of wounded active-duty MARSOC personnel to attend a medical retirement ceremony
- Committed to funding for wounded MARSOC Marine to participate in innovative therapy for paralysis

**Since the horrific events of 9/11, the demands on Special Operations Forces and their families have been unprecedented in our Nation's history.**

Today, MARSOC is deployed in over 40 countries around the world. The average MARSOC Critical Skills Operator is away from home and family more than 50% of the time, either on deployment or out-of-area training. During their service to our country, they are often exposed to combat and other hazardous activities that can have immediate and lasting impacts. As demand grows for the unique services of MARSOC, so too does the need for benevolent support.

**The MARSOC Foundation was established to provide benevolent support to active duty and medically retired MARSOC personnel and their families as well as to the families of Marines who have lost their lives in service to our Nation.**

*“Helping those who have sacrificed the most”*

**What You Can Do:**

- Donate online at [www.marsocfoundation.org](http://www.marsocfoundation.org)
- Share this newsletter with others in your network
- “Like” the MARSOC Foundation on Facebook
- Encourage others to register on our website
- Become a Community Athlete in the Miles for MARSOC program

**Scottsdale Gun Club Event Raises Over \$35K for MARSOC Foundation**

On August 3rd, the Free Wheel Foundation hosted a live and silent auction at the Foundation. A combination of selfless and patriotic businesses and individuals created a memorable evening that raised over \$35,000 in proceeds from the auction, increased awareness for both the MARSOC Foundation and the Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC).

Scottsdale Gun Club to benefit the MARSOC

John Greenway, founder and CEO of the Free Wheel Foundation, an organization whose mission is to provide assistance to injured military members, spearheaded the event. Companies who provided auction items and static displays included Palm USA, Glock, Tactical Concealment, the Arizona Diamondbacks, Haley Strategic, Heck Estates Wineries, the Melting Pot, Profile Designs, Aimpoint, Desert Wolf Tours, S.T.A. Training Group, V & C Industries, Inc., Capital Grill, B.I.G. Promotions, and Remington.



*John Greenway with MARSOC Marines and Sailors at the Scottsdale Gun Club Auction*

Attendees were treated to an evening that included an introduction to what MARSOC is, as well as who the MARSOC Foundation is and what they do. There were also opportunities to shoot on the Scottsdale Gun Club's range, as well as mingle in their exclusive Platinum Club facility.

Auction items available to the bidders ran the gamut from exclusive vintage wine and dinners at local restaurant to sports memorabilia and tickets to Luiz Gonzalez's private suite at Chase Field. American flags flown over Afghanistan by MARSOC personnel, shooting equipment, a Las Vegas trip, and a desert jeep tour were also offered.

The Foundation would like to thank everyone who came out in support of the August 3rd event! Your generosity allows the Foundation to provide assistance to MARSOC personnel and their families when the need arises. Thank you!