

Troy Drasher



I am Troy Drasher. This is my story.

22.5 years in the world's greatest Air Force. I went from a conventional and nuclear aircraft weapons specialist to Space Command, 8 deployments, 6.5 years away from family, to special duties and 14 psych meds. As a First Sergeant, **I was responsible for the health, morale, and welfare of my airmen.** Removed from the chain of command, I was charged with their personal care, 24/7. Regardless of where life found them, my job was to stand by their side without judgement, and provide aid. From divorce, abuse, sexual assault, and UCMJ charges, to promotions and awards, people were my business.

I had additional duties with base honor guard, as well as mortuary affairs. Dealing with the remains of those I was charged with leading was a unique and difficult task. The loss of life is difficult enough, but a suicide from someone you are trying to help was the ultimate failure.

My job was impossible at times, but I did it to the best of my abilities. Unfortunately, it broke me, and I retired. **With trust in the medical services offered, I found myself years later isolated, lost, and full of fear.**

Somehow, I found Warfighter Advance.

During the Advance 7-Day, something happened. I found a spark. I started to experience the transition from a personal emotional vacuum to having my first taste of hope again. Finally, I met people who were just like me. **They understood the unexplainable.** I took the tools and information given that really spoke to me, and applied them to my life. Tired of being lost, scared, and hurting, I finally gained a positive direction in life, and I started to cage my demons. Living for today. Enough was enough.

While I did the work, **Warfighter Advance gave me the tools.**

I feel safe for the first time in a long time.

Many of our graduates now feel safe for the first time in a longtime, too.

Troy Drasher, Master Sergeant