



Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund
Wounded Warrior Center • Bldg H49 • Camp Pendleton, CA 92055
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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Ride for Semper Fi riders cycle 430 miles for injured service members!

San Diego, CA - After three and a half days and 430 miles across hot deserts and intense hills, 65 riders from the *Ride for Semper Fi* will arrive from Scottsdale, Arizona to San Diego, California on Saturday, October 15. The riders are taking on the long and strenuous journey to raise awareness and support for injured Marines and Sailors. They will end their ride with a check presentation to the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot.

This is the fourth year for Ride for Semper Fi (RFSF). Over the last three years, the RFSF team has raised more than \$500,000 for the Semper Fi Fund. This year their goal is \$300,000 to give to "those who have sacrificed and suffered injuries while serving our country."

During the trip, riders will witness personally the strength of our nation's heroes. Three injured service members from the Semper Fi Fund's sport program, Team Semper Fi will be enduring the journey along side the team. Team Semper Fi members include former active duty Marines, Major Tres Smith and Lance Corporal Angel Gomez, and Navy Corpsman HM2 George Ochoa. Also, supporting the team is honorary Team Captain, Marine Corporal Ronny Porta.

To support the ride or to read more about their efforts please go to their website <www.therideforsemperfi.com>.

Please consider covering the Ride for Semper Fi 430 mile ride for injured service members!

- **Who:** Ride for Semper Fi team cycles 430 miles to raise awareness for injured service members
- **What:** 65 riders and 3 Team Semper Fi members arrive at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego
- **When:** Oct 12-15, 2011. Riders arrive on MCRD on Sat. Oct. 15 by 1:00 PM. Interviews with riders and injured service members are available at Bay View Restaurant at 1:00 PM on MCRD.
- **Where:** The RFSF ends at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego.
- **Links:** Semper Fi Fund – <<http://semperfund.org/updates/ride-for-semper-fi-2011/>>

The Semper Fi Fund (SFF) (<http://www.semperfund.org>) is a non-profit organization that provides financial assistance and quality of life solutions for Marines and Sailors, as well as members of the Army, Air Force and Coast Guard who serve in support of Marine forces, when they become injured in post 9-11 combat or training operations, or they face life threatening illness or injury. Our fund provides relief to qualified Servicemembers and their families for immediate financial needs that arise during hospitalization and recovery, as well as perpetuating needs such as home modifications, customized transportation and specialized equipment.

The Semper Fi Fund has awarded over 34,000 financial grants totaling more than \$54 million in grants given to our injured and ill service members and their families.



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The SFF was founded by Karen Guenther, a registered nurse and spouse of an active duty Marine who had first-hand knowledge of the challenges faced by wounded Marines and Sailors returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. She, along with a dedicated group of military spouses established Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund in May of 2004.

Team Semper Fi (TSF) (<http://semperfund.org/team-semper-fi/>) is an athletic sports team made up of more than 270 injured service members who compete in athletic events across the country. With their motto "Recovery Through Sport" Team Semper Fi is a rehabilitative sports program offered by the Semper Fi Fund. The team is made up of servicemen and women who have overcome significant challenges and refused to let their injuries prevent them from competing in athletic events.