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U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major Dave Silva to Speak at Annual EOD Warrior Foundation Ball

Esteemed EOD leader's address will underscore the deep connection, shared sacrifice, and unwavering support that define the EOD Family.

NICEVILLE, FLORIDA – (March 17, 2025) – U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Dave Silva will be the keynote speaker at the 57th annual EOD Memorial Ball, scheduled for May 3, 2025, at the Emerald Coast Convention Center. This annual event brings together the joint service EOD Community to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and to celebrate the valor of EOD Warriors. The convention center is located at 1250 Miracle Strip Parkway SE, Fort Walton Beach, FL. Tickets, priced at \$90 each, are available for purchase online at eodwarriorfoundation.org.

CSM Silva, a native of Long Beach, California, enlisted in the U.S. Army in August 1993. He began his military career as a Cannon Crewmember before transitioning to Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) in 1996. Throughout his distinguished service, Silva has held numerous leadership positions, including EOD Team Leader, Platoon Sergeant, and First Sergeant. In April 2023, he assumed the role of Command Sergeant Major of the 20th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives (CBRNE) Command, where he continues to lead and mentor soldiers in complex operational environments.

Reflecting on his EOD career, CSM Silva observed, "EOD is a Family, bound by trust, forged through sacrifice, and strengthened by the unbreakable bond of those who share this calling, and the loved ones that support us. It's not about the badge; it's about the heart behind the badge."

Jerry Shelton, Executive Director of the EOD Warrior Foundation, expressed his enthusiasm for this year's event, noting, "The EOD Memorial Ball is a night to remember those EOD Warriors who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and to honor their families. We are incredibly honored to have CSM Dave Silva as the Keynote Speaker for this year's event. His service to this nation and his commitment to leading and mentoring EOD technicians exemplify the core values of our community."

The EOD Memorial Ball on Saturday night will culminate the week's events, which include the EOD Memorial Ceremony held earlier that day at NAVSCOLEOD on Range Rd, Niceville, Eglin AFB property. Other events include a golf tournament Friday morning at Gator Lakes Golf Course, Hurlburt Field, a live auction on Friday evening at

the Convention Center, and an EOD Chefs Cookoff Family Event Saturday midday at The Gulf in Ft. Walton Beach. The EOD Ball will host over 1,000 attendees for an evening of speeches, tradition, and dancing.

About EOD Warrior Foundation

The EOD Warrior Foundation is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for the EOD family by providing educational, financial, and emotional support. EOD stands for Explosive Ordnance Disposal, the disarming and disposal of bombs. EOD technicians are highly trained military members serving in the Army, Marines, Navy, and Air Force who are responsible for disarming, rendering safe, and disposing of bombs. The EOD profession is one of the most dangerous occupations in the military.

On average, there are over 6,000 brave men and women serving as EOD technicians who willingly put themselves in harm's way to protect the lives and property of others. Their service includes support to the most complex special operations missions. Additionally, there are over 20,000 veteran EOD warriors who still face challenges after their separation from the military. The Foundation is proud to assist with disarming challenges for EOD Warriors and their families by offering them financial relief, hope and wellness retreats, college scholarships, and the care of the EOD Memorial Wall, located at Eglin AFB, FL. To learn more about the EOD Warrior Foundation or see their fundraising events calendar, visit: www.eodwarriorfoundation.org

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