

Sean O., Army National Guard. Activated in Support of Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) (Ft Dix/Brick NJ) #42630

Sean's case represents one of the main reasons why Operation Homefront was founded in 2002. When our country went to war, many of our military families had to make adjustments to a new paradigm after years of peacetime service. Over the ensuing years, many of the hardest hit families were those of our National Guard and Reserves. Call-ups to active duty for significant periods of time meant rapid and confusing transitions for the families, and many of our families were not living near large bases with their accompanying support services. Coming home from deployment often presented new challenges for the families, as the increasingly tough job market and recession economy left families struggling,

Sean and his family have served our country in the National Guard for 18 years. In that time, Sean has deployed not only to Afghanistan, but also to Iraq (twice) and Kuwait during the first Gulf War. After his last deployment, Sean returned to one of the toughest job markets in recent history. Finding employment was made more difficult for Sean because he also was coping with Post Traumatic Stress and chronic back pain due as a result of his multiple deployments.

As a result, Sean spent two years trying to find work. But by that time, the family had exhausted their savings and the financial damage was done.

Hardest hit was the family's mortgage. A home that they had owned for years, where they raised their three children, was now at risk of foreclosure. Now that he was employed, Sean had even made extra payments, but still could not catch up with the mortgage. There was a very real probability that the family would lose their home. That is when Sean called Operation Homefront.

Working with Sean and our financial counseling partners, and, again, thanks to the support of our donors, we were able to get Sean completely caught up on his mortgage and on the path to financial security. Now, he can focus on his health and his family.

Though we are drawing down combat operations on Afghanistan and Iraq, tensions worldwide still remain high. In Southwest Asia and areas around the globe, conflict remains, and our nation's military can be called up at any time to support allies, provide humanitarian relief, or ensure security. This uncertainty is a part of life for our military families, but we can help ease their minds by pledging to be there for them in any eventuality. Your support helps make that happen.