

Biography of Brendan Dowling

A Virginia native, the call of military service persisted early for Brendan Dowling. Freshly out of high school and just before 9/11/2001 he enlisted in the Navy to serve his country. Brendan Joined the Navy in May of 2001 and underwent the rigorous training to join the Navy SEALs, drawing from stores of innate intelligence, determination, and strength. Following completion of SEAL Qualification training in 2003 Brendan checked into SEAL Team Three and immediately deployed.

After two deployments and his initial introduction to combat, Brendan identified his deficiency in medical knowledge and volunteered once again to attend Special Operations Combat Medic (SOCM) Course. This is a highly didactic and challenging Special Operations course where already selected operators learn to become combat caregivers. He completed 180 hours of Medical Fundamentals (Anatomy, Physiology, Pathophysiology, Pharmacology, Physical Exam, Patient Assessment, and BLS), 243 hours in Trauma (Primary Medical Skills, Surgical Skills, and Tactical Combat Casualty Care), 80 hours of Emergency Cardiac Care, 96 hours pre-hospital care with Tampa Florida EMS service, 144 hours of hands-on clinical training at Tampa General Hospital, Tampa, Florida, and 14 hours of Preventative medicine training.

Brendan's devotion to his teammates was contagious and obvious, and led directly to his new position as SEAL Platoon Medical Department Head where he was the primary medic for a 30-man SEAL precision fires unit in Iraq. His impressive performance resulted in Brendan being handpicked for an advanced SEAL Operator Course and assignment to the Chief of Naval Operations Priority One Command, the Naval Special Warfare Development Group (NSWDG), among only 5% of 2,000 Navy SEALs selected. Sent overseas to Afghanistan and Africa on multiple combat deployments, Brendan served as the Squadron Air Operations Lead Petty Officer and Tandem Tether Bundle Master responsible for all nighttime tactical air insertion operations. He also served as The Troop Leading Petty Officer and supervisor of a 24-man joint force detachment of Sea Air Land (SEAL), Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), U.S. Air Force and tactical direct support personnel during combat operations. In 2007, 2012, and 2014 Brendan was awarded Bronze Stars with Combat Valor due to his devotion, tactical expertise, management skills, and ability to lead under fire. Notably, his Bronze Star in 2012 was awarded with a Determination of Extraordinary Heroism for his actions striving to save a downed teammate.

In September of 2014 Brendan decided to shift fire and pursue his burning passion for medicine. Having given real world casualty care to patients across seven years as a SEAL Special Operations Combat Medic, he understood his calling for medicine and voluntarily separated from the Navy to pursue his undergraduate education. He began his studies of Biochemistry at the University of Mary Washington in Virginia. In the midst of his coursework in 2016, he was called upon to exercise his military leadership and organizational experience to establish casualty care training, municipal mass casualty health care coordination, and an emergency medical plan for a Las Vegas based multi-billion dollar resort of twenty-five thousand global employees. Additionally, as the founding member, his tasks included the hiring, management, and supervision of a security force exceeding 400 members, including forty-plus marines and 3

Navy SEALs. Brendan also took responsibility over the Active Shooter program's Small Arms Qualification, and resort tailored Active Shooter Response and Medical tactics. This experience taught Brendan the importance of coordinated care at multiple municipal levels during incident response. After establishing a robust system of communication and coordination between law enforcement, the fire department, local hospitals, paramedics and hotel first responders, he returned to his original plans of pursuing a path towards healthcare.

Returning to his studies at the University of San Diego, Brendan successfully completed the rigorous coursework to attain his Undergraduate in Biological Chemistry. Including over 18 months of research studying the structure and function of malate dehydrogenase. After graduation in the summer of 2022, Brendan was offered a position at Miramar Health, a Veteran Affairs contracted Community Care Provider exclusively serving Veterans with Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health issues. Joining the Miramar Health team as their Veteran Outreach Manager, his calling to healthcare was materializing. Continuing to sharpen his skillsets, Brendan is working towards his Masters in Counselling Psychology to better serve his community. Any institution that selects Brendan will reap the benefits of the traits he has spent a lifetime forging over his years of service.

Awards and Special Accomplishments

Presidential Unit Citation (2) • Bronze Star with Determination of Extraordinary Heroism • Bronze Star with Valor (2) • Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Valor (3) • Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal • Combat Action Ribbon (2) • Joint Meritorious Unit Award • Good Conduct Medal (4) • National Defense Service Medal • Afghanistan Campaign Medal (2) • Iraq Campaign Medal (2) • Global War On Terrorism Expeditionary Medal • Global War On Terrorism Service Medal • Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (8) • NATO Medal • Expert Rifleman Marksmanship Medal • Expert Pistol Marksmanship Medal