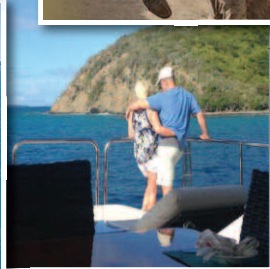
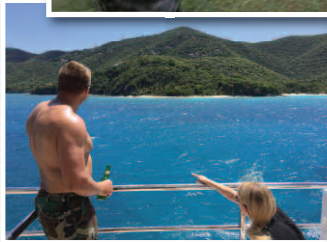


**OPERATION**  
**CRUISE**



## THE MISSION

To provide our wounded Special Operation Force (SOF) veterans and their companions an exceptional couples enrichment and rehabilitative program aboard a luxury yacht in a pristine, stress free, relaxed environment enabling them to strengthen bonds and increase resiliency.



**"Operation Cruise is a life altering event."**

**–Wounded Warrior**

**"This is the best experience of my life."**

**–Wounded Warrior**



**"Invaluable experience. Words could not begin to explain or describe the depth of healing, wholeness, and satisfaction discovered."**

**–Wounded Warrior Spouse**



## THE HISTORY

Founded in January 2011 after consultation with the United States Special Operations Command's (USSOCOM) Care Coalition, Mr. Gary Markel created a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, OPERATION CRUISE to assist wounded special operations forces (SOF) and their partners with rehabilitation and healing.

**"Operation Cruise allowed my husband to bond with other veterans, share experiences, remember hard times, share resources, and feel connected to others who are trying to heal as well. It was great talking with other wives as well and sharing experiences as caregivers, supporters, and partners during an injury."**

**–Wounded Warrior Spouse**

**"This trip really helped my wife understand the military brotherhood and the friendships that are earned for life."**

**–Wounded Warrior**

**"Operation Cruise allowed my wife to gain valuable insight into our unique world in order to relate better to me. And, it allowed my wife and I an opportunity to make big strides in progress with our deteriorating marriage."**

**–Wounded Warrior**

## THE CONCEPT

Create a setting far removed from the pressures of deployments, war, and hospitals where wounded warriors and their significant others have the ability to focus on themselves to heal wounds, both seen and unseen. SOF veterans and their mates have discovered an ability to heal from within as they share experiences and interact with one another who have undergone similar difficult and arduous circumstances.

**"The experience my husband had with other special ops veterans was very special to him... Seeing the husbands share, remember, and laugh together was very healing and cathartic."**

**–Wounded Warrior Spouse**



**"It is hard to articulate in words how much this trip meant to us. It was both therapeutic and the honeymoon we were never able to take."**

**–Wounded Warrior**

## THE DELIVERABLES

### REINTEGRATION

US Special Operations have been at war for over a decade and the number of deployments and missions are continually increasing for SOF. As a result, divorce and suicide rates amongst America's finest warriors are at an all time high. Operation Cruise helps the wounded warrior couple to reintegrate with one another. In addition, many veterans and their mates reconnect with what's good in life on Operation Cruise as they share experiences, information, and interact with one another.

### REHABILITATION

Many of our wounded warriors return from the battlefield not only with physical wounds but also unseen wounds. When a warrior is wounded, it's not just the service member but also the family that is injured. Too often the family unit gets caught in a cycle of repeated deployments, hospitals, physical therapy, and unit mission demands to the detriment of the couple. Operation Cruise provides a pristine setting far away from the horrors of war and military worries to heal the service member and the family.

### RESILIENCY

Operation Cruise presents a proven program that has saved marriages and increased resiliency amongst its participants, thereby saving the livelihood of those that have risked so much for our Country and our freedoms. Operation Cruise provides strong, positive memories for the couple to heal wounds, repair fissures, and build resiliency in relationships to save couples from past experiences and also strengthen bonds for future continued service in America's military or as veterans to become productive members of our society.

# THE WHY

- ★ The average American has between 3-5 significant emotional events over their lifetime, ie. loss of a loved one, tragedy, serious accident, etc.
- ★ The average special operations service member experiences 3-5 significant events per deployment! Many SOF have 5, 10, 15 or more deployments.
- ★ Prolonged and repeated exposure to combat war related stressors have a profound negative, deteriorating effect not only on the service member but also on their family. Operation Cruise offers a ray of light and regenerates hope in otherwise difficult times.
- ★ Operation Cruise is one of the few programs that honors not only the service member but also their companion for their sacrifices.

**Operation Cruise is a nonprofit charity recognized by the USSOCOM Care Coalition.**

**"Operation Cruise was the most fun and therapeutic thing I have ever done with my wife in over 30 years of military service with multiple combat tours."**

**—Wounded Warrior**



INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
P. O. BOX 2508  
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: **MAR 29 2012**

OPERATION CRUISE INC  
380 PARK PLACE BLVD 175  
CLEARWATER, FL 33759

Employer Identification Number:  
45-3798803  
DLN:  
17053053327002  
Contact Person:  
SHEILA M ROBINSON ID# 31220  
Contact Telephone Number:  
(877) 829-5500  
Accounting Period Ending:  
December 31  
Public Charity Status:  
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)  
Form 990 Required:  
Yes  
Effective Date of Exemption:  
November 18, 2011  
Contribution Deductibility:  
Yes  
Addendum Applies:  
No

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined that you are a public charity under the Code section(s) listed in the heading of this letter.

Please see enclosed Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, for some helpful information about your responsibilities as an exempt organization.

We have sent a copy of this letter to your representative as indicated in your power of attorney.

Sincerely,

Lois G. Lerner  
Director, Exempt Organizations

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

We have already experienced great success with this program, but we need your help! Your donation will be greatly appreciated to aid additional wounded special operations veterans and their companions.

**Your donations are tax deductible! Operation Cruise is a 501(c)(3)**

**"To see my husband smile and enjoy the things we experienced on this trip was a blessing to me. This trip brought some 'light' into our lives, and I think a new perspective on some things. It was really helpful to spend time with other military couples who are going through the same things we are. It gives us a hope for a happier future. I think we caught a glimpse of a new way to look at life."**

**—Wounded Warrior Spouse**

## Support Our Wounded HEROES!

### YOU CAN HELP BY:

- ★ Donating funds to cover trip operating costs.
- ★ Donating time on your yacht.
- ★ Donating in-kind services, i.e. fuel, dockage, meals, airfare, etc.

### For a monetary contribution:

*Please make checks payable to:*

**Operation Cruise**  
380 Park Place Blvd., Ste. 175  
Clearwater, FL 33759

*Credit or Debit Card donations can be made via Paypal at:*

**[www.operationcruise.org](http://www.operationcruise.org)**

**For a donation of time aboard a yacht, or in-kind services, please email or call:**

**[www.operationcruise@gmail.com](mailto:www.operationcruise@gmail.com)  
831.241.4276**



**"It is hard to put into words how fantastic this trip has been for me and my husband. As he stated, he has not been able to enjoy much of anything to include his favorite hobbies. The past 3 years have been extremely stressful with no end in sight. I feel that having an opportunity to come on this trip has helped put a new and different perspective on life. To be around other military couples has been very helpful to me as a wife - to hear some of the other couples' stories and what they are going through helped me to know there are other wives just like me who are going through similar issues related to military life and the stress of combat related things. I know being around like-minded men was a great help to my husband - he needed this trip - even though he didn't think he did. He hasn't been this relaxed in a long time and he said to me, 'I haven't had fun in a long time, and I'm having fun now.'**  
**— that is priceless.**

**I am in awe to know there are good people in the world with the means to help military families by sharing and giving. I can't express how thankful I am for this once in a lifetime experience."**

**—Wounded Warrior Spouse**

**"It has been a tough road, tough to travel, and tough to put behind us... Operation Cruise taught us how to enjoy life again."**

**–Wounded Warrior**



**For more information, please visit [www.operationcruise.org](http://www.operationcruise.org)**

**e-mail: [www.operationcruise@gmail.com](mailto:www.operationcruise@gmail.com)**

**or call 831.241.4276**



**[facebook.com/operationcruise](https://facebook.com/operationcruise)**