



## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **NAEMT and SOMA Support Paramedic Transition Training Programs for Military Medical Personnel**

Clinton, Miss. – The National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) and the Special Operations Medical Association (SOMA) issued a position statement to support the development and funding of military medic to civilian paramedic transition programs.

These transition programs will allow active duty and veteran military medics to incorporate their military medical training as a significant portion of their civilian paramedic training. They will also provide returning veterans with good paying jobs, meet the significant demands of both military and civilian environments, and result in hundreds of experienced paramedics each year in a much shorter timeframe than traditional paramedic education programs.

"Our military combat medics have gained tremendous experience over more than a decade of war. Leveraging that experience to care for patients on the streets of the United States is a clear win-win," said Dr. Bob Mabry, SOMA President.

"NAEMT strongly supports the need for program development of a streamlined process for military medics transitioning to civilian Paramedic careers," said Ben Chlapek, retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel and NAEMT Military Relations Committee Chair. "Our position statement emphasizes our commitment to this worthy endeavor in helping address the growing national Paramedic shortage while putting our military Veterans to work."

The full text of the position statement is available [here](#).

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## About NAEMT

Formed in 1975 and today more than 40,000 members strong, the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) is the only national association dedicated to representing the professional interests of all emergency medical services (EMS) practitioners, including Paramedics, advanced emergency medical technicians, emergency medical technicians, emergency medical responders and other professionals working in pre-hospital emergency medicine. NAEMT members work in all sectors of EMS, including government service agencies, fire departments, hospital-based ambulance services, private companies, industrial and special operations settings, and in the military.

## About SOMA

Founded in 1987, the Special Operations Medical Association (SOMA) is the only medical association in the world that brings together the unique blend of pre-hospital, tactical, wilderness, austere, disaster and deployed medicine. Our primary goal is to advance the art and science of special operations medical care through the education and professional development of special operations medical providers. SOMA provides a forum for military and civilian medical providers, academia and industry from around the world to meet and exchange ideas through membership in the association, at our Scientific Assembly, through our official publication, the *Journal of Special Operations Medicine (JSOM)*, and our Mini-SOMA Conferences. SOMA advances the science, technology and skills of unconventional medicine.

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