



1911 11TH STREET
SUITE 201
BOULDER, CO 80302

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CONTACT: Sidni Giordano
Public Relations Director
sidni@paradoxsports.org

Paradox Sports and Yosemite National Park Host Historic Veterans Climb to Commemorate Sept. 11

Boulder, CO – Paradox Sports has partnered with Yosemite National Park to host a historic climbing event that will feature 30 U.S. veterans summiting various rock formations throughout the Valley on Sept. 11, including a team of three that will make the first ever all-veteran adaptive ascent of El Capitan.

The event, which takes place Sept. 9-12, will also include hiking and yoga clinics, as well as a trail building project in conjunction with the Park Service. Participants range in experience and adaptive needs, including PTSD, below and above the knee amputees, blindness, TBI, etc. Professional climbers Timmy O’Neill, Conrad Anker and Heidi Wirtz will guide the veterans as they ascend some of the most iconic walls in American rock climbing.

“The aim of Paradox Sports is to provide personal, positive transformation through wilderness immersion and the elective challenge of hiking and climbing,” said O’Neill, executive director of Paradox Sports.

This marks the one-year anniversary of Paradox Sports’ inaugural veterans climb, which occurred on Sept. 11, 2012 when Paradox conquered the 13,770-foot Grand Teton in Wyoming with a group of disabled Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. That trip inspired a series of veteran-specific climbs, which are now a permanent component of Paradox Sports’ programming.

This year, Mike Kirby, Chad Jukes and Skiy Detray will make the first ever all-veteran adaptive ascent of El Capitan. Kirby, an experienced Army Ranger who served three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, and Chad Jukes, a 29-year-old amputee who had his right leg below the knee removed after an IED detonated underneath his security convoy in Northern Iraq, both took part in the inaugural Teton climb. Jukes was also one of the 11 veterans featured in *High Ground*, an award-winning documentary about their 20,000-foot ascent of a Himalayan Peak. Detray, who served three tours during his career in the Air Force, has claimed 30 ascents of El Capitan, including multiple speed records.



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This program is made possible through grants received by Marmot. Participation in the program -- which uses donations to pay for all meals, guiding services and equipment for athletes -- is open to all veterans. For more information or to register for the upcoming climbs, please visit <http://paradoxsports.org>.

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Paradox Sports is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that improves the lives of people with physical disabilities by creating an adaptive sport community built to inspire. More information can be found at www.paradoxsports.org, or on their [Facebook](#) page.