

Candidate for NAEMT Midwest Region 6 Director

My name is Benjamin Proctor, and I am honored to submit my candidacy for NAEMT Midwest Region 6 Director. Kentucky is my home state, and I am excited to be returning there with my new assignment to Fort Knox. I am excited by its leadership in advancing prehospital medicine, including the creation of the Advanced Practice Paramedic license. I want to build on this momentum by serving Region 6 and advocating for all prehospital professionals.

The NAEMT has a critical role in shaping the future of our profession. I began my career as a volunteer firefighter/EMT, moved into 911 response and private transport, and currently serve as a U.S. Army Combat Medic. Over the past decade, I've grown into an Advanced Practice Paramedic, gaining experience in both civilian prehospital medicine and military medical operations across the U.S. and Europe. Observing the wide range of methods used in delivery of care has given me a unique global perspective.

My commitment to lifelong learning has led me to pursue a Master of Science in Health Professions Education with University of Louisville. This advanced education will strengthen my ability to enhance prehospital training and advocate for expanded educational opportunities within our profession.

As a board member of the American Paramedic Association (APA), I've had the opportunity to strengthen my skills in governance, advocacy, and professional development. My service on the board has given me insight into national challenges facing our profession. I will bring that perspective to the NAEMT and represent Region 6 with a strong, practical voice.

The focus will be on three areas. First, I will advocate for degree-based paramedicine and expanded advanced degree opportunities. Second, I will support legislation advancing "Treat in Place" and community paramedic models. Finally, I will work to create better transition opportunities for military medics to join the civilian prehospital workforce.

We are facing a shortage of professionals willing to stay in a system that undervalues their work. The current reimbursement model treats prehospital professionals as transportation service providers rather than as invaluable healthcare resources. This model discourages innovation and professional growth. The NAEMT must be more assertive on these issues, advocating for its members and leading policy discussions rather than waiting for others to set the agenda.

With a unique blend of civilian and military experience, proven leadership, and a lifetime commitment to professional development, I have an in-depth understanding of the profession from the volunteer station to the combat zone. I believe my commitment to advancing our profession through advocacy, education, and innovation will serve me well as the next NAEMT Midwest Region 6 Director.