01 / ORIGINS & PEOPLE

Responder Bourbon

A tour of duty, told through Kentucky bourbon.

A radio code can carry a whole working life. Responder Bourbon uses that language to connect Kentucky whiskey with the first responder community. Its founders brought police experience and business expertise to a brand developed with Bardstown Bourbon Company. [1,6]



At a glance
Identity: first responder founded brand
Whiskey connection: Bardstown, Kentucky
Business contact: Austin, Texas
Publicly active by March 2022 [1,4,11]

The people behind the name

Kevin Barrett is identified as co-owner in a March 23, 2022 podcast listing and as co-founder in a February 2026 interview announcement. The company describes a wider team of police officers and business professionals; a complete founder roster and precise formation date were not confirmed. [1,4,6]

Beginning the tour

The first expression, 10-41, invokes the beginning of a tour of duty. The second, 10-8, means being in service and ready. These are the brand’s intended meanings, rather than a universal codebook for every agency. [2,6]

Original watercolor scenes are symbolic interpretations, not documentary reconstructions.

02 / HISTORY & PLACES

From the first tour to a wider mission.



Origins / undated Responder identifies Bardstown as its founding whiskey collaborator and 10-41 as its first release. MCC documents the launch packaging. [1,3]

March / July 2022 Barrett appears as a co-owner in March. On July 19, Seelbach’s introduces 10-8 at four years six months and 94 proof. [4,5]

By February 2026 The core range includes eight-year, 112-proof SRT-25, dedicated to special mission professionals. Its exact launch day remains unconfirmed. [6,7]

2026 / remembrance Barrett describes Never Forget: 911 numbered bottles marking September 11’s 25th anniversary, with intended charitable support. [8,9]

Places have different jobs

Austin is the listed business contact. Bardstown is the named whiskey collaboration and the origin given for the 2022 10-8. MCC’s Mason, San Luis Obispo and Lucca plants handled design, printing and resin-seal work. These roles do not imply several Responder distilleries. [1,3,5,11]

The distribution page lists eight states at the research date. Its locator includes former stockists; it is not a live stock guarantee. [10]

03 / WHISKEY & STORIES

The expressions carry the details.

Current producer specifications distinguish 10-41 at five years and 94 proof, 10-8 at four and a half years and 94 proof, and SRT-25 at eight years and 112 proof. The code names are not age statements. [2]



MCC’s packaging account adds a memorable detail: a resin seal over foil was made in Lucca to suggest embossed glass. For Never Forget, Barrett describes etched towers, a flag and a metallic label. Charitable intentions are attributed; audited totals and completed distributions are not established here. [3,8,9]

Linked research sources

Checked October 20, 2026. Full qualifications accompany the website.

1. Responder / Our Story
2. Responder / Current products
3. MCC / Label-making case study
4. DO! / Kevin Barrett episode listing
5. Seelbach’s / 10-8, July 2022
6. Ten-Four Tavern / Barrett interview announcement
7. Kevin Barrett / Introducing SRT-25
8. Kevin Barrett / 25th anniversary memorial bottle
9. Kevin Barrett / Never Forget and the range
10. Responder / Distribution
11. Responder / Business contact
12. Great American / 10-41
13. Responder / Home

Specifications are release-specific. This guide does not assign an undated bottle a vintage, recipe or batch based on its brand alone.