

## Welcome to the 2015 Department Of Defense

Warrior Games. On behalf of the Department of Defense (DoD) and the United States Marine Corps, I welcome you to Marine Corps Base Quantico – site of this year's DoD Warrior Games. The Marine Corps is honored to host athletes from all branches of the Armed Services, Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) and the British Armed Forces.

Since its inception in 2011, the DoD's Military Adaptive Sports Program has helped wounded, ill and injured Service members recover and rehabilitate for transition back into their military units or into civilian society. All of us in the Marine Corps, and across the DoD, are extremely proud to be part of an endeavor that is both beneficial and rewarding for our Nation's warriors.

I would like to congratulate the more than 240 DoD Warrior Games participants for their outstanding dedication and achievement in earning their places at the 2015 Games. You represent the courage, strength and skill that exemplify the best of our military Services. I also thank the caregivers, families, and the support organizations that have helped these athletes along the way.

I want to thank all our sponsors and those who have given so generously and supported this event, without you the Warrior Games would not be possible.

I thank the men and women of the British Armed Forces, Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, USSOCOM and Marine Corps, who will compete and/or are supporting the Warrior Games. I sincerely hope that this year's DoD Warrior Games' experience is an unforgettable one. Compete hard, but play fair; and remember that we are all on the same team. Moreover, regardless of the outcome, everyone here will leave a winner.

Finally, I extend my sincerest appreciation to all our athletes for their dedication and service to their respective nations. I look forward to meeting all of you.

Semper Fidelis (Always Faithful)

Major General Juan G. Ayala

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United States Marine Corps

Commander, Task Force Warrior Games