

I AM TEAM US



**INVICTUS
GAMES**
TORONTO 2017

TEAM U.S. ATHLETES

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U.S. ARMY

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Capt. Kelly Elmlinger

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Staff Sgt. Robert Green - *veteran*

Staff Sgt. Randi Hobson - *veteran*

Sgt. Sean Hook - *veteran*

Staff Sgt. Sean Johnson - *veteran*

Sgt. Stefan Leroy - *veteran*

Staff Sgt. Michael Lukow

Sgt. Ryan Major - *veteran*

Spc. Stephanie Morris

Spc. Anthony Edward Pone - *veteran*

Maj. James Pradke

Spc. Haywood Range - *veteran*

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/USArmy

Twitter: www.twitter.com/USArmy

Instagram: www.instagram.com/usarmy

www.dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames

U.S. Army Warrior Care and Transition social media platforms

Website: www.wct.army.mil

Facebook: www.facebook.com/armywct

Twitter: www.twitter.com/armywct

Flickr: www.flickr.com/armywarriorcare

YouTube: www.youtube.com/warriorcarecom

2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Daniel Dudek

RANK, SERVICE

O-6/Colonel, U.S. Army

STATUS

Active Duty

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Army Field Artillery Officer

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Army Field Artillery Officer

HOMETOWN

Wilmington, North Carolina

CURRENT LOCATION

Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington

SCHOOL(S)

Appalachian State

INJURY OR ILLNESS

L3/4 Spinal Cord Injury

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

2007

EVENT(S)

Swimming, Wheelchair Racing and Cycling

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Julie Oliveri: 571-201-7195

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dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames

Col. Daniel Dudek suffered a spinal cord injury in 2007 after an improvised explosive device struck his vehicle. The blast left him with limited mobility in his legs, requiring him to use his arms to get around most of the time. However, this new reality did not dampen his spirit.

"Dealing with issues is a state of mind," Dudek said. "If you were positive before the injury then that attitude will continue and vice versa. Having a positive outlook on life is key."

Dudek would put his positive outlook to use as he recovered at the Warrior Transition Unit at Fort Lewis, Washington, where he developed a passion for adaptive conditioning sports.

"It's not just about competition, but giving people hope and inspiration. These activities can really save someone's life."

At the 2012 and 2013 Warrior Games, Dudek won a total of seven gold medals and one silver in swimming events. Four years later, Dudek returned to compete at the 2017 Department of Defense Warrior Games, winning three gold, two silver and a bronze medal in swimming and track events. Now, he is returning to the Invictus Games after missing the event last year.

"Sports are the spark and can be instrumental in changing people lives. It teaches you to push past the other pain. It's the best medicine."

After he retires from the Army, Dudek hopes to improve adaptive sports across the northeast.



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Kelly Elmlinger

RANK, SERVICE

O-3/Captain, U.S. Army

STATUS

Active Duty

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Medical-Surgical Nurse

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Medical-Surgical Nurse

HOMETOWN

Attica, Ohio

CURRENT LOCATION

Fort Sam Houston, Texas

SCHOOL(S)

University of Texas at Arlington

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Synovial Sarcoma, Left Leg Amputee, Nerve Damage, Left Forearm Nerve Impairment

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Track, Swimming and Cycling

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Julie Oliveri: 571-201-7195

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dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames

For Capt. Kelly Elmlinger, sports have always played a pivotal role in her life. Throughout junior high school, high school and college, Elmlinger participated in several sports including track and basketball. In 2013, she was diagnosed with Synovial Sarcoma, a rare form of cancer that left her left lower leg with permanent foot drop and nerve damage. She turned to adaptive reconditioning sports at the Fort Sam Houston Warrior Transition Battalion to support her recovery.

“Losing the ability to run and not being able to participate in athletics or any sort of physical activity while going through my illness and treatment process was very difficult for me,” Elmlinger said. “Adaptive sports and wheelchair racing have helped fill the void running meant to me. It’s made the greatest impact as it allows me to gain the same benefits running did for me. Without a doubt, adaptive sports has allowed me to physically and mentally overcome the hurdles associated with my illness and injury,” she added.

Elmlinger participated in the 2014 and 2016 Invictus Games and after having her left leg amputated below the knee last summer, she’s looking forward to being back for the 2017 Invictus Games.

“It’s supplied a renewed purpose and another goal and participating in this event helps me move forward in life,” she said. “I have lost friends in deployments and lost some to cancer. I keep their memory close to my heart and want to compete and live to my potential as a remembrance of those who are not able to be with us in life. I honor them by living life to the fullest,” she added.

The Attica, Ohio, native has competed in the Boston Marathon wheelchair division three times.

“It has been a lifelong dream for me to run in this prestigious race. Having qualified as wheelchair athlete while overcoming many adversities made participating in the race even more special.”



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Brandi Evans

RANK, SERVICE

E-5/Sergeant, U.S. Army

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Combat Medic

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Denver, Colorado

CURRENT LOCATION

El Paso, Texas

SCHOOL(S)

Cotopaxi High School, Colorado

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Right Knee Replacement

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Cycling, Track/Field and Wheelchair Basketball

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

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U.S. Army veteran Sgt. Brandi Evans is a long-time sports enthusiast. Growing up she played volleyball, basketball and ran track. In 2003, she sustained a fracture and a shattered right knee after being hit by a car as she crossed the street. She spent three months in a wheelchair and 14 months in physical therapy. After six knee surgeries, to include a full knee replacement, Evans credits her recovery to the Warrior Transition Battalion at Fort Bliss, Texas.

“The WTB has shown me the road to adaptive reconditioning. While I was in the military, there was not a program for soldiers at the time. Adaptive reconditioning is a way for all of us to relate, adapting to something new and recondition ourselves,” Evans said.

“My injuries are no longer a setback. Many soldiers and veterans struggle with finding a sport or activity that is therapeutic and helps their individual needs. It is encouraging to know that you are not alone in facing struggles.”

Evans won multiple medals at the 2016 and 2017 Department of Defense Warrior Games and is excited to be representing Team U.S. at the Invictus Games this year. She hopes to medal in cycling, track, field and wheelchair basketball.

“Representing the Army and the U.S. at the Invictus Games makes me proud,” Evans said. “From the time of my accident, I did not believe or think that I could achieve what I have and what I think I can today. Never give up and never think that you cannot accomplish your goals.”



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Robert Green

RANK, SERVICE

E-6/Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Chemical Operations Specialist

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Football Coach

HOMETOWN

San Antonio, Texas

CURRENT LOCATION

San Antonio, Texas

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Spinal Cord Injury, PTSD, TBI

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Archery, Field

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Julie Oliveri: 571-201-7195

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dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames

Retired U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Robert Green is a seasoned athlete, who has been pushing himself to the limit for as long as he can remember. In high school, Green played basketball, baseball and football. He followed up his high school career playing semi-pro football with several different teams including the San Antonio Thunder, Texas Mavericks and the South Texas Generals while serving in the Army. Green suffered multiple injuries during deployments and adaptive sports became the centerpiece of his recovery.

“Adaptive sports helped me get my confidence back. It helped me get to a place of new normal, my new 100 and to push forward. I want to reach and accomplish new goals,” he said.

The San Antonio native competed in the 2015 Department of Defense Warrior Games, winning gold medals in seated shot-put, discus and sitting volleyball. Green won a bronze in seated shot put at the 2016 Invictus Games as well as bronze in seated shot put and discus at the 2016 Department of Defense Warrior Games. He is looking forward to coming back to the Invictus Games this year and representing his country again.

“I want to represent the USA in a way that brings great joy, honor and respect. It’s not just about me, it’s about my brothers and sisters to my left and my right; each one fighting a different battle of their own. I want my fellow athletes to get healthy and embrace the power of sport,” he said.

Green wears a sleeve on his right arm when he competes due to nerve damage. On the sleeve is a name to whom he dedicates that competition. At the Invictus Games, Green will be wearing three different sleeves dedicated to three different service members. After the competition, Green will give the sleeve to that family.



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Randi Hobson

RANK, SERVICE

E-6/Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Military Police

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Grand Junction, Colorado

CURRENT LOCATION

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

SCHOOL(S)

Grand Junction High

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Nerve Damage, PTSD, TBI

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Ramadi, Iraq; 2006

EVENT(S)

Track, Swimming and Rowing

Retired U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Randi Hobson describes swimming as one of the most calming times in her life. She takes that passion with her as she looks forward to the 2017 Invictus Games.

“The water gives me peace and it’s a feeling I want to share with my fellow soldiers who have been wounded. Some people get tunnel vision after they’ve been hurt,” Hobson said. “Adaptive sports and other activities support emotional and physical health of our soldiers and veterans as they transition and adjust.”

The Colorado native is familiar with adjustment. She battles nerve damage, post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries sustained while deployed in 2006 to Ramadi, Iraq. Hobson has battled back from her injuries and has a message for those dealing with life’s setbacks and finding the path towards success.

“Facing injuries or disabilities will make you focus on what you can’t do, not what you can do,” Hobson said. “Participating in adaptive sports will teach you how to do things a little different. When you find those ways, be it sports or other aspects of life, you can find the greatness that’s within you.”

Hobson has represented Team Army many times including winning medals in swimming, sitting volleyball and track at the 2010, 2015 and 2017 Department of Defense Warrior Games competitions. Now, she’s focused on medaling at the Invictus Games where she will be participating in rowing, swimming and track.

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2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Sean Hook

RANK, SERVICE

E-5/Sergeant, U.S. Army

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Infantryman

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Tyrone, Pennsylvania

CURRENT LOCATION

Summerville, South Carolina

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

TBI, Shoulder Injury

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Iraq, 2009

EVENT(S)

Archery, Field and Rowing

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

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dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames

U.S. Army veteran Sgt. Sean Hook says adaptive sports changed his life. During his deployment to Iraq in 2009, Hook was hit by an improvised explosive device on two different occasions. He sustained substantial injuries to his shoulder and a traumatic brain injury. Hook's injuries took their toll on him and his family.

"I would describe that time as though I was living in a shell. My life and my family were falling apart," Hook said.

His introduction to adaptive sports ignited a positive change and a determination to aid in his recovery. "I truly feel that adaptive sports changed my life for the better and I am eternally grateful. Sports gave me goals, helped me with my confidence and improved my focus," he said. "My family even saw the progression and the positive change it brought to me. There were also wonderful coaches around to help with my recovery."

That formula for success helped Hook make an impressive showing during the 2014 Invictus Games in London, where he won four gold medals.

However, bringing home medals is not at the center of Hook's focus, rather a reminder of where he's going.

"The adaptive program introduced me to sports that I never competed in before my injury. To be able to represent my country as a result is a reminder of how far I've come," Hook said.

The Tyrone, Pennsylvania, native has begun serving as a coach and mentor to other adaptive athletes helping out Team Army at the 2016 Army Trials and Department of Defense Warrior Games. Hook hopes to continue setting an example for those athletes at this year's Invictus Games where he will compete in archery, field and rowing.



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Sean Johnson

RANK, SERVICE

E-6/Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Ammunition Specialist

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Mohall, North Dakota

CURRENT LOCATION

Aberdeen, South Dakota

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

TBI, PTSD, Legally Blind

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Cycling, Track/Field and Swimming

U.S. Army veteran Staff Sgt. Sean Johnson enlisted in the Army Reserve in 1988. He deployed three times during his 25-year military career. He served during Operation Desert Storm, Operation Joint Guard/Joint Endeavor and Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2006, while in Iraq, Johnson was injured by a motor blast. The incident left him legally blind and he suffered a traumatic brain injury.

Johnson is active with the Blinded Veterans Association and serves as the commander of his local Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The North Dakota native believes sports and competition are critical to his recovery and health. He is proud to be representing the Army and his country by competing at the 2017 Invictus Games.

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

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2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Stefan Leroy

RANK, SERVICE

E-5/Sergeant, U.S. Army

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Cavalry Scout

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Santa Rosa, California

CURRENT LOCATION

Jupiter, Florida

SCHOOL(S)

Maria Carrillo High School

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Double Leg Amputation

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Afghanistan; 2012

EVENT(S)

Cycling, Sitting Volleyball, Swimming and Track/Field

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Julie Oliveri: 571-201-7195

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dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames

As a Boy Scout and elementary school kid growing up in the San Francisco Bay area, U.S. Army veteran Sgt. Stefan Leroy watched the attacks upon the Pentagon and World Trade Center unfold on America's east coast. He knew then that the Army would be a part of his future.

Fast forward to Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, in 2012. While on patrol with his unit from the 82nd Airborne Division, they found themselves subjected to numerous explosions. As he was helping carry a wounded soldier to a medevac helicopter, Leroy stepped on an improvised explosive device, losing both of his legs.

After being flown to Germany, Leroy was then assigned to the Warrior Transition Battalion at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, where he discovered adaptive reconditioning. Eventually, as his strength returned, adaptive sports would become what Leroy calls his "bread and butter."

Leroy praises adaptive sports in aiding his recovery and keeping him positive. Leroy began with hand cycling, but is now riding upright using special prosthetics. Cycling was a natural choice for him as his father is an avid cyclist. After his injuries, the two of them began cycling together.

Leroy says, "He was able to do it with me, and that made me more dedicated than I would have been otherwise."

In addition to competing in multiple Warrior Games and last year's Invictus Games, Leroy has hand cycled the Boston Marathon twice and ran it twice on his running blades.

"You get knocked down. You get back up. It's what you're supposed to do."
-Army veteran Stefan Leroy.



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Michael Lukow

RANK, SERVICE

E-6/Staff Sergeant U.S. Army

STATUS

Active Duty

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Infantryman

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Infantryman

HOMETOWN

Alamosa, Colorado

CURRENT LOCATION

Salt Lake City, Utah

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Amputated Right Foot

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Archery

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

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In June of 2007, Staff Sgt. Michael Lukow's life changed in 30 seconds. While deployed to Iraq on a convoy mission, an "explosive formed penetrator"—an explosive designed to decimate armored vehicles—went off just outside an Iraqi Army checkpoint.

The explosion resulted in the loss of his right foot and caused permanent damage to his left ankle, now held together with screws and metal plates.

"I just do what I do; I've always been a fighter," Lukow said.

The Colorado native arrived at Brooke Army Medical Center in Fort Sam, Texas, for treatment. While he was there, Lukow began working at the archery range, something he had no experience with, having never touched a bow before. One of the coaches convinced him to give the sport a try one day. As an infantryman, he said his attraction to the sport was natural.

"They handed me a weapon and told me to get good at it. It's kind of my job to do that, so I took it in stride as something that I needed to figure out."

Learning archery, getting a prosthetic and learning to walk again all served to reinforce progress. Archery and rehab helped Lukow regain his balance, which was difficult due to his prosthetic foot and the loss of some sensation in his other foot and ankle.

Lukow spends four to five hours a day training. He's competed in three World Archery Para Championships with the U.S. national team. He's currently focused on the 2017 Invictus Games.

"Disabilities don't hold you back, you might just have to work a little harder."
- U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Michael Lukow

(Photos by Kristin Murphy/Desert News)



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Ryan Major

RANK, SERVICE

E-5/Sergeant, U.S. Army

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Infantryman

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Towson, Maryland

CURRENT LOCATION

Towson, Maryland

SCHOOL(S)

Towson High School

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Bilateral Amputation

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Afghanistan; 2012

EVENT(S)

Cycling, Rowing, Swimming, Track/Field and Rugby

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Julie Oliveri: 571-201-7195

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dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames

U.S. Army retired Sgt. Ryan Major is very familiar with adversity. After stepping on an improvised explosive device, Major lost his right leg and right thumb from the explosion. He later lost his left leg, ring and pinkie finger to a fungus. After sustaining all these injuries, Major found himself in a very dark place. A ray of light would come when he discovered the adaptive sports program at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, which helped him begin moving forward again.

“By being around other soldiers like me, it helped me understand the healing process and that I was not the only one,” Major said. “Adaptive reconditioning allowed me to build my self-esteem and confidence and helped me be more open to try other adaptive reconditioning activities, like cycling and swimming.”

One of those new activities was kayaking. Major spent most of 2014 practicing his love for the sport.

“Being out on the water can be the most freeing experience,” Major said. “It helps with your sense of balance and focus. I will make this a lifetime endeavor.”

It’s not a surprise, with his enthusiasm for kayaking, that rowing has become one of Major’s sports. He will be competing in it, as well as cycling, field events, swimming and wheelchair rugby at the 2017 Invictus Games.

Despite his injuries, the Towson, Maryland, native says he has no regrets about serving his country.

“Participating at the Invictus Games will allow me to show my love for the military. It is such an honor to represent the Army and my country.”

“Adaptive sports have helped me be more open to trying new activities. It has allowed me to remain active.” - U.S. Army veteran Ryan Major



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Stephanie Morris

RANK, SERVICE

E-4/Specialist, U.S. Army

STATUS

Active Duty

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Petroleum Supply Specialist

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Toledo, Ohio

CURRENT LOCATION

Bethesda, Maryland

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Left Femur and Right Foot Fracture, PTSD

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Afghanistan; 2013

EVENT(S)

Cycling and Field

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Julie Oliveri: 571-201-7195

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dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames

Finding that “new normal” is a common challenge faced by wounded, ill and injured soldiers. Spc. Stephanie Morris of Toledo, Ohio, learned as much after an indirect fire attack at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan in 2013, left her the only survivor of the five wounded in the attack. That day, in addition to a shattered left femur and fractured right foot, Morris lost four of her battle buddies, to include her roommate.

It is said that there are only two types of spirits—either light or darkness and in the early days of recovery, Morris admits to having down days and that she was not always prone to smiling. However, upon being assigned to the Warrior Transition Battalion at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, she learned to persevere.

“The recovery process was, and still is, very difficult,” says Morris. “I initially didn’t want the support. Initially, I was stubborn. Here I was, an athlete all my life and now I’m limited. I didn’t know what to do with those feelings.” Morris, a standout high school athlete, began to rediscover some of her old self when she started participating in adaptive sports. “The sports are the same, they’re just adjusted so no matter your injury, you can do it. Wheelchair basketball and sitting volleyball are my new normal.”

Morris has since expanded her list of activities and will compete in cycling and field events at the Invictus Games.

She remembers the attack as if it were yesterday and uses the memory of her battle buddies from Bagram as motivation, “When I get down and feel really low, I push through for them.”



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Anthony Edward Pone

RANK, SERVICE

E-4/Specialist, U.S. Army

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Automated Logistical Specialist

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

CURRENT LOCATION

France

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Amputation of Right Leg Above the Knee

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Jan. 27, 2002

EVENT(S)

Field, Sitting Volleyball and Wheelchair Basketball

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Julie Oliveri: 571-201-7195

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Retired U.S. Army Spc. Anthony Pone is a three-time gold medal winner at the Warrior Games and a proud member of Team U.S. for the 2017 Invictus Games.

Pone attributes the success of his recovery, in part, to adaptive reconditioning, having goals and keeping a positive attitude. He said he enjoys the "competition, struggles and bonds with fellow athletes" that result from adaptive sports participation. He also hopes to motivate others to "maximize their potential and be the best they can be."

As a wounded veteran, Pone doesn't want to see other service members like him counted out. "We are working hard to stay relevant in this society," he said.

He advises newly wounded, ill or injured soldiers to "not be afraid of challenges because life is full of them. If you are not being challenged every day, you are not living."



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



James Pradke

RANK, SERVICE

O-4/Major, U.S. Army

STATUS

Active Duty

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Information Operations Officer

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Information Operations Officer

HOMETOWN

Knox, Indiana

CURRENT LOCATION

Fort Campbell, Kentucky

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Right Knee, Broken L1 Vertebrae, PTSD

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Cycling, Rugby and Archery

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

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dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames

Service members and their families are all too familiar with tragedy in combat, but for Maj. James Pradke and his family, a non-combat related accident would change their lives forever.

Pradke and his family were traveling from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to Indiana to do some volunteer work when a drunk driver, traveling in excess of 100 miles per hour, was driving the wrong way on the interstate and hit their van head-on.

The crash left Pradke with a list of injuries, including a traumatic brain injury, a broken hip, broken ribs and a broken L1 vertebrae. He is also dealing with PTSD and depression. His entire family suffered injuries, including his 5-year-old son who lost his right arm.

Pradke says his Warrior Transition Unit (WTU) helped him get through some of the darkest days following the accident.

“The WTU provided us the time necessary to distance ourselves from the accident, allowing for us to develop a plan to recover,” he said. “Now I’m focused on becoming a strong leader and father for my 5-year-old son who is now learning to adapt and overcome his own situation.”

At the 2017 Department of Defense Warrior Games, Pradke won medals in cycling and shooting. He hopes to have success at the Invictus Games, where he will compete in archery, cycling and wheelchair rugby. Outside of his adaptive sports goals, Pradke hopes to open his own consulting firm with a focus on helping veterans and write a book about resilience.

For now, he says representing the Army and his country at the Invictus Games is a great honor following the overwhelming support he’s received from his WTU.

“They have provided me a renewed purpose in my career and rank, and re-instilled a sense of belonging. They have made me proud to wear the uniform once again.”



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Haywood Range

RANK, SERVICE

E-4/Specialist, U.S. Army

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Infantryman

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Palm Beach, Florida

CURRENT LOCATION

San Antonio, Texas

SCHOOL(S)

Jacksonville University

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Right Arm Amputation

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Fort Irwin, California; 2012

EVENT(S)

Cycling and Field

Florida native and U.S. Army veteran Spc. Haywood Range attended Jacksonville University on a football scholarship. Athletics had always been crucial to Range as they gave him something to help him remain focused.

After completing college, Range found himself back in his hometown with little sense of direction in regards to his future. It was then that he stopped by an Army recruitment office seeking to enlist. "After all, the only thing more American than football, is serving our great nation," says Range.

With just over a year of service behind him, Range was injured at Fort Irwin, California, when his combat vehicle rolled down a mountainside. The aftermath forced Range to undergo the amputation of his right arm. During months of physical and emotional recovery, Range assessed his new normal. With his life on the gridiron, he knew he had one choice—to keep moving forward.

While assigned to the Warrior Transition Battalion at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Range became acquainted with adaptive sports and rediscovered his love of athletic competition.

"I was able to compete at many events, including triathlons, the Endeavor Games and Texas Regionals," said Range, who also represented Team U.S. at the 2016 Invictus Games.

Now an Army veteran, Range continues to push himself forward. He has aspirations of becoming a Paralympian and completing his academic goals of obtaining a degree in exercise science.



MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Julie Oliveri: 571-201-7195

julie.oliveri.civ@mail.mil

dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames

2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



William Reynolds

RANK, SERVICE

Captain, U.S. Army

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Reconnaissance Platoon Leader

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Senior Consultant, Deloitte

HOMETOWN

Rochester, New York

CURRENT LOCATION

Bethesda, Maryland

SCHOOL(S)

United States Military Academy;
University of Rochester, New York

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Left Leg Amputation

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Baghdad

EVENT(S)

Track and Cycling

The 2016 Invictus Games Team U.S. Captain and retired U.S. Army Cpt. William Reynolds is no stranger to challenges. Reynolds lost his left leg due to an improvised explosive device during combat operations in Baghdad. He turned to adaptive reconditioning as a way to cope.

"Adaptive sports, especially cycling, played a prominent role in my recovery and rehabilitation process," said Reynolds, a former collegiate gymnast at West Point. "Adaptive activities help to keep me mentally and physically fit so that I can focus on the more challenging aspects of life."

Following his two years of rehabilitation at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and medical retirement from the Army in 2007, Reynolds went back to school. In 2010, he earned his Master of Business Administration and Master of Public Health degrees from the University of Rochester, New York.

In 2011, Reynolds began racing as the captain of a four-cyclist (two para-cyclist) Race Across America team. He continued to race and train regionally in 2012 as a lower leg amputee cyclist before making his debut in the para-cycling realm in 2013.

Reynolds won gold and silver medals in track during the 2016 Invictus Games, and he is proud to be back representing the Army and his country as a member of Team U.S. at this year's Invictus Games.



MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

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dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames

2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Isaac Rios Jr.

RANK, SERVICE

E-6/Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Infantryman

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Brooklyn, New York

CURRENT LOCATION

New York, New York

SCHOOL(S)

Brentwood High School, Brooklyn, New York

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Gunshot Wounds, PTSD

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Afghanistan

EVENT(S)

Cycling, Field, Swimming and Wheelchair Basketball

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Julie Oliveri: 571-201-7195

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After sustaining multiple injuries in Afghanistan, Army veteran Staff Sgt. Isaac Rios Jr. had developed a fear of falling and re-injuring himself that kept him from being physically active.

While recovering at his Warrior Transition battalion at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, Rios was introduced to adaptive reconditioning by a fellow soldier and quickly found that adaptive sports allow him the opportunity to push himself physically in a safe environment.

"When I started doing adaptive sports, I realized I could still do things, just in a different way," said Rios. "That's the best part."

Adaptive reconditioning helped Rios build strength in muscles that he was once afraid to use. With a long-term goal to overcome his injuries and begin an adaptive reconditioning program in New York, Rios' outlook on life has completely changed.

"I want to be one of the people who work with wounded soldiers, because it's made such a difference for me," Rios said. "I want to do something along those lines and show people that injuries do not hold wounded warriors back."



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Aaron Stewart

RANK, SERVICE

E-5/Sergeant, U.S. Army

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Aviation Operations Specialist; 15Q, Air Traffic Control Operator; 92Y, Unit Supply Specialist

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Springfield, Missouri

CURRENT LOCATION

San Antonio, Texas

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Back, Right Shoulder and Rotator Cuff

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Multiple

EVENT(S)

Cycling and Swimming

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Julie Oliveri: 571-201-7195

julie.oliveri.civ@mail.mil

dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames

U.S. Army veteran Sgt. Aaron Stewart vividly remembers the immense pride that he felt representing the United States at the 2014 Invictus Games in London.

With his mother in attendance, the Springfield, Missouri, native captured two gold medals and went on to represent Team U.S. again at the 2016 Invictus Games.

"My number one goal is to make my country proud," says Stewart. "I look forward to doing this by setting new personal best, and adding to the Team U.S. medal count."

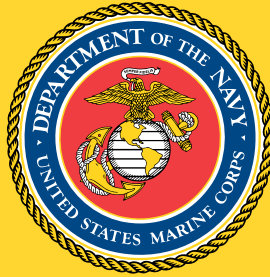
After injuring his back and right shoulder, Stewart was assigned to the Warrior Transition Battalion at Fort Riley, Kansas, where he discovered adaptive sports. As a competitive swimmer growing up in Missouri, Stewart was naturally drawn to the sport upon first attending the 2014 Army Trials.

In addition to the Invictus Games, he has competed in Warrior Games along with various other adaptive sporting events.

"Adaptive sports changed my life," says Stewart. "It renewed my purpose and pride at a time that I felt it had been taken from me. Learning to compete in new events, with other adaptive athletes, truly demonstrated to me that nothing is impossible with focus, motivation and adaptation."

For Stewart, the most enjoyable aspect of adaptive sports is being around other athletes. "We support each other and continue to push our limits together," says Stewart. "We celebrate our successes and overcome our defeats. I've had more fun than I could ever have imagined."





U.S. MARINE CORPS

Lance Cpl. Robert Anfinson - *veteran*

Lance Cpl. Timothy Bergenstock - *veteran*

Gunnery Sgt. Matthew Branch

Gunnery Sgt. Andrew Cordova - *veteran*

Cpl. Dustin Gabehart - *veteran*

Gunnery Sgt. Dorian Gardner

Cpl. Gabriel Gehr - *veteran*

Lance Cpl. Matthew Grashen - *veteran*

Sgt. Gabby Graves-Wake - *veteran*

Cpl. Jessica-Rose Hammack - *veteran*

Master Sgt. Mark Mann - *veteran*

Sgt. Anthony McDaniel - *veteran*

Sgt. Michael Nicholson - *veteran*

Lance Cpl. Sarah Rudder - *veteran*

Gunnery Sgt. Brian Scarbrough - *veteran*

Sgt. Ivan Sears - *Team U.S. co-captain*

Lance Cpl. Michael Sousa Docarmo

Staff Sgt. Felipe Tremillo - *veteran*

U.S. Marine Corps Public Affairs Point of Contact

Capt. Andrew Bolla

Public Affairs Officer

Wounded Warrior Regiment

andrew.bolla@usmc.mil

Victoria Long

Deputy Public Affairs Officer

Wounded Warrior Regiment

victoria.long@usmc.mil

U.S. Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment social media platforms

Website: www.woundedwarriorregiment.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/www.usmc

Twitter: www.twitter.com/usmcwvr

Blog: www.medium.com/@usmcwvr

U.S. Marine Corps social media platforms

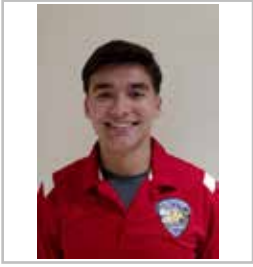
Facebook: www.facebook.com/marines

Twitter: www.twitter.com/USMC

Instagram: www.instagram.com/marines

www.dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames

2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Robert Anfinson

RANK, SERVICE

Lance Corporal, USMC

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Hydraulic Mechanic

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Plymouth, Minnesota

CURRENT LOCATION

Plymouth, Minnesota

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Back Injury

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

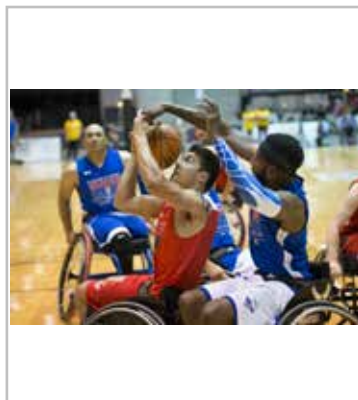
Cycling, Track/Field, Rowing and Sitting Volleyball

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Capt. Andrew Bolla

andrew.bolla@usmc.mil

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Timothy Bergenstock

RANK, SERVICE

Lance Corporal, USMC

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Mortarman

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Retired

HOMETOWN

Auburn, California

CURRENT LOCATION

Citrus Heights, California

SCHOOL(S)

Placer High School

INJURY OR ILLNESS

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Sangin, Afghanistan; 2011

EVENT(S)

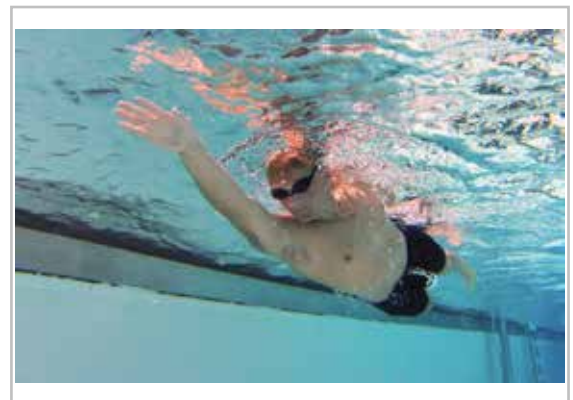
Cycling and Swimming

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Capt. Andrew Bolla

andrew.bolla@usmc.mil

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2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Matthew Branch

RANK, SERVICE

Gunnery Sergeant, USMC

STATUS

Active Duty

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Combat Engineer

CURRENT OCCUPATION

District Injured Support Coordinator

HOMETOWN

Kearney, Nebraska

CURRENT LOCATION

Gibbon, Nebraska

SCHOOL(S)

Kearney High School

INJURY OR ILLNESS

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Field, Golf, Rowing and Swimming

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Capt. Andrew Bolla

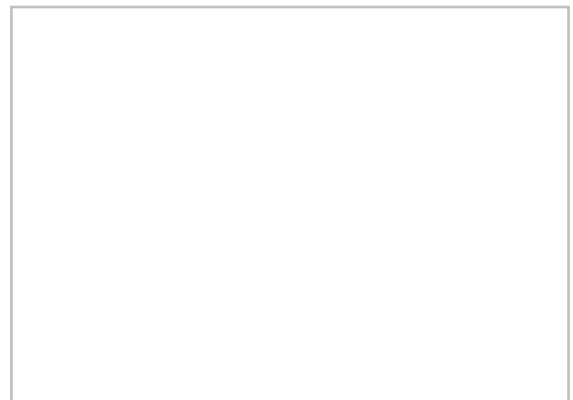
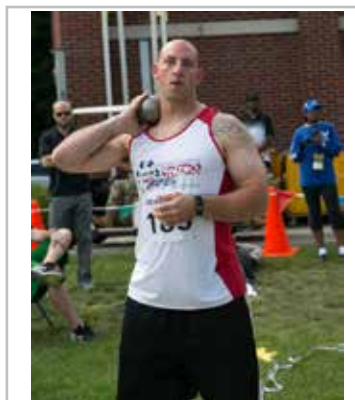
andrew.bolla@usmc.mil

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Gunnery Sergeant Matthew Branch was born in Boulder, Colorado, and graduated from high school in Kearney, Nebraska. He is married to his wife, Bobbi, and has a daughter, Gracie.

Branch enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2001 and has deployed to Fallujah, Iraq; Al Asad, Iraq; and throughout Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

Branch is currently attached to Wounded Warrior Regiment, serving as a District Injured Support Coordinator.



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Andrew Cordova

RANK, SERVICE

Gunnery Sergeant, USMC

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Combat Engineer

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Retired

HOMETOWN

Clovis, New Mexico

CURRENT LOCATION

El Paso, Texas

SCHOOL(S)

Clovis High School, Home of the Fighting Wildcats

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Cancer, Resulting in Multiple Illnesses

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

2009

EVENT(S)

Archery, Cycling and Sitting Volleyball

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Capt. Andrew Bolla

andrew.bolla@usmc.mil

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My name is Andrew Cordova. I am 39 years old and I am from Clovis, New Mexico. I have two older brothers and one older sister. My oldest brother, Anthony A. Barela, is also a Marine and is still on active duty serving overseas in Okinawa, Japan.

I joined the Marine Corps in August 1996 and served with 9th Engineer Support Battalion (ESB), Marine Wing Support Squadron-371, 3rd CEC (CAB), OSD IE Shima Island, 7th Communications Battalion, 2nd CEB, 1st CEB, 7th ESB, and Combat Logistics Regiment-25.

Since being diagnosed with testicular cancer in 2009, I have had 19 surgeries and suffered numerous medical issues since my diagnosis. A year after chemotherapy treatment, my body started to slowly break down and I've had to recover from many difficult surgeries.

I medically retired from the Marine Corps in March 2017.



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Dustin Gabehart

RANK, SERVICE

Corporal, USMC

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Combat Engineer

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

La Junta, Colorado

CURRENT LOCATION

La Junta, Colorado

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Cycling, Track/Field and Powerlifting

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Capt. Andrew Bolla

andrew.bolla@usmc.mil

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2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Dorian Gardner

RANK, SERVICE

Gunnery Sergeant, USMC

STATUS

Active Duty

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Public Affairs Chief

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Current Operations and Training Chief

HOMETOWN

Rialto, California

CURRENT LOCATION

Norfolk, Virginia

SCHOOL(S)

Valencia High School

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Legally Blind

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Kajaki, Afghanistan; October 2010

EVENT(S)

Field, Powerlifting (alt.) and Swimming

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Capt. Andrew Bolla

andrew.bolla@usmc.mil

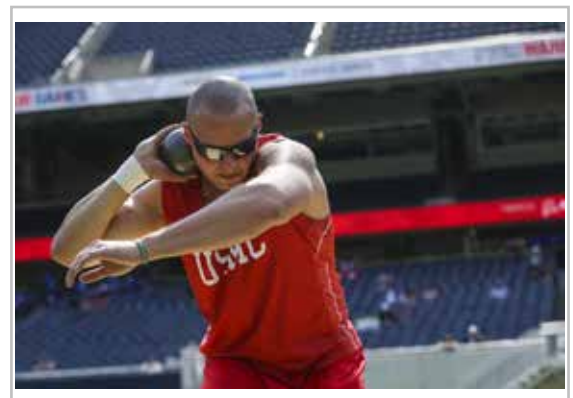
dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames

Gunnery Sergeant Dorian Gardner was born and raised in Southern California, and graduated from Valencia High School in 2003. He reported to Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) San Diego, California, on Oct. 16, 2003. After completing recruit training and combat training, he reported to Fort George G. Meade to receive training as a Combat Correspondent. Gardner then reported to Headquarters and Service Battalion, MCRD San Diego, California, in September of 2004 after completing his military occupational specialty training. In June 2006, he received orders to 12th Marine Corps District Headquarters. Gardner worked as a magazine editor for two years and then reported to 2nd Marine Division aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., on May 1, 2008. As a sergeant, he deployed to Ramadi, Iraq, with Regimental Combat Team 6 from January 3 to September 24, 2009. He returned to MCB Camp Lejeune, and after two months, attached to Regimental Combat Team 2, and re-deployed to Delaram, Afghanistan on February 15, 2010. Gardner worked as the public affairs chief, supporting the regiment and its subordinate commands for the duration of the deployment.

While providing support to India Battery, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, he was injured on a foot patrol by an improvised explosive device. During the firefight, Gardner suffered lacerations to his face and arm, ultimately losing his left eye and suffering irreversible damage to his right eye. The injury left him with a lasting visual impairment and an unquenchable thirst for the blood of his enemy.

After two and half years of rehabilitation and therapy, Gardner returned to the Fleet Marine Force as a staff sergeant and took orders to Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California, as the public affairs chief in July 2013. By December 2014, he reported to U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command and worked at Marine Corps Public Affairs Support Element as the operations chief.

In March of 2016, Gardner was transferred to the MARFORCOM Public Affairs Office. Currently, he works there as the Current Operations and Training Chief. Gardner has served in the Marine Corps for approximately 14 years. He loves what he does and loves his country. Gardner is honored to be a part of the Invictus Games team.



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Gabriel Gehr

RANK, SERVICE

Corporal, USMC

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Engineer Equipment Electrical Systems Technician

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Student

HOMETOWN

Delphos, Ohio

CURRENT LOCATION

San Diego, California

SCHOOL(S)

San Diego State University, Delphos Jefferson High School

INJURY OR ILLNESS

TBI, Shrapnel to the Left Side

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Nov. 20, 2013

EVENT(S)

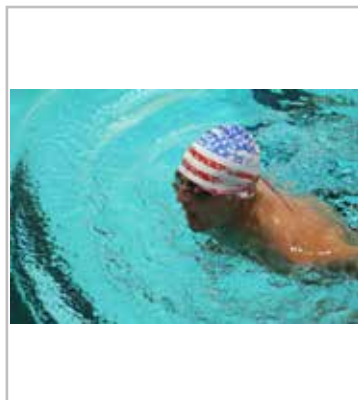
Cycling, Rowing and Swimming

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Capt. Andrew Bolla

andrew.bolla@usmc.mil

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2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Matthew Grashen

RANK, SERVICE

Lance Corporal, USMC

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Rifleman

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Student

HOMETOWN

North Chicago, Illinois

CURRENT LOCATION

Temecula, California

SCHOOL(S)

Mesa College, San Diego, California;
University of Texas at Arlington;
Bradford High School, Kenosha, Wisconsin

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Left Below Knee and Right Above Knee
Amputee

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Helmand Province, Afghanistan; Aug. 1, 2013

EVENT(S)

Field, Powerlifting and Wheelchair
Basketball

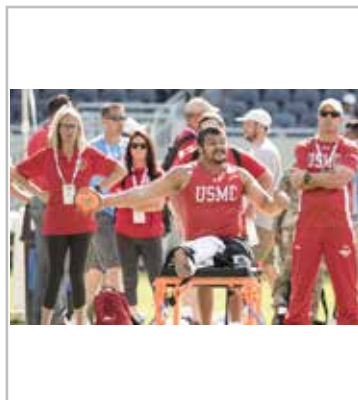
MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Capt. Andrew Bolla

andrew.bolla@usmc.mil

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Lance Cpl. Matthew Grashen served in the Marine Corps for four years before he medically retired after he was wounded in Afghanistan in 2013. He is currently studying culinary arts at Mesa College, in San Diego, California.



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Gabby Graves-Wake

RANK, SERVICE

Sergeant, USMC

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Intelligence Specialist

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Student

HOMETOWN

Phoenix, Arizona

CURRENT LOCATION

Phoenix, Arizona

SCHOOL(S)

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

INJURY OR ILLNESS

TBI, Hypertonia, Back Injuries,
Gait Disturbance

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Cycling, Track/Field, Powerlifting and
Swimming

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Capt. Andrew Bolla

andrew.bolla@usmc.mil

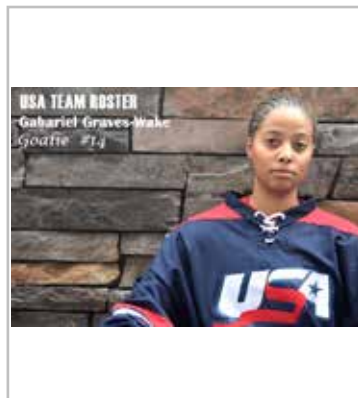
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Sgt. Graves-Wake joined the Marine Corps when she was 17 years old and spent just under five years on active duty. Graves-Wake was an intelligence specialist with 2nd Intelligence Battalion, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, from 2012-2014.

Prior to joining the Marine Corps, she was a full-time competitive sport martial arts athlete and instructor. Graves-Wake traveled the world performing and competing in martial arts. She has earned many state titles and top 10 world finishes. Graves-Wake is a fourth-degree black belt in the American Taekwondo Association and continues to train in her free time.

Her winter sport is sledge hockey, where she plays in the position of goalie. Graves-Wake is also a member of the 2016-2017 U.S. women's national sledge hockey team.

During the spring and summer, she trains and competes with the Arizona Heat track and field team. Since leaving the Marine Corps, Graves-Wake has remained focused on her recovery and continuing her education.



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Jessica-Rose Hammack

RANK, SERVICE

Corporal, USMC

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Administrative Specialist

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Director of Suicide Prevention and Family Resilience, Honoring America's Warriors

HOMETOWN

McCloud, Oklahoma

CURRENT LOCATION

Moore, Oklahoma

SCHOOL(S)

University of Central Oklahoma, National University, McCloud High School

INJURY OR ILLNESS

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Cycling, Track/Field, Rowing and Shot Put

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Capt. Andrew Bolla

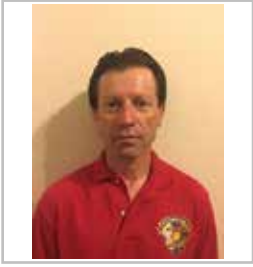
andrew.bolla@usmc.mil

dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames

Cpl. Hammack served over four years in the United States Marine Corps. She was stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar and was assigned to MAG-11, MALS-11. From there, she was sent to the Installation Personal Administration Center (IPAC) under the Fleet Assistance Program. Hammack served in deployments, separation, and the identification card center.

Since her medical discharge from the Marine Corps, she has served with several veteran service organizations, including University of Central Oklahoma's Veterans Affairs Office, USA Para Powerlifting/Military Sports Coordinator, Supportive Service for Veteran Families and Oklahoma Army National Guard Suicide Prevention Program Manager. She is currently the Director of Honoring America's Warriors Suicide Prevention and Family Resilience, and Prescription Drug Overdose/Naloxone State Grant.





Mark Mann

RANK, SERVICE

Master Sergeant, USMC

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Stinger Gunner

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Retired

HOMETOWN

Salinas, California

CURRENT LOCATION

Fallbrook, California

SCHOOL(S)

Alisal High School, Thomas Edison State College

INJURY OR ILLNESS

TBI, Right Arm and Leg Injury

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Yuma, AZ; April 28, 2013

EVENT(S)

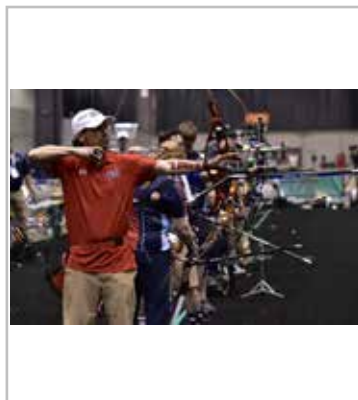
Archery, Cycling, Driving Challenge and Rowing

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Capt. Andrew Bolla

andrew.bolla@usmc.mil

dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames





Anthony McDaniel

RANK, SERVICE

Sergeant, USMC

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Artilleryman

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Defender

HOMETOWN

Jackson County

CURRENT LOCATION

Santa Rosa County, California

SCHOOL(S)

Copiah-Lincoln Community College;
Pascagoula-Gautier

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Triple Amputee

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Kajaki, Afghanistan; Aug. 31, 2010

EVENT(S)

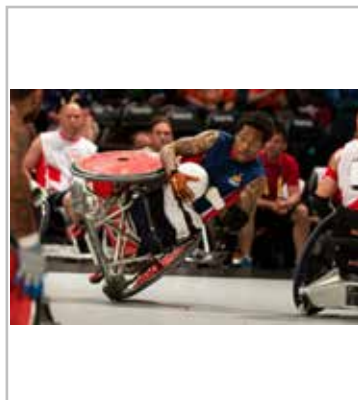
Indoor Rowing, Wheelchair Basketball,
Wheelchair Rugby and Wheelchair Track

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Capt. Andrew Bolla

andrew.bolla@usmc.mil

dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Michael Nicholson

RANK, SERVICE

Sergeant, USMC

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Field Artillery Cannoneer

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Retired

HOMETOWN

Tampa, Florida

CURRENT LOCATION

Tampa, Florida

SCHOOL(S)

H.B. Plant High School

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Triple Amputee

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Kajaki, Helmand Province, Afghanistan;
July 6, 2011

EVENT(S)

Golf, Swimming, Track and
Wheelchair Basketball

On July 6, 2011, while on a routine combat patrol in Kajaki, Afghanistan, Sgt. Nicholson triggered a 40-pound improvised explosive device. Instantly, he was thrown into the air and lost both legs and his left arm. One of his Marines ran into the dust to find him and started applying tourniquets to his wounds. It took 25 minutes for the Dust Off to arrive, but he remained conscious until landing at Forward Operating Base Edinburgh 19 minutes later.

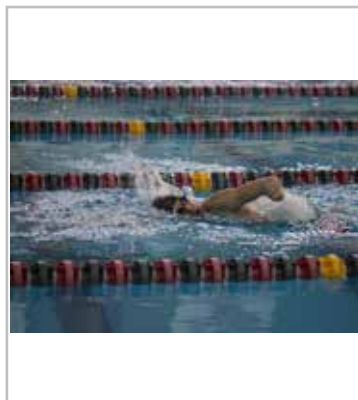
Nicholson was later transported stateside, going through Camp Bastion where he received 33 units of blood, then to Bagram Air Base, followed by Landstuhl, Germany, and finally back to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center on July 10, 2011.

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Capt. Andrew Bolla

andrew.bolla@usmc.mil

dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames





Sarah Rudder

RANK, SERVICE

Lance Corporal, USMC

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Administrative Specialist

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Retired

HOMETOWN

Temecula, California

CURRENT LOCATION

Temecula, California

SCHOOL(S)

Southlands High School, Chorley, England

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Left Below Knee Amputee, TBI, PTSD, Right Shoulder

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Sept. 1-13, 2001

EVENT(S)

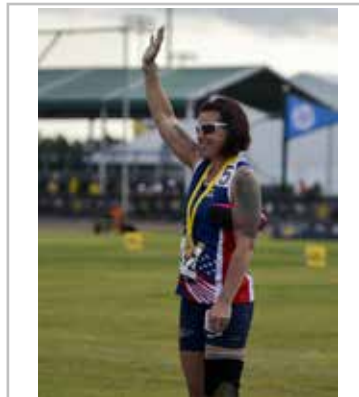
Driving Challenge, Powerlifting, Rowing, Track/Field, and Sitting Volleyball

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Capt. Andrew Bolla

andrew.bolla@usmc.mil

dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Brian Scarbrough

RANK, SERVICE

Gunnery Sergeant, USMC

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Motor Transport Operations Chief

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Retired

HOMETOWN

Dallas, Texas

CURRENT LOCATION

Temecula, California

SCHOOL(S)

Forney High School, Forney, Texas;
Eastfield Community College, Dallas, Texas;
Jefferson State, Birmingham, Alabama.

INJURY OR ILLNESS

PTSD, TBI, Spinal Cord, Nerve Damage

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Archery, Field and Wheelchair Rugby

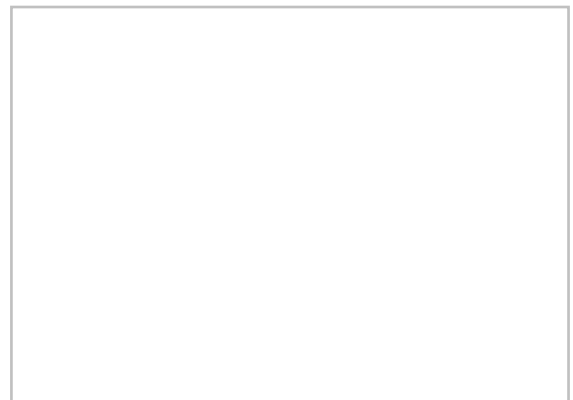
MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Capt. Andrew Bolla

andrew.bolla@usmc.mil

dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames

Gunnery Sgt. Brian Scarbrough joined the Marine Corps in November 1995 and retired in 2015, after 20 years of honorable and faithful service. During his time in the Marine Corps, he deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Ivan Sears

RANK, SERVICE

Sergeant, USMC

STATUS

Active Duty

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Small Arms Repair

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Small Arms Repair

HOMETOWN

Twentynine Palms, California

CURRENT LOCATION

Cibolo, Texas

SCHOOL(S)

East Central High School

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Bilateral Above Knee Amputation

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Marjah, Afghanistan; Oct. 7, 2007

EVENT(S)

Rowing, Track and Wheelchair Rugby

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Capt. Andrew Bolla

andrew.bolla@usmc.mil

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Sgt. Ivan Sears, born in Twentynine Palms, California, joined the United States Marine Corps in October 2008 after graduating high school from East Central High School in San Antonio, Texas. After completing recruit training, Sears was assigned the military occupational specialty (MOS) of 0311, rifleman and attended the School of Infantry (SOI) at Camp Pendleton, California. After graduation from SOI, Sears was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines, at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, where he subsequently deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In October of 2010, while on a patrol in Marjah, Afghanistan, Sears stepped on an improvised explosive device, resulting in the bilateral amputation of his legs. Sears was medically evacuated from Afghanistan and was eventually assigned as a recovering service member at Wounded Warrior Battalion-East, San Antonio Military Medical Center (SAMMC). Despite his injuries, Sears was dedicated to remaining in the Marine Corps through the Expanded Permanent Limited Duty (EPLD) program, which allows him to remain in the Marine Corps despite his combat-related injuries and train in a new MOS. While progressing through his recovery, Sears earned the title of 2014 Male Athlete of the Year from across the Marine Corps and received his award from then-Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Joseph F. Dunford. While at Sergeant's Course in 2016, Sears received the Gung-Ho award from his peers for his ability to lead, mentor and inspire Marines. Most recently, Sears graduated the Small Arms and Towed Artillery Repairer course at Ft. Lee, Virginia, where he earned a new MOS, allowing him to continue his service in the Marine Corps.

Sears' military awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (gold star in lieu of second award), the Purple Heart Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal (gold star in lieu of second award), Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Navy Unit Commendation and NATO-ISAF Afghanistan Medal.

Adaptive Sports Career

During his recovery, Sears was introduced to adaptive sports through the Warrior Athlete Reconditioning Program at SAMMC. His first sporting event was the 2013 Marine Corps Trials, where he qualified to become a member of the 2013 Warrior Games team. Sears competed in track and cycling, earning several gold medals and helping Team Marine Corps win the Commander's Cup for the fourth year in a row. Following this competition, Sears qualified to compete at the Paralympic level and became ineligible to participate in Warrior Games events due to his elite status. Sears still wanted to continue to lead Marines at Warrior Games and participated as a track and field coach in 2014.

In 2013, Sears competed in Germany at the Conseil International du Sport Militaire (CISM) Military World Games and in Mungyeong, Korea, in the 2015 CISM Military World Games. Sears continued to train and inspire fellow Marines by participating in the Marine Corps Trials in 2014 and 2015. Sears represented his nation as a member of the 2016 Invictus Games U.S. Team, where he earned four gold medals in wheelchair racing.

Sears is looking forward to training for and representing his country again at the 2017 Invictus Games while he also prepares to transition into his new MOS. Sears and his wife recently welcomed their daughter, Ellie Rose into the world, so Sears is also preparing to take on his most difficult role yet—a father.



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Michael Sousa Docarmo

RANK, SERVICE

Lance Corporal, USMC

STATUS

Active Duty

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Machine Gunner

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Recovering Service Member

HOMETOWN

Millbrook, New York

CURRENT LOCATION

Camp Pendleton, California

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Left Drop Foot, Back Injury

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Track/Field, Rowing and Swimming

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Capt. Andrew Bolla

andrew.bolla@usmc.mil

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2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Felipe Tremillo

RANK, SERVICE

Staff Sergeant, USMC

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Radio Chief

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Gym Owner, Warrior Fitness Center SA

HOMETOWN

Waco, Texas

CURRENT LOCATION

San Antonio, Texas

SCHOOL(S)

North West Vista College, San Antonio, Texas;
University High School, Waco, Texas

INJURY OR ILLNESS

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Archery, Field, Powerlifting
and Rowing

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Capt. Andrew Bolla

andrew.bolla@usmc.mil

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U.S. NAVY AND U.S. COAST GUARD

Chief Petty Officer Jim Castaneda - *veteran*

Petty Officer 3rd Class Nathan Dewalt - *veteran*

Petty Officer 1st Class John Dusseau

Petty Officer 2nd Class Roel Espino

Petty Officer 2nd Class Matthew Estes

Petty Officer 3rd Class Nate Hamilton - *veteran*

Lt. Sancho Johnson, U.S. Coast Guard - *veteran*

Petty Officer 2nd Class Melissa Klotz

Senior Chief Petty Officer Ryan Reese - *veteran*

Petty Officer 3rd Class Henry Sawyer - *veteran*

Petty Officer 1st Class Ryan Shannon - *veteran*

Lt. Bradley Snyder - *veteran*

Petty Officer 2nd Class Alan "AJ" Thomas

Petty Officer 1st Class Robert Troha, U.S. Coast Guard

Chief Petty Officer Hector Varela - *veteran*

Master Chief Petty Officer James Wilson - *veteran*

Chief Petty Officer Sharona Young - *veteran*

U.S. Navy Public Affairs Point of Contact

Kyle Malloy

Marketing Account Manager

Navy Wounded Warrior

Commander, Navy Installations Command

kyle.malloy@navy.mil

U.S. Navy social media platforms

Facebook: www.facebook.com/USNavy

Twitter: www.twitter.com/USArmy www.twitter.com/USNavy

Instagram: www.instagram.com/usnavy

www.dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames

U.S. Navy Wounded Warrior –

Safe Harbor social media platforms

Website: www.navywoundedwarrior.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/navywoundedwarrior

Twitter: www.twitter.com/navywounded

Instagram: www.instagram.com/navywoundedwarrior



Jim Castaneda

RANK, SERVICE

E-7, BMC/Chief Petty Officer, USN

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Boatswain's Mate

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

San Antonio, Texas

CURRENT LOCATION

San Antonio, Texas

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Illness

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Track/Field

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Kyle Malloy: 202-433-3444

kyle.malloy@navy.mil

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2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Nathan Dewalt

RANK, SERVICE

E-4, MA3/Chief Petty Officer Third Class, USN

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Master-At-Arms

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

York, Pennsylvania

CURRENT LOCATION

York, Pennsylvania

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Injury

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

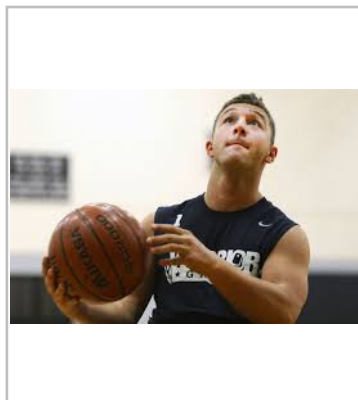
Wheelchair Rugby, Cycling and Track

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Kyle Malloy: 202-433-3444

kyle.malloy@navy.mil

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2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



John Dusseau

RANK, SERVICE

E-6, AM1/Petty Officer First Class, USN

STATUS

Active Duty

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Aviation Structural Mechanic

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Aviation Structural Mechanic

HOMETOWN

Detroit, Michigan

CURRENT LOCATION

Holland, Michigan

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Illness

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

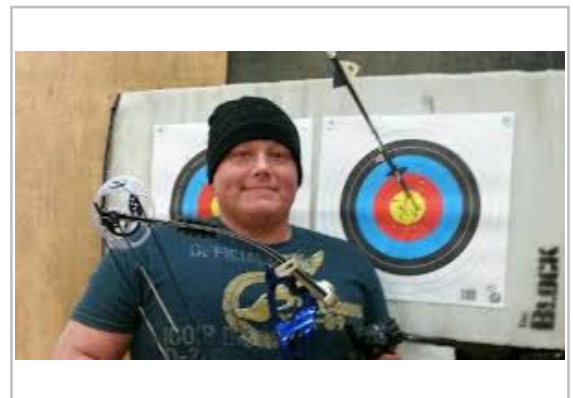
Archery and Ball Hockey

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Kyle Malloy: 202-433-3444

kyle.malloy@navy.mil

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Roel Espino

RANK, SERVICE

E-5, HM2/Petty Officer Second Class, USN

STATUS

Active Duty

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Hospital Corpsman

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Hospital Corpsman

HOMETOWN

Pasadena, California

CURRENT LOCATION

Pasadena, California

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Combat Injury

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

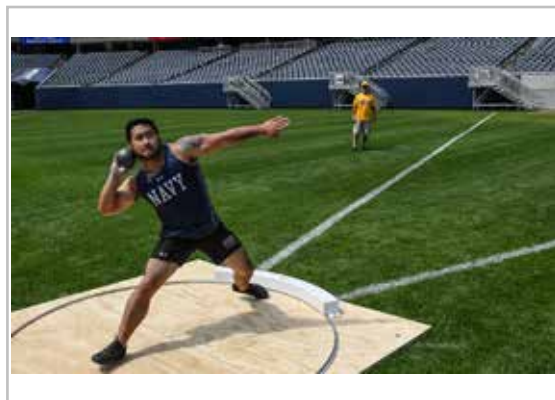
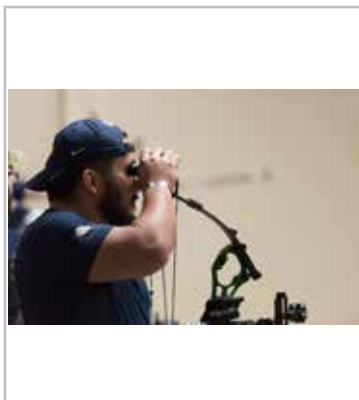
Track/Field, Archery and Powerlifting

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Kyle Malloy: 202-433-3444

kyle.malloy@navy.mil

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Matthew Estes

RANK, SERVICE

E-5, AT2/Petty Officer Second Class, USN

STATUS

Active Duty

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Aviation Electronics Technician

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Aviation Electronics Technician

HOMETOWN

Norfolk, Virginia

CURRENT LOCATION

Norfolk, Virginia

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Illness

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Rowing, Powerlifting and Indoor Rowing

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Kyle Malloy: 202-433-3444

kyle.malloy@navy.mil

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Nate Hamilton

RANK, SERVICE

E-4, HM3/Petty Officer Second Class, USN

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Hospital Corpsman

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Hospital Corpsman

HOMETOWN

Sneads Ferry, North Carolina

CURRENT LOCATION

Sneads Ferry, North Carolina

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Combat Injury

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Swimming and Cycling

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Kyle Malloy: 202-433-3444

kyle.malloy@navy.mil

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2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Sancho Johnson

RANK, SERVICE

Lieutenant, U.S. Coast Guard

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Marine Safety

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Jackson, Mississippi

CURRENT LOCATION

Jackson, Mississippi

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Injury

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

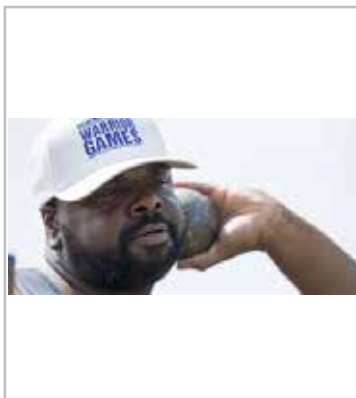
Track/Field and Cycling

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Kyle Malloy: 202-433-3444

kyle.malloy@navy.mil

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2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Melissa Klotz

RANK, SERVICE

E-5, OS2/Petty Officer Second Class, USN

STATUS

Active Duty

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Operations Specialist

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Operations Specialist

HOMETOWN

Kearny, New Jersey

CURRENT LOCATION

San Diego, California

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Injury

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Track/Field, Swimming and Cycling

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Kyle Malloy: 202-433-3444

kyle.malloy@navy.mil

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Ryan Reese

RANK, SERVICE

E-8, EODCS/Senior Chief Petty Officer, USN

STATUS

Vereran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Explosive Ordnance Disposal

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Virginia Beach, Virginia

CURRENT LOCATION

Virginia Beach, Virginia

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Injury

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Swimming and Cycling

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Kyle Malloy: 202-433-3444

kyle.malloy@navy.mil

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Henry Sawyer

RANK, SERVICE

E-4, EM3/Petty Officer Third Class, USN

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Electrician's Mate

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Student

HOMETOWN

Jacksonville, Florida

CURRENT LOCATION

Jacksonville, Florida

SCHOOL(S)

Jacksonville Job Corps

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Spinal Cord Injury

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Melbourne, Florida

EVENT(S)

Wheelchair Rugby and Track/Field

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Kyle Malloy: 202-433-3444

kyle.malloy@navy.mil

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Ryan Shannon

RANK, SERVICE

E-6, IT1/Petty Officer First Class, USN

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Information System Technician

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Morris, Illinois

CURRENT LOCATION

Morris, Illinois

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Injury

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

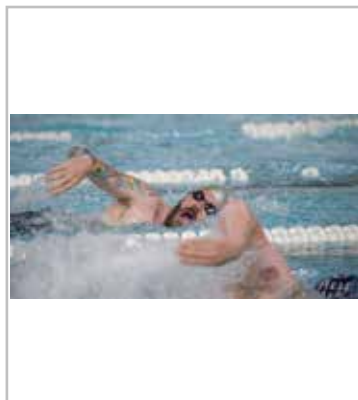
Track/Field and Volleyball

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Kyle Malloy: 202-433-3444

kyle.malloy@navy.mil

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2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Brad Snyder

RANK, SERVICE

Lieutenant, USN

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Explosive Ordnance Disposal

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Olympian

HOMETOWN

Reno, Nevada

CURRENT LOCATION

Baltimore, Maryland

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Injury

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Track/Field and Swimming

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Kyle Malloy: 202-433-3444

kyle.malloy@navy.mil

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Brad Snyder began his professional career as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy, having graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy with a degree in Naval Architecture. Through his distinction as the swim team captain during his final year, he earned an assignment as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Officer. After a period of training, Snyder deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He would deploy again two years later, this time to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. After six months of assault operations, Snyder was severely injured by the explosion of a nearby improvised explosive device (IED).

Snyder sustained complete vision loss as a result of the explosion, but did not suffer any other lasting wounds. As a part of his rehabilitation process, Snyder returned to the pool, and after a few months of training earned a spot on the U.S. Paralympic National Team for swimming. At the 2012 Paralympics, he competed in seven events, earning two gold medals and one silver medal. His victory in the 400-meter freestyle occurred on Sept. 7, 2012, which marked exactly one year from the day he suffered his vision loss.

Snyder medically retired from Naval service in 2013, and three years later returned to the Paralympic Games, this time in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Snyder competed in five events, earned three gold medals and one silver medal, and broke a world record that had stood for over thirty years.



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Alan "AJ" Thomas

RANK, SERVICE

E-5, CE2/Petty Officer Second Class, USN

STATUS

Active Duty

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Construction Electrician

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Construction Electrician

HOMETOWN

Copperas Cove, Texas

CURRENT LOCATION

Washington, District of Columbia

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Injury

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Volleyball and Driving Challenge

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Kyle Malloy: 202-433-3444

kyle.malloy@navy.mil

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2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Rob Troha

RANK, SERVICE

E-6, IS1/Petty Officer Second Class, USCG

STATUS

Active Duty

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Intelligence Specialist

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Shreveport, Louisiana

CURRENT LOCATION

San Antonio, Texas

SCHOOL(S)

Louisiana State University

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Injury

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Track/Field and Swimming

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Kyle Malloy: 202-433-3444

kyle.malloy@navy.mil

dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames

Petty Officer 1st Class, Robert Troha joined the United States Coast Guard in 2003 as an Operations Specialist. In 2008, when the Intelligence Specialist rating was established, and after a series of deployments, he went to A-School in Yorktown, Virginia. After his time in Virginia, he went on to become a plank owner within the new Intelligence Specialist rating. In 2015, Troha was diagnosed with Spinocerebellar Ataxia, a neurodegenerative disorder that affects coordination, balance and speech.

He got involved in adaptive sports in November 2016 through Navy Wounded Warrior Safe Harbor, as a way for him to adapt to his condition and find a positive focus as he goes through the retirement process. He competed as a member of Team Navy at the Department of Defense Warrior Games in Chicago earlier this year, and is honored and humbled to have been selected to join team USA at the Invictus Games in Toronto.

Through athletics, Troha hopes to bring more awareness to his rare condition and invisible injuries. Troha also wants to show others, especially his children, that "you can persevere, regardless of what obstacles you are faced with."





Hector Varela

RANK, SERVICE

E-7, GMC/Chief Petty Officer, USN

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Gunner's Mate Chief

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Fabens, Texas

CURRENT LOCATION

Temecula, California

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Injury

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Cycling, Basketball and Rugby

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Kyle Malloy: 202-433-3444

kyle.malloy@navy.mil

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2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



James Wilson

RANK, SERVICE

E-9, AOCM/Master Chief Petty Officer, USN

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Explosive Ordnance Specialist

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Lomita, California

CURRENT LOCATION

Lomita, California

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Injury

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Track/Field and Volleyball

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Kyle Malloy: 202-433-3444

kyle.malloy@navy.mil

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2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Sharona Young

RANK, SERVICE

E-7, YNC/Chief Petty Officer, USN

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Yeoman

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

CURRENT LOCATION

Orlando, Florida

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Illness

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

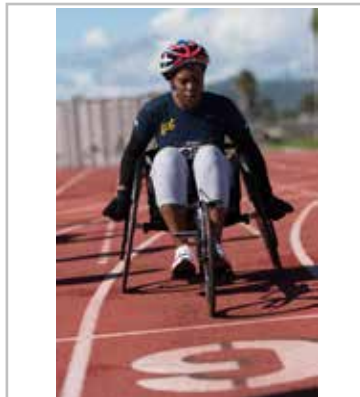
Cycling, Basketball and Rugby

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Kyle Malloy: 202-433-3444

kyle.malloy@navy.mil

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U.S. AIR FORCE

Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Bias - *veteran*

Master Sgt. Kyle Burnett - *veteran*

Tech. Sgt. Jason Caswell

Staff Sgt. Vincent Cavazos

Master Sgt. Amy Dotson - *veteran*

Master Sgt. Adam Faine - *veteran*

Maj. Cal Gentry

Master Sgt. Jesse Graham - *veteran*

Master Sgt. Reese Hines - *veteran*

Capt. Mitch Kieffer - *veteran*

Staff Sgt. Sebastiana Lopez-Arellano - *veteran*

Tech. Sgt. Lara Mastel

Tech. Sgt. Aimi Mlekoday - *veteran*

Tech. Sgt. Adam Popp - *veteran*

Senior Airman Lucas Purser - *veteran*

Master Sgt. Ben Seekell

Master Sgt. Brian Williams

Capt. Christy Wise - *Team U.S. captain*

U.S. Air Force Public Affairs Point of Contact

Paige Hughes

Chief, Public Affairs

Air Force Personnel Center

paige.hughes@us.af.mil

U.S. Air Force Wounded Warrior Program

Office social media platforms

Website: www.woundedwarrior.af.mil

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AirForceWoundedWarrior

Twitter: www.twitter.com/AFW2

U.S. Air Force social media platforms

Facebook: www.facebook.com/USairforce

Twitter: www.twitter.com/usairforce

Instagram: www.instagram.com/usairforce

www.dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames

2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Nathaniel Bias

RANK, SERVICE

E-5/Staff Sergeant, USAF

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Health Services Manager

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Washington, District of Columbia

CURRENT LOCATION

Charlotte, North Carolina

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Wegener's Disease

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Track/Field, Rowing and Powerlifting

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Paige Hughes

AFPC.PA.Task@us.af.mil

dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames

Retired Staff Sgt. Nate Bias entered the Air Force in 2002 and spent his career in Health Services Management.

Bias was stationed at several bases to include Landstuhl, Germany. He served as the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Information Management Division at Landstuhl, and supported the largest overseas Department of Defense hospital.

In 2013, Bias was diagnosed with Wegener's Disease and credits his wife and the Air Force Wounded Warrior Program with "keeping him afloat." He says that adaptive sports have given him "the opportunity to be an athlete again," and that one day he would love to be a career athlete.



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Kyle Burnett

RANK, SERVICE

E-7/Master Sergeant, USAF

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Cyber Space Support

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Napperville, Illinois

CURRENT LOCATION

SCHOOL(S)

University of Alaska

INJURY OR ILLNESS

TBI/PTSD

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Track/Field, Cycling and Archery

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Paige Hughes

AFPC.PA.Task@us.af.mil

dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames

Retired Master Sgt. Kyle Burnett joined the Air Force in 1998 as an F-15 crew chief and later retrained into communications.

While serving on active duty, Burnett deployed nine times to various locations in Iraq and Afghanistan. During a deployment to Basrah, Iraq, in July 2009, she sustained a head injury when a rocket struck approximately 10 feet from where she was standing.

This injury led to Burnett's eventual medical retirement in May 2013. Since retiring, she began attending the University of Alaska full time with a dual major in biology and psychology, and has plans to attend veterinary school upon graduation.



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Jason Caswell

RANK, SERVICE

E-6/Technical Sergeant, USAF

STATUS

Active Duty

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Crew Chief

CURRENT OCCUPATION

USAF

HOMETOWN

Jacksonville, Arkansas

CURRENT LOCATION

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Right Leg and Below the Knee Amputee

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Swimming, Track/Field, Powerlifting and Wheelchair Rugby

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Paige Hughes

AFPC.PA.Task@us.af.mil

dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames

Tech. Sgt. Jason Caswell joined the Air Force in 2001 as an aerospace maintenance troop, working on heavy aircraft such as the C-5, C-17 and C-130.

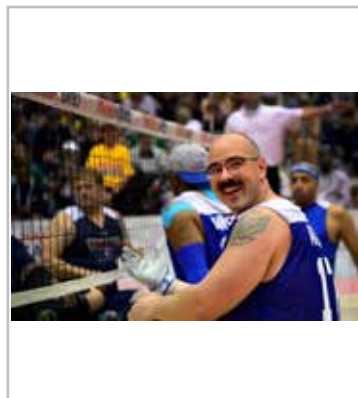
His career took him to Royal Air Force Lakenheath, United Kingdom where he was involved in intramural rugby. During a match in 2010, he suffered a leg fracture from a hit; an injury that required multiple surgeries and eventually led to a below-the-knee amputation of his right leg.

Caswell fought hard to return to full-duty status following his injury, which would later allow him to deploy. He deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operations Freedom's Sentinel and Resolute Support, where he was responsible for aircrew briefings and supporting the movement of more than 34,400 passengers and 27,100 tons of cargo.

Three weeks after returning from his deployment, Caswell competed at the 2017 Air Force Trials, earning a position on the team as the co-captain for a second time. He stated the opportunity meant everything to him.

"I get to show people that life is not over because you are hurt. I truly never thought I could get back to where I am at now, but I did and it is time for me to show what I really can do."

Caswell has a long-term goal of retiring from the military, with a short-term goal of making master sergeant; a goal he recently found out he met with the 17E-8 promotion results.



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Vincent Cavazos

RANK, SERVICE

E-5/Staff Sergeant, USAF

STATUS

Active Duty

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Security Forces

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Fresno, California

CURRENT LOCATION

SCHOOL(S)

Clovis East High School

INJURY OR ILLNESS

TBI/PTSD

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Track/Field, Archery and Powerlifting

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Paige Hughes

AFPC.PA.Task@us.af.mil

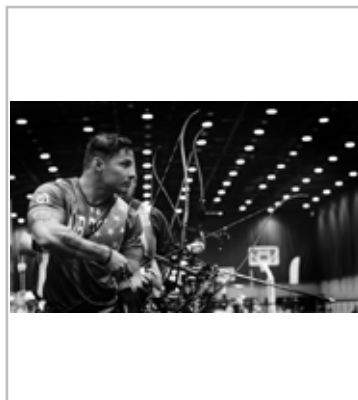
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Staff Sgt. Vincent Cavazos joined the Air Force in 2009 as a Security Forces Defender, starting out his career in the Portuguese Azores before heading to Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Currently, he is stationed at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, working as an area supervisor and response force leader. He was enrolled in the Air Force Wounded Warrior Program in November 2015, following an incident where he was thrown from the top of a six-story building that caused him to sustain a broken right femur, left tibia and fibula, patella and three ribs.

Cavazos competed in the 2016 Warrior Games, taking home four individual gold medals in track and field and a bronze medal in wheelchair basketball. He stated that the AFW2 Program and fellow wounded warriors helped him understand that there was nothing wrong with him; that he was normal and the way he was responding to injury was normal.

"It is truly amazing to be able to get back into something that has helped me find that drive in myself and has allowed me to clear my mind and focus."



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Amy Dotson

RANK, SERVICE

E-7/Master Sergeant, USAF

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Cryptologist Analyst

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Cape Girardeau, Missouri

CURRENT LOCATION

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Multiple Sclerosis, PTSD

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Swimming, Cycling and Track/Field

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Paige Hughes

AFPC.PA.Task@us.af.mil

dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames

Retired Master Sgt. Amy Dotson entered the Air Force in 2000. For nearly 13 years, she served as a cryptologic language analyst, becoming a CLA instructor in the last two years of her career.

After years suffering from strength and balance issues, Dotson was finally diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

Her mother and daughter have been very supportive of her while she seeks to find her new normal. Since Dotson began participating in adaptive sports, her daughter has become more active in sports as well.



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Adam Faine

RANK, SERVICE

E-7/Master Sergeant, USAF

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

RPA Sensor Operator

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Hamilton, Ohio

CURRENT LOCATION

Hurlburt Field, Florida

SCHOOL(S)

Edgewood High School, Embry-Riddle

INJURY OR ILLNESS

PTSD

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Cycling and Rowing

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Paige Hughes

AFPC.PA.Task@us.af.mil

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Retired Master Sgt. Adam Faine joined the Air Force in 1999 as a Remotely Piloted Aircraft basic sensor operator.

For the next 22 years, he was a special missions aviator and helicopter combat rescue in charge of pre- and post-flight inspections, air refueling and gunnery operations.

His effective leadership enabled 56 aircrew combat missions in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, making his squadron fully mission-ready.

Faine competed in cycling, swimming and sitting volleyball during 2017 Warrior Games and has already earned a gold medal at 2017 Air Force Trials in cycling; a sign of things to come at the next level.

His biggest supporters are his wife, Kate, and nine-month-old daughter who constantly encourage him to train and move beyond pain.



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Cal Gentry

RANK, SERVICE

O-3/Major, USAF

STATUS

Active Duty

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Contracting

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

West Jordan, Utah

CURRENT LOCATION

SCHOOL(S)

USAF Academy

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Cancer

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Track/Field, Cycling, Rowing and Basketball

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Paige Hughes

AFPC.PA.Task@us.af.mil

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Maj. Cal Gentry was involved in a 2014 cycling crash that forced him to seek general medical attention—an event that changed his life.

His doctor found a 5-cm tumor on his testicle that led to his diagnosis of testicular cancer. Following his treatment, he was told he had a 99 percent chance of being cancer free.

As a contracting officer, Gentry plans on serving a minimum of 20 years and wants to eventually become a squadron commander.

Gentry stated: “My wife is my number one supporter since she graciously gives me the time that I need to get out and ride my bike.”



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Jesse Graham

RANK, SERVICE

E-7/Master Sergeant, USAF

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Tactical Air Maintenance

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Yelm, Washington

CURRENT LOCATION

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Quadriplegic

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Swimming, Track/Field, Rowing, Powerlifting and Wheelchair Rugby

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Paige Hughes

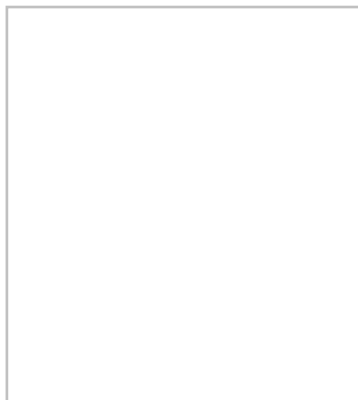
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Retired Master Sgt. Jesse Graham had almost 13 years on active duty, serving as a crew chief on fighter jets, with one deployment to Okinawa, Japan.

In March 2014, he suffered a spinal cord injury in a snowboarding accident that changed his life in an instant.

Graham is dedicated to his recovery and becoming independent so he can care for himself and his daughters. He has set his goals to be a Paralympian and earn a second undergraduate degree.



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Reese Hines

RANK, SERVICE

E-7/Master Sergeant, USAF

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Explosive Ordnance Disposal

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Charlotte, North Carolina

CURRENT LOCATION

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

TBI/PTSD

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Cycling, Archery and Rowing

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Paige Hughes

AFPC.PA.Task@us.af.mil

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Retired Master Sgt. Reese Hines joined the Air Force in 2000 as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal troop.

During a deployment to Iraq in 2008, Hines manually disarmed a timed improvised explosive device on an Iraqi oil pipeline.

In 2011, Hines was disarming an IED when it exploded within two feet of his head. The blast resulted in Hines suffering multiple severe injuries including a TBI and PTSD.

He says he is still constantly working on making his cognitive function closer to his pre-injury state. Hines is currently working toward his undergraduate degree in chemistry and plans to apply to pharmacy school.



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Mitch Kieffer

RANK, SERVICE

O-3/Captain, USAF

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Test Engineer

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Apple Valley, Minnesota

CURRENT LOCATION

Virginia Beach, Virginia

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

TBI, PTSD

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Cycling, Rowing, Swimming and Track/Field

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Paige Hughes

AFPC.PA.Task@us.af.mil

dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames

Retired Capt. Mitch Kieffer started his career at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, serving as an analytical scientist for the Air Force Research Lab (Munitions Directorate, 2007-2009), then as a Test Engineer – Air to Ground Munitions (780th Test Squadron, 46th Test Wing, 2009-2011).

He volunteered for an Iraq deployment on a joint assignment (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2010-2011) geared toward rebuilding parts of the country.

Once in Iraq, he volunteered to be the operations officer and lead outside the base project site.

With more than 40 missions under his belt, his team came under attack in a complex ambush while returning from a site near Baghdad, where Kieffer was injured.

Approximately six months following the attack, he began a graduate degree program focused on Operations Research/Applied Mathematics at the Air Force Institute of Technology, ultimately completing the 18-month program with a 3.7 GPA.



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Sebastiana Lopez-Arellano

RANK, SERVICE

E-5/Staff Sergeant, USAF

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Crew Chief

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

San Bernardino, California

CURRENT LOCATION

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Amputee/Nerve Damage

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Swimming, Track/Field, Cycling, Rowing, Powerlifting and Rugby

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Paige Hughes

AFPC.PA.Task@us.af.mil

dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames

Staff Sgt. Sebastiana Lopez-Arellano joined the Air Force in 2009 as a C-17 crew chief and has been responsible for preparing units for deployment, and tracking health and individual mobility requirements.

In her off-duty time, she coaches youth volleyball and works on her associate degree in Aviation Maintenance Technology.

Lopez-Arellano says sports competition is in her DNA and that despite her injury, she works to stay positive and get up every morning to continue working toward her recovery goals.



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Lara Mastel

RANK, SERVICE

E-6/Technical Sergeant, USAF

STATUS

Active Duty

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Ultrasound Diagnostician

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

St. Paul, Minnesota

CURRENT LOCATION

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Malignant Oligodendroglioma

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Swimming, Track/Field and Cycling

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Paige Hughes

AFPC.PA.Task@us.af.mil

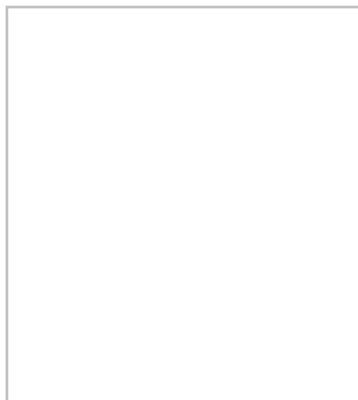
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Tech. Sgt. Lara Mastel entered the Air Force in January 2003 and was trained as a diagnostic imaging technologist at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, and the U.S. Air Force Academy.

She was stationed at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona; Kunsan Air Base, Korea; and Aviano Air Base, Italy.

During her assignment to Aviano, doctors discovered a mass in her chest and medically transferred her to Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, where she underwent treatment.

After three years of varying treatments and numerous surgeries, she was returned to active duty. Since then, she retrained into the ultrasound diagnostic imaging career field and is now stationed at Lackland.



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Aimi Mlekoday

RANK, SERVICE

E-6/Technical Sergeant, USAF

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Civil Engineering

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Norman, Oklahoma

CURRENT LOCATION

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

PTSD

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Track/Field, Cycling, Rowing, Powerlifting and Rugby

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Paige Hughes

AFPC.PA.Task@us.af.mil

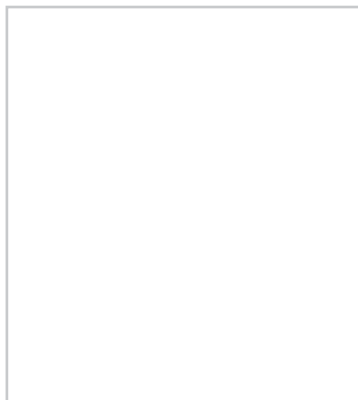
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Retired Tech. Sgt. Aimi Mlekoday originally joined the Navy, but later crossed into the Air Force as a civil engineer.

Mlekoday was an exemplary troop who was lauded by the chief master sergeant of the Air Force and was also her unit's physical training leader.

After a deployment to Afghanistan, Mlekoday was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. Since her retirement, she has been working toward recovery and says the other warriors have pushed her out of her comfort zone.

She has a short-term goal of completing her undergraduate degree, which she is just one semester short of earning.



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Adam Popp

RANK, SERVICE

E-6/Technical Sergeant, USAF

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Explosive Ordnance Disposal

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Lanesville, Indiana

CURRENT LOCATION

Arlington, Virginia

SCHOOL(S)

Providence High School,
George Washington University

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Above the Knee Amputation,
Right Leg

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Afghanistan

EVENT(S)

Cycling, Rowing, Sitting Volleyball and
Track/Field

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Paige Hughes

AFPC.PA.Task@us.af.mil

dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames

Retired Tech. Sgt. Adam Popp joined the Air Force in 1997 as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal troop.

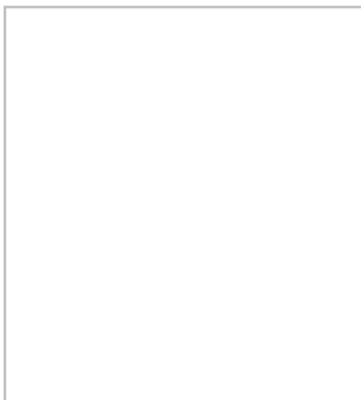
While deployed to Afghanistan in 2007 in support of the U.S. Army during Operation Enduring Freedom, Popp, who was acting as team leader, was injured by an improvised explosive device and lost his right leg above the knee.

Through his individual resolve and mental strength, he has overcome multiple challenges, accomplished goals and capitalized on his new normal.

Popp is relatively new to adaptive and rehabilitative sports; only being active within the last two years.

He stated, "I have not only excelled in athletics, but many other areas of my life due to the discipline and dedication learned through sports."

Popp recently competed in the 2017 Boston Marathon. He says it is an honor to share any field with competitors where he can spread his message that it is never too late to begin your journey toward a successful recovery.



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Lucas Purser

RANK, SERVICE

E-4/Senior Airman, USAF

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Security Forces

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Massena, New York

CURRENT LOCATION

SCHOOL(S)

Messena Central High

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Right Arm Amputee, Cancer

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Track/Field and Cycling

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Paige Hughes

AFPC.PA.Task@us.af.mil

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Retired Senior Airman Lucas Purser joined the Air Force in 2008 as Security Forces and retired in 2014.

In 2012, Purser was diagnosed with cancer in his right arm. After several surgeries, Lucas underwent a four-quarter amputation of the arm.

Since then, he continues his recovery by becoming more active, as one of his goals is to be in the same physical shape as he was while serving on active duty.

Purser says his parents and siblings have supported him with his training and that his sister really helps him with his swimming. He plans on finishing his undergraduate degree in computer science and obtaining a job with the government.



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Ben Seekell

RANK, SERVICE

E-7/Master Sergeant, USAF

STATUS

Active Duty

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Security Forces Instructor

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Charlestown, Rhode Island

CURRENT LOCATION

JBSA-Camp Bullis, Texas

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Below Knee Amputee

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Track/Field, Cycling and Wheelchair Basketball

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Paige Hughes

AFPC.PA.Task@us.af.mil

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Master Sgt. Ben Seekell joined the Air Force in December 2004 as Security Forces troop, later progressing as a military working dog handler.

In 2011 during a deployment to Bagram, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Seekell was conducting a routine foot patrol mission outside the airfield when he and his patrol dog, Charlie, stepped on a land mine that projected them both into the air.

His first reaction was to tend to his team, including Charlie.

Charlie suffered multiple shrapnel wounds to his hind quarters and his ear drums had burst during the explosion, but made a full recovery. After recovering from multiple surgeries to remove his left leg below the knee, Seekell dedicated four to five hours daily to physical therapy, along with getting fit for his prosthesis.

He was returned to active duty and was selected for the Warrior Games in 2015, earning two bronze medals; as well as the Invictus Games in 2016, earning one gold and two silver medals.

Seekell was also recently selected to be the Air Force team co-captain at the 2017 Warrior Games. He stated, "It is an amazing honor to represent the Air Force at the Warrior Games and Invictus Games. It is an opportunity not afforded to most and I feel an immense responsibility to showcase the excellence that makes our service great!"



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Brian Williams

RANK, SERVICE

E-7/Master Sergeant, USAF

STATUS

Active Duty

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Security Forces

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Sierra Vista, Arizona

CURRENT LOCATION

JBSA-Lackland, Texas

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Amputee

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Archery, Rowing, Volleyball and Wheelchair Basketball

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Paige Hughes

AFPC.PA.Task@us.af.mil

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Master Sgt. Brian Williams joined the Air Force in 2000 as a Security Forces troop, later progressing as a military working dog handler.

During his second deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, he was injured by an improvised explosive device after attempting to clear a known Taliban compound.

The blast severed his left leg above the knee and caused damage to his left arm. Williams said that if it were not for a watch he was wearing on that wrist during the blast, he would have lost his hand in the explosion as well.

Despite his injuries, he has worked hard to stay on active duty, earning a position as a Security Forces Instructor.

He competed in the 2015 and 2016 Warrior Games, and 2016 Invictus Games, and says that adaptive sports have given him a new sense of purpose.



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Christy Wise

RANK, SERVICE

O-3/Captain, USAF

STATUS

Active Duty

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

HC-130J Pilot

CURRENT OCCUPATION

HOMETOWN

Reno, Nevada

CURRENT LOCATION

SCHOOL(S)

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Lower Leg Amputee

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

EVENT(S)

Swimming, Track/Field, Cycling and Rowing

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Paige Hughes

AFPC.PA.Task@us.af.mil

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Capt. Christy Wise attended the U.S. Air Force Academy with a desire to be a part of the ski and softball teams because in her words, "I always wanted to play college sports."

She has a fraternal twin sister who skied in college, and her brother won a gold medal in the 2014 Sochi Games for skiing the half pipe.

Wise was injured in Florida in April 2015, and is highly motivated to get back into shape with the sole purpose of remaining on active duty as a pilot.

In the months following her injury, Wise started a non profit called "One Leg Up On Life Foundation" for the express purpose of providing prosthetic limbs to children in impoverished countries.





U.S. SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

Sgt. Roosevelt Anderson Jr. - veteran

Lt. Col. Ivan Castro - veteran

Sgt. 1st Class Brant Ireland

Master Sgt. Keith "AJ" Jackson

Tech. Sgt. Curtis Krenzke

Sgt. 1st Class Josh Lindstrom - veteran

Lt. Col. Dave O'Hearn

Tech. Sgt. Patrick Roberts - veteran

Sgt. 1st Class Howie Sanborn - veteran

Sgt. 1st Class Yancy Taylor

Sgt. Maj. Michael Toth - veteran

Master Sgt. Mark Vomund - veteran

U.S. Special Operations Command Public Affairs Point of Contact

Phillip Chitty, LT, USN

Action Officer

USSOCOM Office of Communication

phillip.chitty@socom.mil

U.S. Special Operations Command social media platforms

Facebook: www.facebook.com/socom

Twitter: www.twitter.com/USSOCOM

Instagram: www.instagram.com/specialoperations

U.S. Special Operations Command Warrior Care Program (Care Coalition) social media platforms

Website: www.socom.mil/care-coalition

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sofcarecoalition

www.dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames

2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Roosevelt Anderson Jr.

RANK, SERVICE

Sergeant

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

160th Helo Crew Chief

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Retired

HOMETOWN

Chicago, Illinois

CURRENT LOCATION

Chicago, Illinois

SCHOOL(S)

HS, Chicago, Illinois

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Paralyzed in Motorcycle Accident

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

U.S., Tennessee; 2012

EVENT(S)

Wheelchair Basketball,
Wheelchair Tennis and Golf

Retired Sgt. Roosevelt Anderson Jr. served seven years in the Army and was a helicopter crew chief with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment when he sustained traumatic injuries from a motorcycle accident that shattered his spinal vertebra and left him paralyzed. He has used adaptive sports as therapy since recovering from the 2012 injuries and now competes in adaptive sports to include wheelchair tennis, basketball and golf. His experience from the 2016 Invictus Games will provide him with the ability to mentor others who are new to the games. He is currently training in shooting and getting closer to his goal of competing in the Paralympics.

He is excited to represent his country in the Invictus Games and is looking forward to the interaction with his fellow teammates in Toronto. "Helping others reach their potential goals while attaining mine," he states, "I've found a new purpose in life."

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Philip Chitty

phillip.chitty@socom.mil

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2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Ivan Castro

RANK, SERVICE

Lieutenant Colonel

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Special Forces Officer

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Retired

HOMETOWN

Hoboken, New Jersey

CURRENT LOCATION

Raeford, North Carolina

SCHOOL(S)

BB, Fort Bragg, North Carolina

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Loss of Sight, Mortar Blast

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Iraq; 2006

EVENT(S)

Track/Field, Rowing and Cycling

Retired Lt. Col. Ivan Castro enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1988. He served in Operation Desert Shield, Desert Storm; deployments to Bosnia, Albania, and Kosovo; multiple deployments to South and Central America; Operation Enduring Freedom; and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Ivan continues to serve off the battlefield by mentoring injured service members and their families. He is a strong advocate for those with all types of disabilities to ensure that education, training and technology are available to all.

His biggest inspiration is his family, as he strives to show them that even though he is blind, he is still the same man as before his injury—driven and determined.

He states, "I have never lost sight of who I am and believe that although my sight has been taken from me, there is still life out there to be fully lived and enjoyed. Although doors have been closed by the nature of my injury, I continue to show that there are many doors out there to open... all you need is a vision and the will to keep moving forward out of the darkness!"

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Philip Chitty

phillip.chitty@socom.mil

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2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Brant Ireland

RANK, SERVICE

Sergeant First Class

STATUS

Active Duty

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Assistant Ops, Intel Sgt.

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Special Forces Intel Sgt.

HOMETOWN

Columbus, Ohio

CURRENT LOCATION

3rd SFG Fayetteville, North Carolina

SCHOOL(S)

BS, Fort Wayne, Indiana

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Left Below the Knee Amputee

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

East Afghanistan; 2003

EVENT(S)

Track/Field, Cycling, Swimming and Sledge (Sled) Hockey

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Philip Chitty

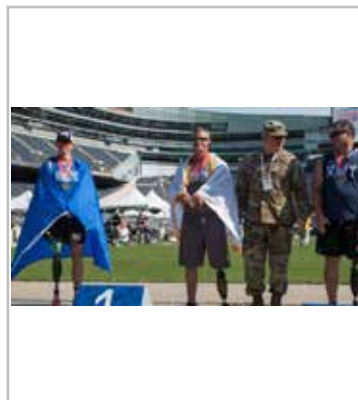
phillip.chitty@socom.mil

dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames

Sgt. 1st Class Brant Ireland was born in Columbus, Ohio. He enlisted in the United States Army in July 1993 and completed Infantry One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, Georgia. Ireland has served in the Army for over 12 years; the majority of it in 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne). He was injured in June 2003 during a night combat operation with Afghan commandos in the mountains of eastern Afghanistan. He suffered severe damage to his lower left leg. During his recovery, he elected to have his leg amputated after attempts to use various braces to support his leg ultimately failed.

In January of this year, Ireland returned to his unit at Fort Bragg where he continues physical therapy and transitions to his new position as the 3rd Special Forces Group Wounded Warrior liaison.

Although relatively new to adaptive sports, Ireland was introduced to sled hockey and hand biking while in San Antonio. He was able to compete in a tournament with the San Antonio Rampage Sled Hockey team and completed a MS 150 on the hand bike. He stated, "I grew up playing several different sports, so I am looking forward to the challenge of learning and sharing this experience with other soldiers who may be interested in all the options available to stay active and competitive, regardless of any physical setbacks."



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Keith "AJ" Jackson

RANK, SERVICE

Master Sergeant

STATUS

Active Duty

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Special Forces Senior Sgt.

CURRENT OCCUPATION

OC Team Sgt.

HOMETOWN

Jefferson City, Missouri

CURRENT LOCATION

SOTD, Fort Polk, Louisiana

SCHOOL(S)

BS, Columbia, Missouri

INJURY OR ILLNESS

TBI, Right Shoulder, Right Hip

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Afghanistan; 2007

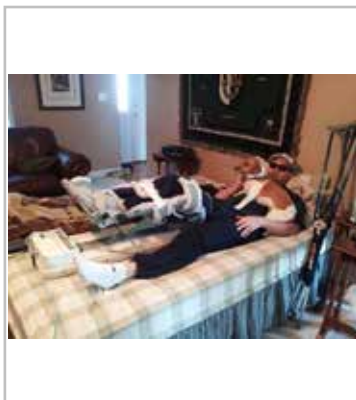
EVENT(S)

Cycling

Master Sgt. Keith "AJ" Jackson joined U.S. Army Special Operations in 2005. He was initially assigned to Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne). In 2007, while conducting a "right seat - left seat" handover mission in Kandahar, Afghanistan, with a 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Detachment, he was involved in a vehicle accident, resulting in a dislocated shoulder, TBI and a small spine fracture.

After recovering, Jackson attempted his first bike race in the fall of 2015, and became a regular competitor in North Carolina in 2016. He was selected to the U.S. Special Operations Command Warrior Games Cycling Team in March 2016.

He stated, "Watching many of my friends lose the physical capability to serve on an Operational Detachment over the years was heartbreaking. What I didn't understand was the profound sense of being outcast and the loneliness this creates. Military adaptive athletics has returned my sense of 'physical training with purpose.' Being selected to serve on the SOCOM Warrior Games team and now, Invictus Team USA, has returned my sense of 'Team' both on the field of competition, and at the unit. I highly encourage commanders and senior enlisted leaders to research the adaptive sports avenues and venues available to your service members. There is no downside."



MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Philip Chitty

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2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Curtis Krenzke

RANK, SERVICE

Technical Sergeant

STATUS

Active Duty

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Tactical Air Control Party

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Tactical Air Control Party

HOMETOWN

Faribault, Minnesota

CURRENT LOCATION

350th Battlefield Airman Training Squadron

SCHOOL(S)

AA, Minneapolis, Minnesota

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Gunshot Wound Left Tibia

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Afghanistan; 2011

EVENT(S)

Track/Field and Archery

Tech Sergeant Krenzke joined the Air Force in May of 2000 to be a fireman, but was enticed and recruited by the Special Forces Tactical Air Control Party briefing in week 3 of Basic Training. After completing the course, he was deployed four times to Iraq and three times to Afghanistan over his 17-year career. It was during his last deployment to southeastern Afghanistan where his vehicle was hit by an IED. Upon checking the area, he and the Army Special Forces team he was supporting as the JTAC, were ambushed from two different sides. Krenzke was shot in the left tibia, refused medical evacuation and stayed with his team. He further controlled numerous aircraft/artillery and neutralized the enemy.

After his recovery, he joined the Military Adaptive Sports Program and loves the program and the camaraderie with the men and women of his SOCOM team. He was quoted as saying, "No matter what, we fight to the end not for ourselves, but for our teammates and the Invictus Games epitomize that very belief". Also, it is beyond an honor and words cannot express how he feels about representing his country during these games.

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Philip Chitty

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2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Josh Lindstrom

RANK, SERVICE

Sergeant First Class

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Special Forces Weapons Sgt.

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Retired

HOMETOWN

Virginia Beach, Virginia

CURRENT LOCATION

Virginia Beach, Virginia

SCHOOL(S)

HS, Edina, Minnesota

INJURY OR ILLNESS

TBI

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Afghanistan; 2012

EVENT(S)

Archery and Golf

Retired Sgt. First Class Josh Lindstrom enlisted in the Army in 2001. He deployed five times from 2004 to 2013 in both Iraq and Afghanistan. He was injured on November 15, 2012 when an improvised explosive device (IED) was detonated beneath the vehicle he was riding in. Josh is a husband and father, and hopes to continue to be an advocate for injured soldiers.

Lindstrom continues to mentor soldiers with PTSD who do not have access or information about health care options and helps them find the tools they need through peer support. It is his hope that peer support might be the answer to stem the rising tidal wave of soldiers who commit suicide.

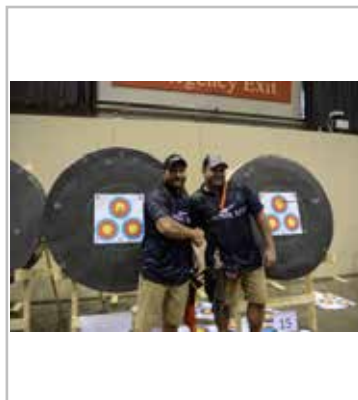
He states, "By mentoring injured soldiers, veterans and family members, we can force-multiply already existing military infrastructure and interpersonal networks, leveraging a capability that will be able to help those in need."

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Philip Chitty

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2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Dave O'Hearn

RANK, SERVICE

Lieutenant Colonel

STATUS

Active Duty

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Special Forces Officer

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Special Forces Officer

HOMETOWN

Tampa, Florida

CURRENT LOCATION

USSOCOM

SCHOOL(S)

MS, Monterey, California

INJURY OR ILLNESS

IED Shrapnel Injury

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Iraq; 2007

EVENT(S)

Track/Field and Cycling

Lieutenant Colonel David J. O'Hearn was commissioned in 1997 from Wentworth Military Academy. After graduating the Special Forces Officer Detachment Qualification Course in May 2005, he held numerous staff and command assignments in Special Forces, including deployments in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Currently, O'Hearn serves as a future operations planner at USSOCOM at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida.

Adaptive sports offer him the opportunities to build relationships with other wounded veterans, providing an outlet to talk about and express concerns that often surround issues associated with loss, injury and hardship. Having returned to duty from a traumatic incident in 2007, cycling and being involved with other wounded warriors in other programs, such as U.S. Military Endurance Sports, helped him overcome challenges that were affecting his quality of life.

O'Hearn states, "My goal is to share experience and life with those who are still looking for ways to find relief from the problems that seemingly control and/or dominate their lives."

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Philip Chitty

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2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Patrick Roberts

RANK, SERVICE

Technical Sergeant

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Special Forces JTAC

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Tactical Air Control Party

HOMETOWN

Willouby, Ohio

CURRENT LOCATION

5th Special Forces Group

SCHOOL(S)

HS, Mayfield, Ohio

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Helicopter Crash FX Back, Right Ankle

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Afghanistan; 2002

EVENT(S)

Track/Field, Swimming and Seated Volleyball

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Philip Chitty

phillip.chitty@socom.mil

dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames

Technical Sergeant Patrick Roberts joined the Air Force in 1993 as an Tactical Air Controller. Sergeant Roberts deployed to several conflicts over his career, to include his final combat tour during Operation Enduring Freedom.

While attached with his Special Forces team, Roberts was involved in several key missions. During this time, he was involved in a CH 53 helicopter incident, resulting in serious injuries that required over 14 surgeries over the next five years. He is now undergoing a medical retirement.

Currently, Roberts is a motivational speaker for non profits, the FBI Academy and local police units, helping others understand how to face and overcome challenges while serving our country.

MOS: JTAC (Joint terminal attack controller)



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Howard Sanborn

RANK, SERVICE

Sergeant First Class

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Airborne Ranger

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Retired

HOMETOWN

Alton, New Hampshire

CURRENT LOCATION

Denver, Colorado

SCHOOL(S)

HS, Alton, New Hampshire

INJURY OR ILLNESS

SCI Paralyzed, Bicycle MVA Injury

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

U.S., North Carolina; 2012

EVENT(S)

Track/Field, Cycling, Swimming and Seated Basketball

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Philip Chitty

phillip.chitty@socom.mil

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Retired Sgt. First Class Howard (Howie) Sanborn served 14 years in the Army. He completed Airborne and Ranger training and later served as a member of the Army's elite Golden Knights parachute team. His injury resulted from being hit from behind by a motor vehicle while training on his bike.

After a long recovery, Sanborn uses adaptive sports to give him back that sense of teamwork and being part of something bigger than himself that comes with serving in the Armed Forces. As driven as he is, Sanborn has progressed to the level of Elite Paratriathlete. It is his goal to participate at the 2020 Paralympic Games.

Sanborn states, "I love competition and pushing myself, and participating in adaptive sports has made my rehab much easier. All I've ever wanted to do is represent my country! This journey can't be done alone; I can't thank my family and friends enough for all of their support. And, a huge thank you to the volunteers for everything they do for the athletes."



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Yancy Taylor

RANK, SERVICE

Sergeant First Class

STATUS

Active Duty

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Special Forces Medic

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Special Forces Medic

HOMETOWN

Washington

CURRENT LOCATION

Ft. Carson, Colorado

SCHOOL(S)

GED, Santa Fe, New Mexico

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Gunshot Wound Left Upper Extremity

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Afghanistan; 2013

EVENT(S)

Archery and Seated Volleyball

Sgt. First Class Yancy Taylor joined the Marine Corps when he was 18 and served for eight years. After leaving the Corps, he decided to join the Army and was assigned to Fort Polk until 2007 when he moved to Fort Bragg to attend the Special Forces Qualification Course. After completion of school in 2009, he ultimately served as the Senior Medical Sergeant for various units. In 2013, he was shot in the left shoulder, which caused severe nerve damage to his left arm.

Taylor participates in sitting volleyball, wheelchair basketball, swimming, and pistol shooting and was co-captain of the 2016 U.S. Invictus Team, while competing in seated volleyball and swimming.

He states, "It is amazing to be able to represent SOCOM. I feel like I'm still part of the team. Being a competitive person by nature, it has given me a reason to train and set goals. So many people have supported me (family, friends, command). I can't tell you how awesome everyone has been."

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Philip Chitty

phillip.chitty@socom.mil

dvidshub.net/feature/2017InvictusGames



2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Michael Toth

RANK, SERVICE

Sergeant Major

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Special Forces Senior Sgt.

CURRENT OCCUPATION

GS, USSOCOM

HOMETOWN

Everson, Pennsylvania

CURRENT LOCATION

Tampa, Florida

SCHOOL(S)

BS, Albany, New York

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Lower Back/Neck, PTSD

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Iraq, 2005; Afghanistan, 2009

EVENT(S)

Cycling and Rowing

Army Sergeant Major (Retired) Michael W. Toth joined the Army in 1984 as an Infantryman. Toth served seven years in the Infantry and over 17 years in Special Forces. After retiring in 2009, Mike continued serving his country as a Government Civilian at USSOCOM. He suffers from disk issues in his back and neck and arthritis in numerous joints from multiple orthopedic injuries.

With his doctor's recommendation that he stop running, Toth took up cycling and his competitive nature led him to begin racing. He has competed in multiple cycling racing disciplines to include mountain, road and cyclocross. Toth credits his medical team and counseling from the USSOCOM Care Coalition for the advances he has made in his life. He is very appreciative of the support of his family and friends and is very excited about competing in this year's Invictus Games.

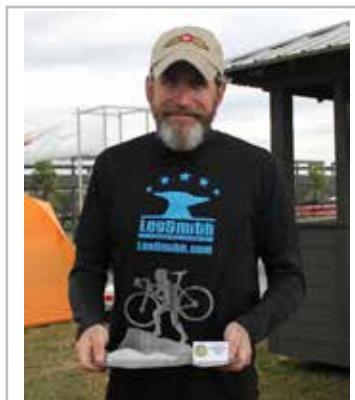
He states, "Cycling has given me something positive to focus on and helps keep me physically and mentally fit."

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Philip Chitty

phillip.chitty@socom.mil

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2017 INVICTUS GAMES US TEAM ATHLETES



Mark Vomund

RANK, SERVICE

Master Sergeant

STATUS

Veteran

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

Special Ops. Weapons Sgt.

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Retired

HOMETOWN

Pleasant Hill, California

CURRENT LOCATION

Montana

SCHOOL(S)

AA, Haywood, California

INJURY OR ILLNESS

TBI and PTSD

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Afghanistan; 2010

EVENT(S)

Archery and Cycling

Retired Army Master Sergeant Mark Vomund served 24 years in the military which included 10 deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. Of the many military decorations he was awarded, the most significant were five Bronze Star Medals for Valor and two Purple Hearts. His injuries in 2010 included TBI and PTSD.

Vomund participates in archery and cycling with Military Adaptive Sports and has been working on recovery after his retirement by attending adaptive sports events.

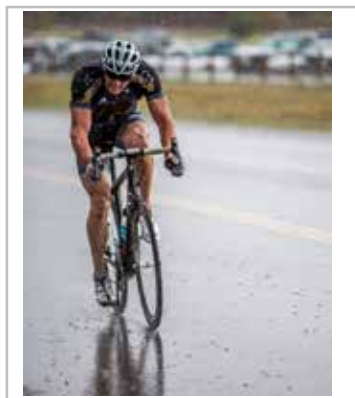
He continues to serve as a motivational speaker on TBI and PTSD awareness for other veterans and communities.

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT

Philip Chitty

phillip.chitty@socom.mil

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