

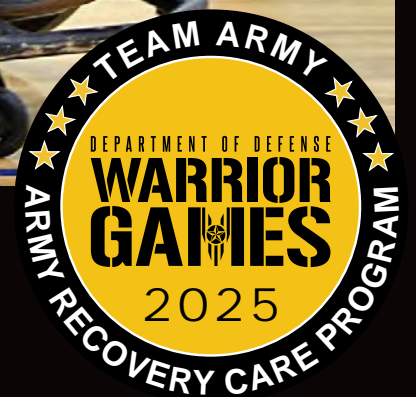
TEAM ARMY

ATHLETE BIO BOOK



ALBERTO ALVAREZ

Sgt. 1st Class



TEAM ARMY

ATHLETE BIO BOOK

The Army Recovery Care Program is proud to announce the members of Team Army who will compete at the 2025 Department of Defense Warrior Games in Colorado Springs, CO from July 18 - 26.

Hosted by the U.S. Army's Training and Doctrine Command, hundreds of warrior athletes from the United States Military Services will compete in Paralympic-style adaptive sporting events. The friendly competition creates camaraderie and showcases the athletes' ability to recover and overcome.

Team Army is comprised of 40 wounded, ill, and injured Soldiers and veterans, whose strength and perseverance define resilience through the power of adaptive sports.

Established in 2010, the DoD Warrior Games are a way to enhance the recovery and rehabilitation of wounded warriors and demonstrate the healing power of adaptive sports. Servicemembers and veterans from the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, and SOCOM will compete in the 2025 DoD Warrior Games.

JANI MERRITT

1st Lt.



ARCP TEAM ARMY

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2025 WARRIOR GAMES

FRIDAY, JULY 18th

Powerlifting
0800-1300 - Reid Gym

Powerlifting Concurrent Medaling Ceremony
0830-1330 - Reid Gym

Kickoff
1900-2000 - Robson Arena Closed Event

SATURDAY, JULY 19th

Cycling
0700-1200 - Cascade Ave + East Dale St

Wheelchair Basketball Pool Play
1430-2100 - Robson Arena

SUNDAY, JULY 20th

Precision Air Day 1
0730-1230 - Norris Penrose Indoor

Cycling Medal Ceremony
1300-1400 - Warrior Games Plaza

Wheelchair Basketball Semi-Finals
1500-1630 - Robson Arena

Wheelchair Basketball Finals
1640-2010 - Robson Arena

Wheelchair Basketball Medal Ceremony
2010-2030 - Robson Arena

MONDAY, JULY 21st

Precision Air Day 2
0730-1230 - Norris Penrose Indoor

Indoor Rowing
1530-1800 - Reid Gym

Precision Air Medal Ceremony
1900-2030 - Warrior Games Plaza

Indoor Rowing Medal Ceremony
Immediately following Precision Air Medal Ceremony - Warrior Games Plaza

TUESDAY, JULY 22nd

Field - Limited Public Viewing
0730-1230 - Donald E. Autrey Field

Wheelchair Rugby Pool Play - No spectator seating
1430-2100 - Robson Arena

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23rd

Track
0700-1300 - Garry Berry Stadium

Wheelchair Rugby Semi-Finals
1400-1530 - Robson Arena

Wheelchair Rugby Finals
1540-1910 - Robson Arena

Wheelchair Rugby Ceremony
1910-1930 - Robson Arena

THURSDAY, JULY 24th

Archery Day 1
0730-1330 - Washburn Field

Track Medal Ceremony
1400-1600 - Warrior Games Plaza

Field Medal Ceremony
Immediately following Track Medal Ceremony - Warrior Games Plaza

DoD Warrior Games Celebration
1630-2130 - Closed Event

FRIDAY, JULY 25th

Archery Day 2
0730-1300 - Washburn Field

Sitting Volleyball Pool Play
1330-2030 - Reid Gym

Sitting Volleyball Semi-Finals
2100-2200 - Reid Gym

SATURDAY, JULY 26th

Swimming - No spectator seating
0630-1230 - Schlessman Natatorium

Sitting Volleyball Finals
1300-1630 - Reid Gym

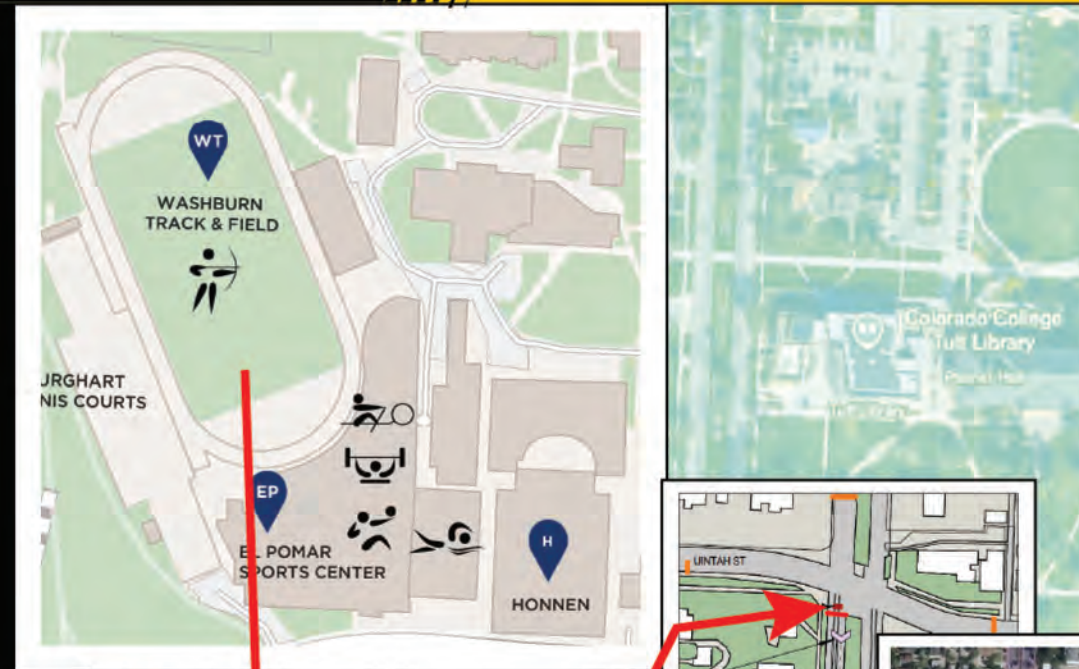
Sitting Volleyball Medal Ceremony
1630-1700 - Reid Gym

Archery Medal Ceremony
1700-1800 - Warrior Games Plaza

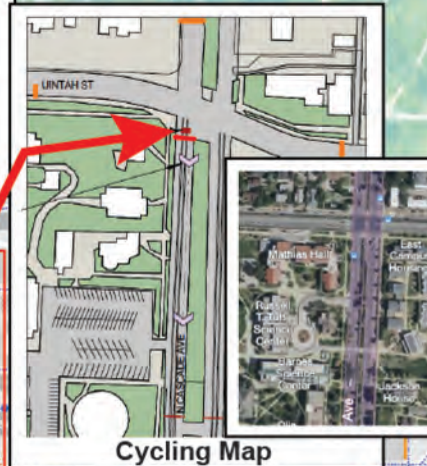
Swimming Medal Ceremony
Immediately following Archery Medal Ceremony - Warrior Games Plaza

Send-Off
1900-2000 - Closed Event

ARCP TEAM ARMY



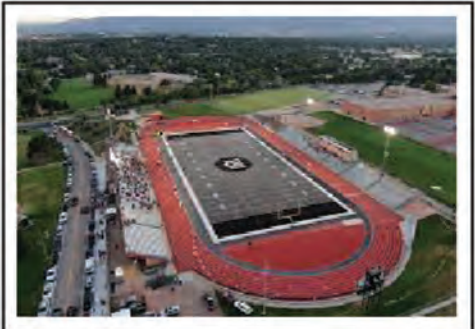
MAP OF EVENTS



Off-Campus Venues



Norris Penrose Indoor Arena
1045 Lower Gold Camp Rd.
Colorado Springs, CO 80905



Garry Berry Stadium
2020 Glenn Summer Rd
Colorado Springs, CO 80909



AUTREY FIELD



- A-1 College permit parking
- Accessible Route
- Accessible building entrances
- Crushed gravel path (uneven surface)
- Sidewalks and other paths
- Electric vehicle charging station
- City bus stops
- PikeRide bike sharing stations
- City permit street parking only
- Paid meter street parking

Note: all parking lots have accessible parking, except the westernmost WC lot.
Colorado College is a smoke- and tobacco-free campus. No weapons allowed.



MAP LEGEND

2025 WARRIOR GAMES

Alberto
ALVAREZ

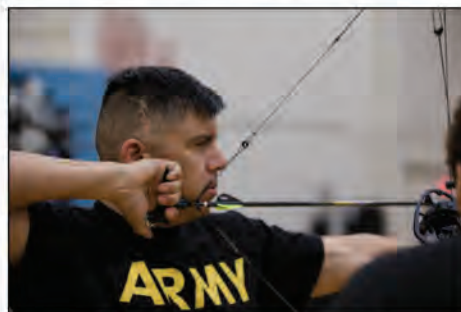
RANK
Sgt.1st Class

STATUS
Active Duty

HOMETOWN
Hammond, IN

CURRENT LOCATION/SRU
Colorado Springs, CO /
Fort Carson

EVENTS
Field
Powerlifting
Precision Air Sports
Sitting Volleyball
Swimming
Track



Sgt.1st Class Alberto Alvarez has 25 years of active duty in the U.S. Army, dedicating his life to protecting and serving his country. Over his distinguished career, he completed five combat deployments, one peacekeeping mission, and one humanitarian aid operation.

During a deployment to Afghanistan in 2013, Sgt.1st Class Alvarez survived an RPG blast that detonated five feet from his position. Despite escaping with only minor scrapes and bruises, the incident unknowingly marked the beginning of a challenging journey. Years later, he was diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury (TBI), revealing the lingering effects of that fateful day.

In late 2022, Sgt.1st Class Alvarez faced another medical battle when he was diagnosed with Moyamoya disease after experiencing multiple transient ischemic attacks (TIAs). Following bilateral brain surgeries to improve blood flow, he continues to navigate the residual effects of the condition while displaying resilience and determination.

Currently, he is navigating the Medical Evaluation Board (MEB) process as he transitions from active duty to the next chapter of his life. Sgt.1st Class Alvarez attributes much of his resilience to the support of his wife Shannon, fellow service members, his medical team, and his family. He believes in the power of community and shared experiences to overcome adversity.

Competing in events like the Warrior Games would signify the culmination of his journey, providing an opportunity to demonstrate his resilience and inspire others facing similar challenges.

Luis
AVILA

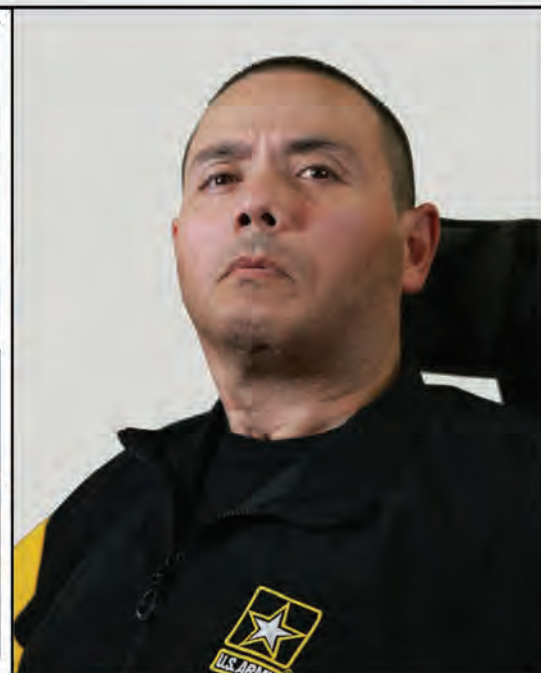
RANK
Cpt.

STATUS
Active Duty

HOMETOWN
Metairie, LA

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
Bethesda, Maryland /
Walter Reed National
Military Medical Center

EVENTS
Archery
Cycling
Field
Indoor Rowing
Precision Air Sports



Cpt. Luis Avila enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2000, later earning his commission in 2004. With degrees in Accounting, Computer Science, and Business and Organizational Security Management, he pursued a distinguished career in the military police, serving in various leadership roles and completing multiple combat tours including Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom, his fifth deployment, where he faced catastrophic injuries from an IED explosion that left him completely paralyzed. Despite sustaining significant physical and cognitive trauma, he defied the odds, emerging from a coma and gradually regaining speech and motor functions through resilient determination and multidisciplinary rehabilitation, notably incorporating music therapy.

Discovering a passion for singing and harmonica playing during recovery, he utilized these talents to inspire others and aid in his own healing journey. Remaining an active advocate for fellow service members, Cpt. Avila excelled in adaptive sports, achieving first place in the Amputee Warrior Men category of the Army Ten-Miler and earning a spot on Team Army for the Warrior Games, where he secured multiple medals.

He had the honor to be a member of Team US competing at the 2025 first ever Winter Invictus Games in Canada. His unwavering dedication to service has garnered prestigious honors such as the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and The Order of the Marechaussee in Silver.

ARCP TEAM ARMY

John Michael
BRITTON

RANK
Staff Sgt.

STATUS
Veteran

HOMETOWN
Charleston, SC

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
New Braunfels, TX /
JBSA

EVENTS
Archery
Cycling
Field
Sitting Volleyball
Swimming
Track
Wheelchair Basketball
Wheelchair Rugby



Retired Staff Sgt. John Michael Britton enlisted in the U.S. Army in July 2010, embodying steadfast dedication and adaptability throughout his service. Initially serving five years on active duty as a Military Police (31B), he transitioned to the Army Reserves, re-classing to a Combat Engineer (12B), showcasing his versatility and eagerness for new challenges. After a brief hiatus, he reenlisted in October 2020, returning to active duty as an Infantryman (11B), fueled by a profound sense of duty.

Stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Staff Sgt. Britton served as an Airborne Infantry Fire Team Squad Leader until an unfortunate accident altered his path, resulting in a right above knee amputation and a fractured right arm. Despite this adversity, his resilient spirit remains unbroken.

He competed in the 2024 DoD Warrior Games. This was a testament to his resilience, pushing his physical and mental limits while connecting with a community of fellow warriors. Staff Sgt. Britton is grateful for the support of his family, friends, and fellow service members and lives by the belief that setbacks are just setups for comebacks.

2025 WARRIOR GAMES

Britton

6

Earlie
BROWN

RANK
Master Sgt.

STATUS
Reserve

HOMETOWN
Riveria Beach, FL

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
Rockville, MD /
Walter Reed National
Military Medical Center

EVENTS
Field
Indoor Rowing
Precision Air Sports
Sitting Volleyball
Swimming
Track
Wheelchair Basketball
Wheelchair Rugby



Master Sgt. Earlie Brown began his Army career in 2000 first on active duty, then he transitioned into the Army Reserve. As a Construction Engineer, he served in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria. On his last deployment in Syria, Brown suffered a serious eye infection that sent him to the hospital in Germany and further treatment was required at Walter Reed. Not realizing what a Soldier Recovery Unit was, Brown embraced the opportunity to restore his health and learn new ways to recover. Adaptive sports became a part of his daily road to recovery along with strengthening bonds between other Soldiers at the SRU.

His recovery is also about teamwork, being able to socialize with people, learning something new, and being taught something new. Master Sgt. Brown learned how to exercise differently with different parts of his body, and has a new outlet. The Florida native has two daughters and one son and will medically retire from the Army soon.

ARCP TEAM ARMY

Jimmy
CANDELARIO

RANK
Sgt.

STATUS
National Guard

HOMETOWN
Fort Stewart, GA

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
Fort Stewart, GA /
Fort Stewart

EVENTS
Archery
Field
Precision Air Sports
Sitting Volleyball
Swimming
Track
Wheelchair Basketball



Sgt. Jimmy Candelario is originally from Dorado, Puerto Rico. The 42-year-old enlisted in the Army National Guard in 2005, where he worked in logistics, operating and overseeing heavy machinery. Candelario deployed to Afghanistan in 2011, where he was diagnosed with PTSD and sustained injuries to his back. Despite these challenges, he continued to serve and was deployed to Puerto Rico in 2014 and 2015.

In 2016, Sgt. Candelario moved to Tampa, Florida, and continued his National Guard duties. In 2020, he start pursuing a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. His academic journey was interrupted in 2022 when he was deployed to Playas, New Mexico, to support the Border Patrol. In November 2023, he was sent to the Soldier Recovery Unit at Fort Stewart, Georgia, where he began rehabilitation for his injuries and received treatment for his mental health.

During his time at the SRU, Sgt. Candelario underwent knee surgery and has been working through physical therapy while also participating in various sports camps. These camps have not only supported his physical recovery but have also been vital in improving his mental health and motivating him to stay focused on his recovery.

As he moves forward, he is committed to finishing his degree, advancing in his career, and embracing new challenges. His time in the military, combined with the support he received in recovery, has taught him the value of perseverance and the strength that comes from facing adversity.

2025 WARRIOR GAMES

Candelario

8

Allaijah
CHURCHWELL

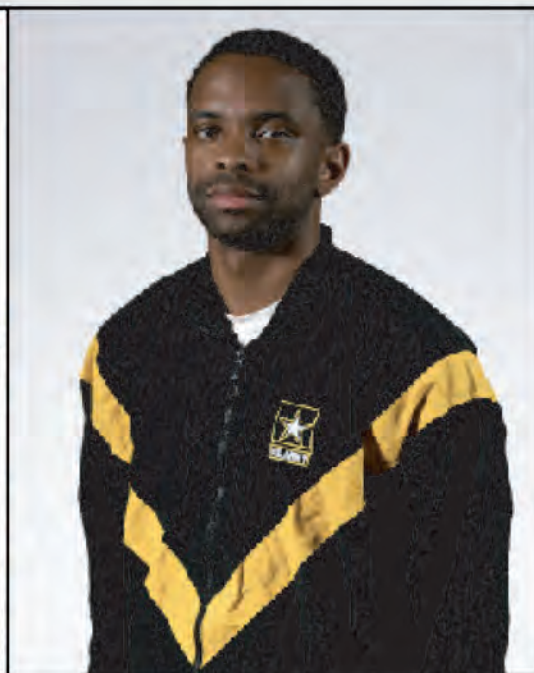
RANK
Staff Sgt.

STATUS
Active Duty

HOMETOWN
Wahiawa, HI

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
Schofield Barracks, HI
/ Hawaii

EVENTS
Archery
Field
Swimming
Track
Wheelchair Basketball
Wheelchair Rugby



Staff Sgt. Allaijah Churchwell has dedicated nearly nine years to the Army, with deployments spanning from Poland in 2018 to Australia in 2023. However, his life took a drastic turn on November 23, 2023, when he was struck by another service member riding his E-bike. He suffered severe injuries—including fractures in both femurs, five broken ribs, and a ruptured spleen. The aftermath left Staff Sgt. Churchwell feeling isolated and disconnected from those around him.

It wasn't until he arrived at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii SRU, that he found a renewed sense of purpose through adaptive sports. Training alongside other soldiers facing physical challenges, he rediscovered camaraderie and the motivation to push forward.

ARCP TEAM ARMY

Jeremy
DITLEVSON

RANK
Maj.

STATUS
Veteran

HOMETOWN
Ashland, OH

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
Lawton, OK

EVENTS
Field
Indoor Rowing
Precision Air Sports
Swimming



Retired Army Maj. Jeremy Ditlevson enlisted in the Army in 2004 when he was 30 years old and retired in May 2024 at the rank of Major. When he enlisted he served until the rank of Sergeant when he was selected for Officer Candidate School in 2010 and became a Field Artillery Officer. He has held multiple positions to include Foreign Service Officer, Fire Direction Officer, Battery Commander, S-4, and Strike Director. After returning from his 5th deployment, Maj. Ditlevson suffered a massive stroke which resulted in hemiplegia of his right side, aphasia, and a partial vision impairment. He was evacuated to the Audie L. Murphy Poly-Trauma unit in San Antonio and assigned to the JBSA SRU for further treatment.

Maj. Ditlevson began his recovery in the Brain Injury Clinic and with Adaptive Rehabilitation in June 2023. They placed him in a pool and he began to swim. His swimming continues to improve every time he gets into the pool. Then, he started on an indoor row machine, which he keeps excelling at. He will face every challenge they put in front of him including shot put and air rifle.

Maj. Ditlevson continues to thrive everyday. When the doctors said he would never walk again, he showed them he would face every battle head on. His recovery has gone beyond the expectations of all his doctors and care teams.

2025 WARRIOR GAMES

Ditlevson

10

Henry
ESCOBEDO

RANK
Sgt. 1st Class

STATUS
Veteran

HOMETOWN
Pearland, TX

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
Pearland, TX

EVENTS
Cycling
Field
Indoor Rowing
Swimming
Track



Retired Sgt. 1st Class Henry Escobedo is a visually impaired veteran from Houston, TX. He served proudly and with honor in the U.S Army for 12 years. During his Army career, he deployed twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. When he returned from his first deployment in 2004, he began to experience headaches and dry eyes. The condition worsened during his 2010 deployment. It was late in 2011 when his vision had deteriorated almost completely. Sgt. 1st Class Escobedo was declared medically legally blind. However, he does have a degree of peripheral vision. Doctors eventually diagnosed Sgt. 1st Class Escobedo with Leber's Hereditary Optic Neuropathy.

His life changed completely. Becoming visually impaired was difficult for him and depressing because he lost his career, independence, and lifestyle. He found himself starting to isolate. He felt lost and hurt physically, emotionally, and mentally.

However, all that changed when he was introduced to the adaptive sports world. He jumped right in and tried to learn, or try-out, for as many sports as he can. The challenge of stepping out of his comfort zone brought him back to life. Now, adaptive sports have really changed the way he lives life.

ARCP TEAM ARMY

Anthony
FARVE

RANK
Spc.

STATUS
Veteran

HOMETOWN
Tacoma, WA

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
Moses Lake, WA /
JBLM

EVENTS

Cycling
Field
Indoor Rowing
Sitting Volleyball
Swimming
Track
Wheelchair Basketball
Wheelchair Rugby



Retired Spc. Anthony Farve joined the Army in 2004 as an infantryman. He was stationed in Fort Lewis with 2nd Infantry Division. He deployed in the summer of 2006, where he was hit by an IED 8 months 29 days into his deployment. Farve was sent to Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda, MD for his recovery. Doctors saved his right leg but it did not work very well.

Farve was sent to the then WTB, now a Soldier Recovery Unit. He spent two years there and retired from the Army. In 2014, Farve had multiple surgeries on his ankle which made things worse. He then had his leg amputated below the knee on the right side. Shortly after, he found wheelchair basketball and learned a lot about veterans benefits and organizations that help veterans. He is married and has two children.

2025 WARRIOR GAMES

Farve

12

Amanda (Mandy)
FEINDT

RANK
Maj.

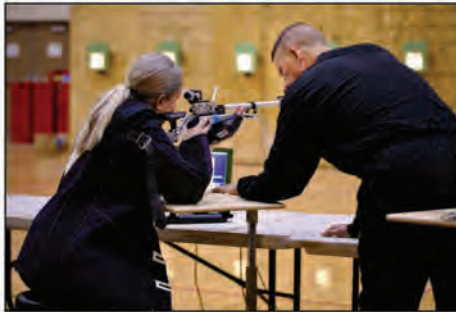
STATUS
Active Duty

HOMETOWN
Hampton, VA

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
Fort Belvoir, VA /
Fort Belvoir

EVENTS

Cycling
Field
Precision Air Sports
Swimming
Track



Maj. Amanda Feindt joined the SRU after her family was impacted by the Red Hill Water Crisis in Hawaii. After suffering neurological, cognitive, and vestibular issues, she recovered at the Fort Belvoir SRU. After the water crisis, this avid swimmer developed a fear of water to the point that she thought she would never swim again.

Adaptive sports have helped her overcome that fear and has been the most healing part of her SRU experience. The SRU has provided Maj. Feindt an opportunity to seek medical treatment for her own injuries and heal from the trauma she and her family have experienced.

Quote:

"Training at Army Trials and getting to know the other athletes, hearing their stories, and being able to share my own story has been life changing."

– Maj. Amanda Feindt

Samantha
FREY

RANK
Cpt.

STATUS
Active Duty

HOMETOWN
Dayton, OH

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
Fayetteville, NC /
Fort Bragg

EVENTS

Archery
Field
Indoor Rowing
Precision Air Sports
Swimming
Wheelchair Basketball
Wheelchair Rugby



Cpt. Samantha Frey has been active duty for over three years. Her life turned upside down when she suddenly became sick. The 26-year-old could not work, exercise, or live in the way she had functioned before. She arrived at the Fort Bragg Soldier Recovery Unit surrounded by uncertainty, not knowing what was wrong or what the rest of her life would look like. Through adaptive sports, Cpt. Frey was able to feel capable again. Focusing on new ways to exercise gave her an anchor while surrounded by so many unknowns. Setting goals and training again gave her that sense of purpose and satisfaction that she had been missing.

During her journey, she learned to "be grateful for what you are currently capable of." Cpt. Frey is grateful for her partner, family, and friends for their continuous support.

Bianca
HAYDEN

RANK
Sgt.

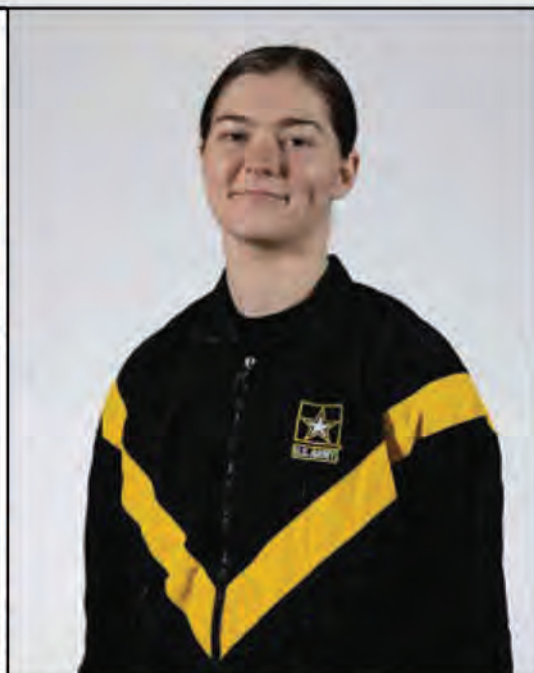
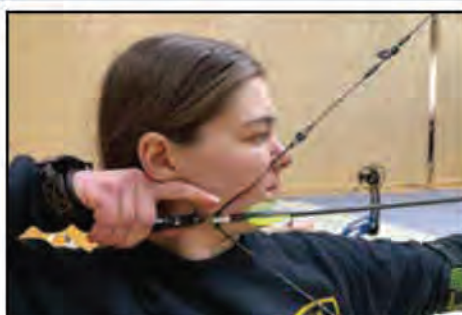
STATUS
National Guard

HOMETOWN
Eugene, OR

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
JBLM

EVENTS

Archery
Cycling
Field
Indoor Rowing
Powerlifting
Precision Air Sports
Sitting Volleyball
Swimming
Track



24-year-old Sgt. Bianca Hayden has been in the Army National Guard for almost seven years. She spent time in Afghanistan, Germany, and Poland. While in Poland, she broke her shoulder, leading to two shoulder surgeries and nearly two years at the JBLM Soldier Recovery Unit.

During her recovery she worked in adaptive sports and was able to recover and return to duty. Along with the physical training, her time at the Soldier Recovery Unit inspired her to learn more about her injury and recovery. JBLM was able to help Sgt. Hayden to adapt to indoor rowing as a one armed rower, which has now become one of her favorite activities. She became a certified personal trainer and develops adaptive workouts. Competing in the 2024 Warrior Games and Invictus in 2025 was an honor to her and really showed, that despite the setbacks, anything is achievable.

Sgt. Bianca Hayden will be one of two Soldiers on Team Army competing for the title of Ultimate Champion.

Tam
HOANG

RANK
Staff Sgt.

STATUS
Reserve

HOMETOWN
Sacramento, CA

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
Waipahu, HI /
JBLM

EVENTS
Archery
Cycling
Field
Precision Air Sports
Sitting Volleyball
Track



Staff Sgt. Tam Hoang dedicated a decade to the Army Reserve, with deployments in Qatar in 2016-2017, Africa in 2018-2020, and Syria in 2022-2024. On the last tour to Syria, his life changed forever. After surviving an unexploded ordnance and drone explosion, he suffered two traumatic brain injuries within the span of two months.

The 29 year old Staff Sgt. thought his life was over until he arrived at JBLM Soldier Recovery Unit where he was introduced to adaptive sports. He says adaptive sports gave him a sense of purpose and contributed to the improvement of his mental and physical health. Staff Sgt. Hoang felt like he was a part of a community, being around other soldiers who understood his struggle. He would like to thank his wife for walking alongside him on his path to recovery.

David
HONG

RANK
Sgt. 1st Class

STATUS
Active Duty

HOMETOWN
San Diego, CA

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
Colorado Springs, CO /
Fort Carson

EVENTS
Archery
Cycling
Field
Indoor Rowing
Track



Sgt. 1st Class David Hong served 16 years active duty as a Religious Affairs Specialist NCO, with deployments to Afghanistan in 2019, Korea in 2011 and 2020. On July 7, 2022, Sgt. 1st Class Hong was diagnosed with Stage 4 Colon Cancer. He has had nine major surgeries and 23 chemotherapy treatments, four cancer surgeries, and one major surgery removing part of the stomach wall and liver.

Sgt. 1st Class Hong arrived at Fort Carson Soldier Recovery Unit September 2023, he also has battled other orthopedic injuries to both knees. Adaptive sports have helped the 52 year old Hong deal with PTSD, anxiety, depression, sleep apnea, and severe neuropathy. He has had the full support of his Army family, wife and kids, and friends to navigate and battle this terminal illness. Fighting cancer is not solitary but a team effort through adaptive sports.

Justin "JP"
LANE

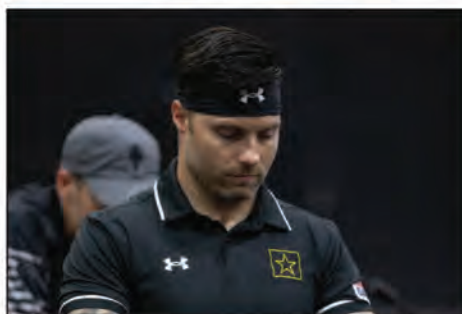
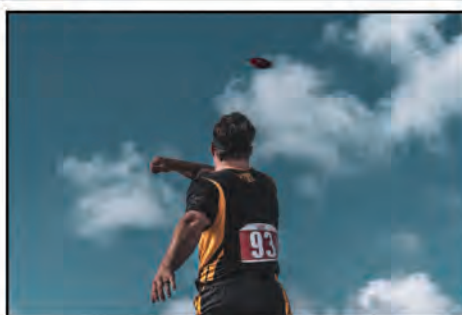
RANK
Spc.

STATUS
Veteran

HOMETOWN
Green Bay, WI

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
Canyon Lake, TX /
San Antonio

EVENTS
Archery
Field
Indoor Rowing
Powerlifting
Sitting Volleyball
Track
Wheelchair Basketball
Wheelchair Rugby



Retired Spc. Justin Patrick Lane was born in Ohio and raised in Green Bay, Wisconsin. He currently lives north of San Antonio with his wife, Crystal. Lane was deployed to Afghanistan in 2010, and this last deployment would change the rest of his life. Lane was injured when a 200 lb. improvised explosive device exploded. He sustained 26 injuries, including the loss of his legs and has been through 28 surgeries, to have a fighting chance at life. Lane will tell you he joined the U.S. Army to serve and protect the American people, and by the grace of God, he still does.

He continues to find new ways to inspire others through adaptive sports. He competed in his first DOD Warrior Games in 2024, bringing home three Gold medals. He is an endorsed Under Armour Freedom athlete and a national ambassador for Helping a Hero, where he speaks on building adaptive homes for combat-wounded veterans and their families. Lane and his wife, also known as Team Lane, promotes post-traumatic growth to combat wounded veterans and others across the country, helping them build.

Kyra
MAGGIO

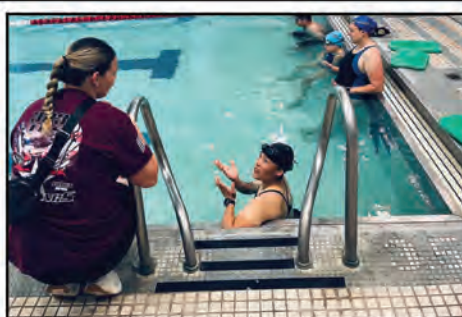
RANK
Cpt.

STATUS
Reserves

HOMETOWN
El Paso, TX

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
El Paso, TX /
Fort Bliss

EVENTS
Cycling
Field
Indoor Rowing
Swimming
Track



42 year old Cpt. Kyra Maggio proudly served in the United States Army Reserve for 12 years, during which time, she was honored to support missions in Korea, Kuwait, and Romania. In 2023, following her return from deployment, she was assigned to the Fort Carson Soldier Recovery Unit to begin treatment. The following year, she was transferred to the Fort Bliss SRU, where her wife is stationed. The SRU gave Cpt. Maggio a sense that she is not the only one getting this treatment.

Throughout her time at the SRU, Cpt. Maggio experienced an unparalleled level of support and compassion, which helped transform a challenging and demanding journey into one of healing. She expressed her sincere gratitude to Mr. Richard Dones at Fort Carson SRU and Master Sgt. Tim Holmes at the Fort Bliss SRU for their unwavering commitment to her progress and well-being. She is also deeply grateful to her wife.

Nathaniel
MATEO

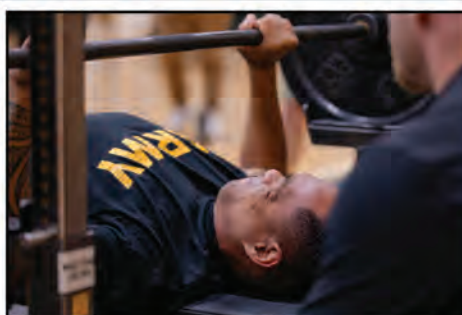
RANK
Staff Sgt.

STATUS
National Guard

HOMETOWN
Saipan, Northern
Marianas Island

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
Schofield Barracks, HI /
Hawaii

EVENTS
Archery
Field
Powerlifting
Precision Air Sports
Track



Staff Sgt. Mateo enlisted in the Guam Army National Guard in 2011 as an Infantryman and then joining the 1-294th Infantry Regiment. Over the course of his career, he has deployed three times in service to his country. His first deployment was to Afghanistan in 2013 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In 2018, he participated in a homeland security mission in Guam for Security Forces, and most recently, in 2023 he deployed to Saudi Arabia as part of Operation Spartan Shield.

Committed to professional growth and excellence, Staff Sgt. Mateo has completed multiple leadership courses and specialized training, including Air Assault School. His dedication to duty, leadership, and continuous development has made him a valuable asset to his unit and the Guam Army National Guard. Beyond his military career, Staff Sgt. Mateo is grateful to his wife for all her support.

Colby
MAURY-RICE

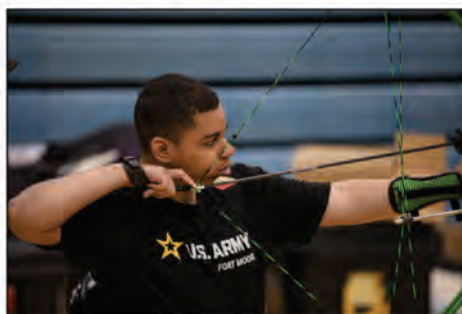
RANK
Spc.

STATUS
Veteran

HOMETOWN
Hattiesburg, MS

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
Fort Benning

EVENTS
Archery
Field
Indoor Rowing
Precision Air Sports



Retired Spc.Colby Maury-Rice was born in Washington, DC and moved to Hattiesburg, Mississippi when he was 8-years-old with his family to help care for his grandmother. Spc. Maury-Rice was a student at Sacred Heart Catholic School from third grade until he received his high school diploma in May 2023. He chose to serve his country, and became a member of the Mississippi National Guard in April 2023. While participating at Soldier Readiness training in August 2023, he had a heat stroke, was hospitalized, and assigned to the Fort Benning Solider Recovery Unit to continue his military career.

In May 2024, Spc. Maury-Rice had the opportunity to visit with the "Wolfpack", the nickname of the Fort Benning SRU team, where he was able to train and compete with the Fort Benning adaptive sports team. He has represented the Fort Benning/Team Army at the Endeavor Games in Oklahoma and the Hartford Nationals in Birmingham, Alabama. He has also participated in the Pacific Regional Trials in Hawaii where he was awarded the "Heart of the Team" award from his peers. He is looking forward to participating on Team Army at the 2025 Warrior Games.

Jani
MERRITT

RANK
1st Lt.

STATUS
National Guard

HOMETOWN
Spartanburg, SC

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
Fort Bliss, TX

EVENTS
Archery
Powerlifting
Precision Air Sports
Swimming
Track



1st Lt. Jani Merritt, aged 27, dedicated over eight years to the National Guard, first enlisting, then earning a commission. While mobilized in 2023, 1st Lt. Merritt noticed signs that something was wrong. After a trip to the hospital, she was told that one of her kidneys was failing and her life was in danger. Following multiple surgeries, 1st Lt. Merritt continued to suffer from complications that ultimately led to severe nerve damage, including left foot drop and loss of sensation in other areas throughout her body (transverse myelitis). She had difficulty finding any positivity in her life until arriving at Fort Stewart Soldier Recovery Unit and fully immersed herself in adaptive sports.

Adaptive sporting provided 1st Lt. Merritt opportunities to find ways to continue to enjoy the sports and activities that she struggled to participate in, given her new physical limitations.

Channda
MITCHELL

RANK
Cpt.

STATUS
Reserve

HOMETOWN
Albuquerque, NM

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
Albuquerque, NM /
Fort Bliss

EVENTS

Archery
Cycling
Field
Indoor Rowing
Powerlifting
Precision Air Sports
Swimming
Track
Wheelchair Rugby



Cpt. Channda Mitchell takes immense pride in her 12 year service in the Army Reserve, with her most recent positions held being the 601st Transportation Detachment Company Commander and Army Field Support Battalion-Kuwait Support Operations Deputy. While deployed in 2024, Cpt. Mitchell was appointed as the Investigating Officer on a case requiring her to go to multiple locations in Iraq and Syria. While leaving Syria, Cpt. Mitchell's helicopter banked sharply, causing her to hit her head. After losing feeling on her left side, imaging revealed she had sustained severe spinal cord injury and TBI. Cpt. Mitchell was Medevac'd to Walter Reed hospital, where she underwent surgery to free her spinal cord and fuse her cervical vertebrae.

She is currently receiving care at the Fort Bliss Solider Recovery Unit and the Center for the Intrepid. She thanks her family and battle buddies for being her rock, and the staff at Fort Bliss SRU for introducing her to all aspects of the Warrior Games and adaptive sports. She credits this discovery as the path to healing, both physically and mentally.

Cpt. Channda Mitchell is the second Soldier on Team Army who will be competing for the title of Ultimate Champion.

ARCP TEAM ARMY

Christopher
MORAGO

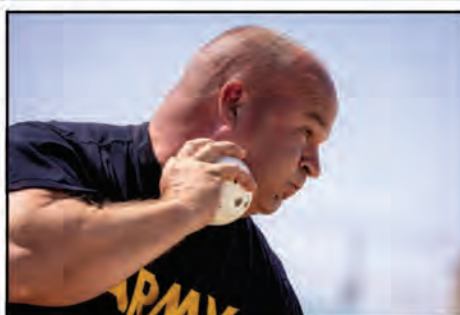
RANK
1st Sgt.

STATUS
Active Duty

HOMETOWN
Salem, MO

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
Fort Campbell, KY /
Fort Campbell

EVENTS
Cycling
Field
Powerlifting
Swimming
Track



1st Sgt. Christopher Morago started his Army Career in the Early Enlistment Program on March 10, 1996. 1st Sgt. Morago currently has served over 28 dedicated years in the service. He was awarded multiple awards during his honorable service which include four Army Accommodation Medals, three Army Achievement Medals, Army Good Conduct Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, and various other awards including 16 coins from top leaders for excelling above the Army Standards of Excellence. He is Air Assault Qualified and earned the German Gafette Badge.

1st Sgt. Morago has dedicated his life to training and mentoring fellow Soldiers in becoming the next future leaders of the Army. He served during the Iraqi Freedom Campaign, Covid-19 Mission, and other missions assigned by the Army. He deals with PTSD, depression, and high anxiety. 1st Sgt. Morago acquired many injuries during his military service, including both shoulder, knees, migraines, disc out of place in lower back, TBI, and Type 2 Diabetes. Although he has many injuries, he still tries to make the best out of life. He says to never accept defeat or give up. His favorite adaptive sport is cycling on the recumbent bike because it makes him feel alive.

Alexis
PANTOJA

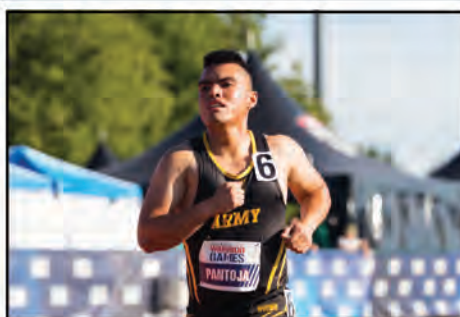
RANK
Spc.

STATUS
Active Duty

HOMETOWN
Chicago, IL

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
El Paso, TX /
Fort Bliss

EVENTS
Field
Indoor Rowing
Swimming
Track



Spc. Alexis Pantoja dedicated nearly five years to the U.S. Army. On September 24, 2022 his life changed forever. After a hit-and-run accident while riding a bicycle, he spent ten days in a coma and over four months as an inpatient in the hospital.

The 23-year-old competed in the 2024 Warrior Games in Orlando, Florida. Spc. Pantoja struggled with the symptoms from his injury until he found swimming, which he was introduced to at the Fort Bliss Soldier Recovery Unit. Swimming helped him overcome some of his injury symptoms most notably impaired motor function. He had to relearn how to walk and write among other things during his recovery.

Spc. Pantoja is excited to compete at the 2025 Warrior Games. He never imagined the great recovery he achieved being part of the Fort Bliss SRU.

Jeffrey
PETERS

RANK
Sgt. 1st Class

STATUS
Active Duty

HOMETOWN
Fort Riley, KS

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
Fort Riley, KS /
Fort Riley

EVENTS
Cycling
Field
Indoor Rowing
Swimming
Track



Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey N. Peters has dedicated 15 years to the Army, with two combat deployments to Afghanistan (2011, 2014), and various mission rotations into South Korea and Japan. On August 9, 2021, his life changed forever. He suffered a large ischemic stroke that affected multiple parts of his brain while teaching a battalion level Bradley gunnery class to 1-18 Infantry just before his unit was to qualify. His cerebellum and occipital lobe were hit the hardest and left Sgt. 1st Class Peters with permanent brain damage affecting his balance, coordination, and muscle control.

At Fort Riley SRU, adaptive sports gave him a way to continue recovery beyond just learning how to walk again. He is honored to compete in the sports that have helped him to push past the limitations of his injury.

**Tyler
POLLARD**

RANK
Staff Sgt.

STATUS
National Guard

HOMETOWN
Edenton, NC

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
Fort Bragg

EVENTS
Archery
Field
Precision Air Sports
Swimming
Track
Wheelchair Basketball
Wheelchair Rugby



Staff Sgt. Tyler Pollard dedicated nearly 11 years to the North Carolina National Guard, with deployments to Romania in 2017, Kuwait in 2019, and Syria in 2023. On October 19, 2023, his life changed forever. After a drone explosion, he suffered a mild Traumatic Brain Injury and fell into deep depression. Staff Sgt. Pollard thought his life's dreams were completely out of reach until he arrived at the Fort Bragg SRU, where he was introduced to adaptive sports.

Adaptive sports gave the 30-year-old a sense of purpose and contributed to both his mental and physical health. Staff Sgt. Pollard felt like he was part of a community surrounded by other Soldiers who understood what he was going through while also receiving the treatment he needed to bring his old self back within reach.

Adam
PROCTOR

RANK
Sgt. 1st Class

STATUS
Active Duty

HOMETOWN
Clarksville, TN

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
Clarksville, TN /
Fort Campbell -
Blanchfield

EVENTS
Cycling
Field
Indoor Rowing
Sitting Volleyball
Swimming
Track
Wheelchair Basketball
Wheelchair Rugby



Sgt. 1st Class Adam Proctor has proudly served in the U.S. Army since 2006. His distinguished career includes two deployments to Iraq from Fort Bliss: first to Mosul in 2007 and then to Amarah in 2009. After his deployments, Sgt. 1st Class Proctor spent three years stationed in Tripoli, working in the emergency room. He later transitioned to San Antonio, taking on the role of an instructor.

Following his tenure as an instructor, Sgt. 1st Class Proctor was assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell. In October 2020, he experienced a life-changing event when he lost his leg. Despite this significant challenge, he was evaluated in June 2023 and found fit for duty. Sgt. 1st Class Proctor continues to serve with dedication at Blanchfield Army Community Hospital (BACH) at Fort Campbell.

Sgt. 1st Class Proctor is also a devoted family man, married with five boys ranging in age from ten to eighteen.

Jodi
PYLE-VANDERSYS

RANK
Master Sgt.

STATUS
Reserve

HOMETOWN
Rio Rancho, NM

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
Colorado Springs, CO /
Fort Carson

EVENTS
Archery
Cycling
Field
Precision Air Sports



Master Sgt. Jodi Pyle-Vandersys has served 32 years in the Active Component, Colorado Army National Guard, and the Army Reserve, where she has spent a majority of her time in the service. The 50-year-old deployed to Iraq in 2003, Afghanistan in 2010 with the Colorado Army National Guard, and her final deployment was a state side mobilization to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, TX.

Fort Sam Houston is where Master Sgt. Pyle-Vandersys would find herself with both arms broken after suffering a fall from the back of military truck. Jodi was still recovering from contracting Murina Typhus, when she spent six days in the ICU. She found herself not only going back home to Colorado Springs, but also being assigned to the Fort Carson Solider Recovery Unit to recover and heal from her injuries.

Adaptive sports helped her find a renewed sense of purpose helping fellow Soldiers find their purpose. At the Fort Carson SRU, she continues to demonstrate why the SRU's are an important part of the Army, and just because a Soldier is broken, does not mean that they are disposable.

Mercedes
RANGEL

RANK
Staff Sgt.

STATUS
Reserve

HOMETOWN
Dallas, TX

CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU
JBSA

EVENTS
Cycling
Field
Track



Staff Sgt. Mercedes Rangel served in the Army Reserve for 14 years. Throughout her life, she was an athlete; from running and cycling to body building. But participating and competing in those activities came to a halt. Staff Sgt. Rangel sustained an injury to her herniated disc C6-C7 on her previous deployment. She lost strength on her right side. The pain radiated down her right arm. Her neck and arm had limited range of motion.

She enrolled in the Soldier Recovery Unit at JBSA and was introduced to the Army Recovery Care Program. The ARCP allowed her to continue playing in the sports that she loved and introduced her to new ones.

Staff Sgt. Rangel remains committed to her physical fitness. She participates in body building, is a spin instructor, and has trained with many soldiers.

She never felt alone or left behind. Because of the JBSA SRU, she was able to recover and get back in the fight.

Carlos
RIVERA

RANK
Cpt.

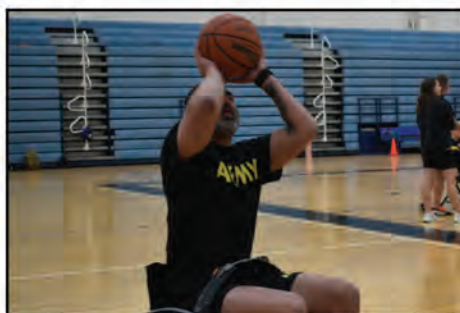
STATUS
Reserve

HOMETOWN
Princeton, TX

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
Fort Hood

EVENTS

Field
Indoor Rowing
Powerlifting
Sitting Volleyball
Swimming
Track
Wheelchair Basketball
Wheelchair Rugby



Cpt. Carlos Rivera is an Army behavioral health nurse. The married father of four from Princeton, Texas is honored to represent the Army at the 2025 Warrior Games. Rivera is recovering at the Fort Hood Solider Recovery Unit from a lower back injury. The former professional volleyball player credits adaptive sports with building up his confidence again and helping him realize he can still be athletic and do things with his kids even though the affects from his injury will last a lifetime.

Cpt. Rivera enjoys pickleball, basketball, and racing cars. Learning to adapt opened new doors to sports he now plays, like wheelchair rugby, wheelchair basketball, and sitting volleyball. He says, "The coaches helped me adapt by making me realize that I can still be in the game and not just sit on the couch because of my injury."

Sherri
SANDERS

RANK
Lt. Col.

STATUS
Reserve

HOMETOWN
Honolulu, HI

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
Venice, FL /
Fort Stewart

EVENTS
Archery
Cycling
Field
Precision Air Sports
Sitting Volleyball
Swimming



Lt. Col. Sherri Sanders was deployed to Kuwait in 2024 as the Deputy Commander for Nursing. She has served over 26 years on Active Duty and in the Army Reserve. While attached to the Fort Stewart SRU, she competed in her first-ever local Warrior Games, medaling in wheelchair rugby, basketball, and sitting volleyball. Lt. Col. Sanders is honored to have the opportunity to compete at Warrior Games as it symbolizes her continued healing.

Avery
SHORT

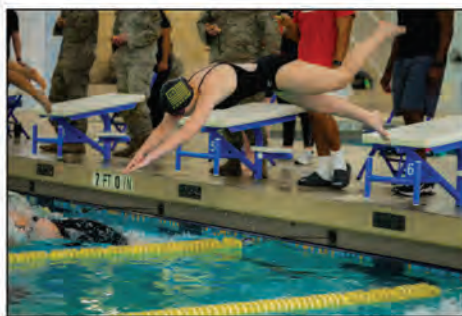
RANK
Spc.

STATUS
Veteran

HOMETOWN
Lincoln, NE

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
Lincoln, NE /
Fort Carson

EVENTS
Field
Indoor Rowing
Swimming
Track
Wheelchair Basketball
Wheelchair Rugby



Retired Spc. Avery Short is from Lincoln, Nebraska and served as a Combat Medic with the National Guard from 2019 to 2023. In 2023, Spc. Short arrived at the Fort Carson Soldier Recovery Unit after experiencing a series of sexual assaults and domestic violence. Initially her PTSD diagnosis filled her with a sense of hopelessness and worthlessness. She struggled with thoughts of suicide and an inability to connect with others. This all changed for her when she stepped into the nurturing environment of the SRU and discovered adaptive sports. Spc. Short fell in love with wheelchair basketball and the sport helped rekindle her fire and passion for life.

Through it all, she learned to view her struggles not as weaknesses, but as testaments to her resilience and strength. She credits the Fort Carson SRU and adaptive sports for pulling her out of the darkness and into the light. Spc. Short previously competed for Team Army at the 2024 Warrior Games in Orlando. She is honored to have the opportunity to compete again at the Warrior Games as it symbolizes her continued healing and service despite being retired. She looks forward to drawing inspiration from her fellow competitors.

Jason
SMITH

RANK
Sgt.

STATUS
Veteran

HOMETOWN
Bryant, AL

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
Bryant, AL /
SAMC

EVENTS
Field
Indoor Rowing
Powerlifting
Sitting Volleyball
Swimming
Wheelchair Basketball
Wheelchair Rugby



Retired Sgt. Jason Smith is a double amputee. He lost both legs in 2012. He found adaptive fitness in 2022 in the form of the Warrior Games. This will be Smith's third time participating in Warrior Games, and he represented our great nation in the 2023 Invictus Games. Sgt. Smith will also serve as the Captain of Team Army.

Outside of fitness, Smith is a family-driven man. Smith lives on a farm and homeschooled his children. His goal in life is to give his children a stable and safe childhood, and to teach them right from wrong.

Smith works for a non profit organization called Catch a Lift Fund. He helps veterans heal holistically post career and injury. The organization provides grants for home gym equipment or gym memberships, and has an internal system that allows veterans to connect with other veterans within the program.

He has the honor of being selected as the Team Army Captain.

Amy
SPARKS

RANK
Maj.

STATUS
Reserve

HOMETOWN
Napa, CA

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
Sanford, NC /
Fort Bragg

EVENTS
Cycling
Field
Indoor Rowing
Powerlifting
Sitting Volleyball
Swimming
Track



Maj. Amy Sparks has 15 years of service in the Army Reserve and Army National Guard. Following her deployment to Italy and Africa, which spanned 2022 and 2023, including her tenure as Company Commander, the 51-year-old Sparks was grateful to arrive at the Fort Bragg Soldier Recovery Unit. There, she was focused on her recovery, embarking on a comprehensive rehabilitation program that addressed the abdominal injury and ankle pain which resulted in a sub talar fusion, and chronic pain she had endured, allowing her to prioritize her physical and mental well-being.

Maj. Sparks considers herself fortunate to have experienced a sense of belonging and camaraderie during this challenging time in her life. As she moves forward, she is grateful for the support and opportunities that helped her navigate the challenges of recovery and rehabilitation. She wishes to express her heartfelt gratitude to her family and friends, who have been a constant source of support over the past two years as she recovered from her injuries.

Her introduction to adaptive sports has been a truly inspiring experience, and the opportunity to participate in the Warrior Games has been a powerful motivator for her. Maj. Sparks is eager to continue her journey, driven by the sense of purpose and belonging that she has found through her involvement in this program.

Derrick
THOMPSON

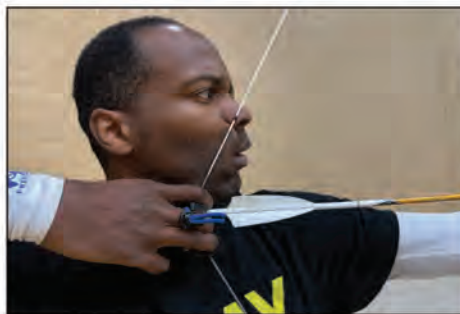
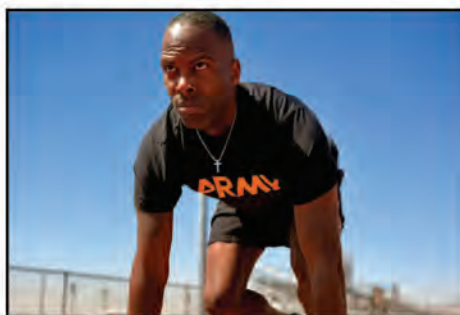
RANK
Staff Sgt.

STATUS
Active Duty

HOMETOWN
Chicago, IL

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
San Antonio, TX /
JBSA

EVENTS
Archery
Field
Precision Air Sports
Sitting Volleyball
Track
Wheelchair Basketball
Wheelchair Rugby



Staff Sgt. Derrick Thompson hails from Chicago, IL and graduated from Lawton High School in Lawton, OK. He began his military career in the Air Force Reserve in 2004 and transitioned to the Army in 2005. Over the years, he accrued 36 months of combat time overseas and has been honored with two Combat Action Badges. During his tour in Korea, he was diagnosed with diabetes in 2022 after not feeling well for a few months. He went to the ER and was sent back out because he did not show any signs of being ill. After running tests, he was brought back into the ER with an A1C around 14 and stayed there for two weeks. Staff Sgt. Thompson struggled for a few months after adapting to the medicine and was sent back to the states.

Staff Sgt. Thompson's Continuation of Active Duty waiver was approved in 2023 right before he went to his first Warrior Games. He started a job working for Brooke Army Medical Center as a project manager and will retire with 20 years active duty time in July 2025. He is married and has four children.

ARCP TEAM ARMY

Joann
TSUHAKO

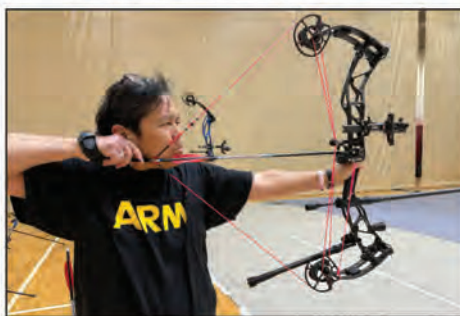
RANK
Chief Warrant
Officer 4

STATUS
Reserve

HOMETOWN
Kealahou, Hawaii

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
Fort Bragg

EVENTS
Archery
Cycling
Field
Precision Air Sports
Swimming



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Joann Tsuhako joined the Alaska National Guard in 1994, then transferred to the Army Reserve in 2004, and became an Active Guard and Reserve Soldier in 2009.

Upon her cancer diagnosis, her world was sent into a tailspin. She did not know what to expect and how it would affect her future.

The introduction to adaptive sports gave Tsuhako the motivation each day and she dedicated her time to improving these newfound skills. The coaches and the staff at the Fort Bragg SRU helped her to find a new passion in archery and cycling. She says that adaptive sports helped change her outlook on life while recovering from cancer treatment. The new sports gave her an outlet while taking care of her health mentally and physically. She is very grateful for her wife who was there for her throughout her treatment.

Coty
TUCK

RANK
Staff Sgt.

STATUS
National Guard

HOMETOWN
Mathiston, MS

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
Bethesda, Maryland /
Walter Reed National
Military Medical Center

EVENTS
Archery
Field
Precision Air Sports
Sitting Volleyball
Track
Wheelchair Basketball
Wheelchair Rugby



Staff Sgt. Coty Tuck served over 13 years in the Mississippi National Guard. While serving he deployed to Iraq in 2018 and Germany in 2023. On May 24, 2023, while on rotation in Germany, he was diagnosed with Stage 4 Melanoma. There were lots of unanswered questions until he arrived at Walter Reed. Since then, he has been through treatments, hospitalized for kidney failure, and put on various medications for other problems.

While at Walter Reed, Staff Sgt. Tuck sank into a deep depression because of how his life has changed but getting into the various events held at the Warriors Games gave him something to strive for. Participating in sports got him back to his old self. He is proud to get the chance to represent Team Army and vows to do his best. He is married with two children.

Valerie
WATKINS

RANK
Sgt. 1st Class

STATUS
Veteran

HOMETOWN
Detroit, MI

**CURRENT
LOCATION/SRU**
Bethesda, MD /
Walter Reed National
Medical Center

EVENTS
Archery
Field
Powerlifting
Precision Air Sports,
Sitting Volleyball
Track



Retired Sgt. 1st Class Valerie Watkins dedicated 15 years to the National Guard, with a deployment as a Door Runner on a Chinook helicopter to Kuwait and Iraq in 2017 and 2018. Prior to her deployment, the 35-year-old served her community as a Peace Officer in Arlington, Texas. Upon her return, she decided to return to her home state, Michigan, to serve as a Hometown Recruiter where she made an immediate impact and became a Top-Ten Recruiter. She then progressed in her career and moved on to become an on Campus Recruiter at Western University. She moved to University of Michigan, followed by becoming the Station Commander prior to becoming the MEPS Guidance Counselor. Sgt. 1st Class Watkins networked and moved to the National Guard Bureau where she experienced life altering health issues that led to brain surgery. A blood clot leading to a stroke two weeks later changed her life and her outlook on life forever.

While overcoming her challenges and realizing things had changed, she was introduced to adaptive sports and learned that this new way of life can still be just as rewarding. With the help of a recreational therapist and Soldier Recovery Unit Adaptive Reconditioning staff she broke through into the world of adaptive sports and found herself again. Sgt. 1st Class Watkins found a community and her mental and physical health is coming back together again.



ARCP

TEAM ARMY

Autographs



2025 WARRIOR GAMES

40

ATHLETE BIO BOOK

2025 DoD Warrior Games Team Army

Sgt. 1st Class Alberto Alvarez
 Cpt. Luis Avila
 Staff Sgt. John Michael Britton Master
 Sgt. Earlie Brown
 Sgt. Jimmy Candelario
 Staff Sgt. Allaijah Churchwell
 Maj. (Ret.) Jeremy Ditlevson
 Sgt. 1st Class (Ret.) Henry Escobedo
 Maj. Amanda Feindt
 Cpt. Samantha Frey
 Sgt. Bianca Hayden
 Sgt. 1st Class Tam Hoang
 Sgt. 1st Class David Hong
 Spc. (Ret.) JP Lane
 Cpt. Kyra Maggio
 Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Mateo
 Spc. Colby Maury-Rice
 1st Lt. Jani Merritt
 Cpt. Channda Mitchell
 1st Sgt. Christopher Morago
 Spc. Alexis Pantoja
 Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Peters
 Staff Sgt. Tyler Pollard
 Staff Sgt. Adam Proctor
 Master Sgt. Jodi Pyle-Vandersys
 Staff Sgt. Mercedes Rangel
 Cpt. Carlos Rivera
 Lt. Col. Sherri Sanders
 Spc. Avery Short
 Sgt. (Ret.) Jason Smith
 Maj. Amy Sparks
 Staff Sgt. Derrick Thompson
 Chief Warrant Officer 4 Joann Tsuhako
 Staff Sgt. Coty Tuck
 Sgt. 1st Class (Ret.) Valerie Watkins



