

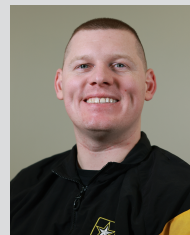


TEAM ARMY BIO

SPC Gerald Blakley's journey began when a herniated disc in his lower back led him to the Joint Base Lewis McChord Soldier Recovery Unit (SRU). Although his time at the SRU was lengthy, Blakley found it ultimately fulfilling. Life took a drastic turn post-injury, confining him to a wheelchair for a year and ultimately leading to medical retirement. Despite these challenges, Blakley cherishes his Army journey and the profound impact it had on his family.

For Blakley, the Department of Defense Warrior Games signify more than just competition; they represent resilience and the belief that, despite a disability, one can still be active and competitive. He sees competing on Team Army as an affirmation of his worth and a testament to the strength within him. Blakley is honored to represent his fellow soldiers, demonstrating that setbacks do not define them.

He draws inspiration from a quote that resonates deeply with him: "Strength does not come from the body... It comes from the will." This mantra propels him forward, reminding him that true strength lies in determination and the unwavering will to overcome life's obstacles.



Full Name

Gerald Reid Blakley

Preferred Name

Jerry

Rank/Abbreviation

Specialist/SPC

Service Branch

Veteran

Injury or Illness

FMD/Herniated Disc

Hometown (City, State)

Cincinnati, OH

Current Location/SRU

Coeur d'Alene, ID

MEDIA CONTACT

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