



WOUNDED WARRIOR
carebeyondduty

2024 DOD WARRIOR GAMES

TEAM AIR FORCE **TEAM BIO BOOK**

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
**WARRIOR
GAMES**

Active Duty



MSgt Aaron
Lin

Active Duty



SSgt Adrian
Spaulding

Active Duty



SSgt Allison
Smith

Active Duty



LtCol Amy
Campbell

Active Duty



CMSgt Andrea
Inmon

Veteran (<1 yr)



SSgt Auston
Duncan

Veteran (>1 yr)



SrA Brandon
Sullivan

Active Duty



SMSgt Brian
Williams

Veteran (<1 yr)



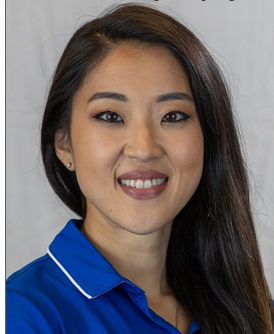
SSgt Carly
James

Veteran (>1 yr)



TSgt Chris
Ferrell

Veteran (<1 yr)



Capt Christina
Kang

Veteran (>1 yr)



SrA Colin
Pappas

Veteran (<1 yr)



SSgt Colten
Grimm

Active Duty



SSgt Curtis
Belew

Active Duty



SSgt Daniel
Eaton

Active Duty



SSgt Garret
Corbett

Veteran (>1 yr)



SMSgt Gary
Keller

Veteran (<1 yr)



SSgt Hannah
Grimm Countz

Active Duty

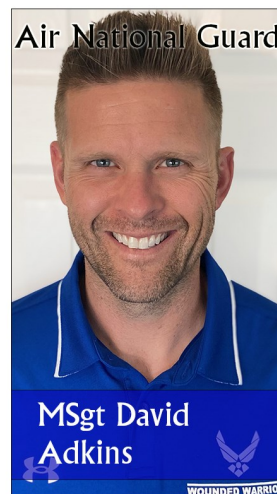


Maj Heather
Sealover

Active Duty



1stLt Houston
Thomas





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WARRIOR
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Rank: MSgt

Service Status: Active Duty

Hometown: Las Vegas, Nevada

Aaron joined the Air Force in 2002 serving as an EOD technician. Multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan starting in 2008 led to combat-related PTSD, with loss of teammates taking a significant toll on him mentally. Despite dealing with the symptoms of PTSD caused by cumulative trauma, Aaron went on to continue serving his country in an exemplary fashion. In addition to continuing to work in the EOD community he added instructor duties to his resume and finally went on to become a First Sergeant, proving it is possible to serve while still managing symptoms of PTSD. In 2022, he was able to maintain a 4.0 GPA towards his Graduate Degree, earning the President's List, a prestigious honor roll recognizing the top students in their area of academic achievement. He is using adaptive sports as part of his personal road to recovery and looks forward to representing Team Air Force in June.

"Warrior Games symbolizes the resiliency and dedication of each warrior, and the tens of thousands of others they represent. Their fearless approach to recovery, and refusal to be defined by their worst day, is inspirational."

-Jon Stewart

ADRIAN SPAULDING



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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Rank: SSgt

Service Status: Active Duty

Hometown: New Castle, Delaware

Adrian Spaulding joined the Air Force in 2017 working as a Personnel Specialist stationed at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. Adrian's most humble experience in the Air Force was his time working on the base Honor Guard. "From working missions every day with families to coordinating with airports for dignified transfers and later to train and motivate other team members was the highlight of my career," he said. Adrian was injured during a motorcycle accident resulting in "lots of trauma" and a lengthy stay in the hospital. He stayed positive throughout his recovery process and was returned to duty. He had attended previous AFW2 events as a volunteer, then he was a DJ for one and then moved on to competing in adaptive sports. "Adaptive sports helped me focus on getting fit and learning how to work out with my condition. I know that I am not alone, and the challenges are only temporary."

SHOOTING TEAM CAPTAIN

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-Jon Stewart



Rank: SSgt

Service Status: Active Duty

Hometown: Peoria, Illinois

Allison joined the Air Force in 2006 as a Security Forces Defender, later serving as a Airman Leadership School instructor. She enrolled in AFW2 due to PTSD from a combat deployment in 2013 which led to duty limitation that impacted her ability to work in her primary career field. She was introduced to adaptive sports in November 2023 during the annual recognition of Warrior Care Month, going on to earn a slot on Team Air Force. This will be her first time competing with AFW2 and she cannot wait to show off how adaptive sports has helped in her recovery.

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AMY CAMPBELL



Rank: LtCol

Service Status: Active Duty

Hometown: Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Amy is a board-certified Periodontist, a job she is most proud of. "I am grateful to have been able to specialize right out of dental school," she said. During her career, she has been shown to be a "proven leader and provider", leading one clinic to earn "Best Clinic" in 2016. She is also the proud mother of 2 sons she refers to as "little gentlemen." AFW2 enrolled Amy following medical professionals finding a tumor on her brain. The growth led to blindness in areas of both eyes and is a regrowth from previous inventions. This will be her first ever Warrior Games and she is excited to be a part of Team Air Force.

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ANDREA INMON



Rank: CMSgt

Service Status: Active Duty

Hometown: Fremont, Wisconsin

Chief Master Sgt. Andrea Inmon holds the status as the first female boom operator in the Active Duty Air Force. She saw this as a milestone, both personally and for other women in the Air Force. "I want them to know anything is possible," she said. "You have to put your mind to it and work hard for what you want and don't take 'no' for an answer." This is Andrea's first time competing with AFW2 and she looks forward to highlight how adaptive sports has helped in her recovery.

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AUSTON DUNCAN



Rank: SSgt

Service Status: Veteran (<1 yr)

Hometown: Colorado Springs, Colorado

Auston joined the Air Force in 2013 as a Security Forces Defender. He suffered a major injury in 2021 during a snowboarding trip that took a nasty turn when he hit a tree. The extent of his injuries resulted in spinal fusion with continued pain in his lower back. Auston has not let the injury slow him down though, as evident by his selection as part of Team Air Force.

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BRANDON SULLIVAN

Rank: SrA

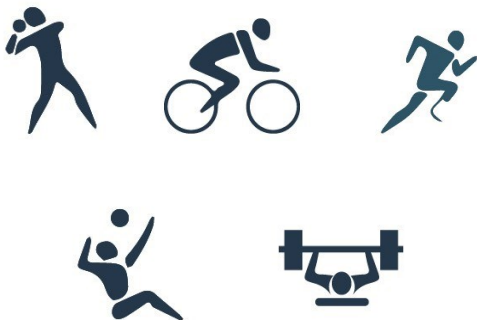
Service Status: Veteran (<1 yr)

Hometown: Vierz, Minnesota

Brandon Sullivan joined the Air Force in 2015 as a Security Forces Defender at Peterson AFB, Colorado. He was part of a Presidential visit to the US Air Force Academy, providing security for an event lauded as flawless by the US Secret Service. His military career came to a screeching halt when he fell 50 feet leading to a TBI, multiple broken bones and an amputation of his right leg. While this would impact his career, it did not impact his desire to get back to doing what he enjoys. He completed the Army Ten Miler, just 6 months after his leg amputation and then completed the Bataan Death March one year later. "Participating in adaptive sports has made me realize that I am not limited in what I can do. I know now that everything is adaptable to my injuries, and it has brought me closer to other peers going through the same journey."



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BRIAN WILLIAMS



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Rank: SMSgt

Service Status: Active Duty

Hometown: Sierra Vista, Arizona

Senior Master Sergeant Brian Williams joined the Air Force in 2000 as a Security Forces 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 amputated his left leg above the knee and caused damage to his left arm. He said that if it weren't 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 worked hard to stay on active duty, earning a position as a Security Forces Instructor. Brian competed in the 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 Warrior Games and 2016, 2017 and 2019 Invictus Games and says adaptive sports, "Gives me a new sense of purpose, playing ball with the local wheelchair basketball team is fun, it gives me an outlook of what I could possibly do once I have finished my enlistment."

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL TEAM CAPTAIN

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CARLY JAMES



Rank: SSgt

Service Status: Veteran (<1 yr)

Hometown: New Lisbon, Wisconsin

Staff Sgt. Carly James enlisted in the Air Force in 2018 and serves as a Weapons Load Crew Member while stationed at Eglin AFB , Florida. Carly is career-minded, earning Staff Sgt. her first time testing while also garnering 80 credit hours towards a Business Law degree. It is the promotion she is most proud of saying, “making Staff Sergeant first time testing showed me I am resilient. I am proud of that resiliency honestly. Despite my struggles I am pushing through the bad days, trying to make a positive difference for others.” She said that getting involved with AF W2 saved her life and given her a new sense of purpose. “AF W2 is a family that understands and cares for you,” she said. “The AFW2 adaptive sports program helped me feel comfortable to be in a competitive sport environment again. It has given me hope and a chance to recover.”

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SITTING VOLLEYBALL TEAM CAPTAIN

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CHRISTINA KANG



Rank: Capt

Service Status: Veteran (<1 yr)

Hometown: Killeen, Texas

Prior to serving in the Air Force, Christina served as a registered nurse when she decided to join the military, following in her father's footsteps. After her enrollment in AFW2, she says she found a "deep reservoir of encouragement and inspiration" to continue in her recovery process. She took her passion for sports and applied them to her involvement with adaptive sports. This new part of her athletic life is a powerful part of her recovery process, giving her a chance to showcase it as well as represent Team Air Force along the way.

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CHRISTOPHER FERRELL



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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Rank: TSgt

Service Status: Veteran

Hometown: Bossier City, Louisiana

Tech. Sgt. Chris Ferrell joined the Air Force in 2003 as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Airman. He deployed five different times to Iraq and Afghanistan, executing more than 64 combat missions on just one single deployment. Chris also earned the Bronze Star for his judgment under fire during combat operations and a Purple Heart for wounds received in combat. Since his retirement he has taken on the job of Combat Training Specialist at Cannon AFB, New Mexico. He has come a long way since his first Warrior Games in 2016 at West Point and says every wounded warrior should understand the challenges of recovery. "Recovery is not a sprint, it's a marathon," he said. "You are going to have setbacks and may have more bad days than good. The key is to keep one foot moving in front of the other and to remember why you are doing this and who you are doing it for."

TEAM CAPTAIN

POWERLIFTING TEAM CAPTAIN

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COLIN PAPPAS



Rank: SrA

Service Status: Veteran (<1 yr)

Hometown: St. Petersburg, Florida

Colin served in the Air Force as a Load Crew Member until a 2018 diagnosis of a rare form of colon cancer changed things. He was initially only given a few months to live but went on to defy all odds. While he competed with AFW2 in the past, this is the first time he was selected to represent Team Air Force, which is a direct reflection on his positive mindset. Colin recently received a diagnosis of Stage IV lung cancer but isn't letting it get him down, choosing to take this opportunity to show fellow Wounded Warriors and anyone watching what can be achieved through adaptive sports and a positive mental attitude.

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COLTEN GRIMM



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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Rank: SSgt

Service Status: Veteran (>1 yr)

Hometown: Suring, Wisconsin

Colten Grimm joined the Air Force in 2012, serving as a Military Working Dog handler starting at Incirlik AB, Turkey. His supervisor noted his drive for success during his initial on-the-job training when he scored high on his standardization evaluation and upgrade training tests. His proudest moment in the Air Force was when he provided protection for the U.S. President on four separate security details. Since his medical retirement, he began a K-9 business with a friend in Colorado Springs, giving back some of the training he received while on Active Duty. He says his enrollment in the AFW2 Program has really given him focus and drive in adaptive sports. "I've found amazing connections in the program," he said. "I've met really amazing people with amazing stories. I feel the program has given me a purpose in life and gave me something that I really wish I could go back and do which is playing sports at a competitive level."

WHEELCHAIR RUGBY TEAM CAPTAIN

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CURTIS BELEW



Rank: SSgt

Service Status: Active Duty

Hometown: Grant's Pass, Oregon

Curtis serves as an EOD team leader with over nine years of experience managing and supervising teams of highly-trained technicians. He attended his first event with AFW2 in Nov 2023 as part of Warrior Care Month recognition where he became an AFW2 mentor to help other Wounded Warriors in need. He uses adaptive sports to maintain his morale during his on-going recovery and looks forward to competing as part of Team Air Force.

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DANIEL EATON



Rank: SSgt

Service Status: Active Duty

Hometown: Pensacola, Florida

Dan was stationed at Nellis AFB, Nevada when he was struck by a car while walking his dogs. The hit-and-run accident left him with multiple rib and vertebrae fractures as well as a laceration to his spleen. While the injuries were severe he is well on his way to making a recovery. AFW2 reached out to him in February to gauge his interest in using adaptive sports as part of his recovery, inviting him to the 2024 Air Force & Marine Corps Trials where he earned a coveted slot for Team Air Force.

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CYCLING TEAM CAPTAIN

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-Jon Stewart

DAVID ADKINS



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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Rank: MSgt

Service Status: Air National Guard

Hometown: Dixon, California

He joined the Air Force in 2005, initially serving as an aircraft crew chief on C-130 and HC-130 aircraft. He later retrained to be an Explosive Ordnance Disposal craftsman and currently serves as the EOD Superintendent in the Active Guard Reserve. During his career he excelled in every sense, earning accolades along the way including NCO and Senior NCO of the Year. Dave started training for triathlons and ultra marathons 15 years ago and says it has really helped stay goal oriented. David initially entered the AFW2 Program in 2011 due to issues with his hearing, later receiving a diagnosis for PTSD. His very first event with AFW2 was the 2024 Air Force & Marine Corps Trials where he shined in adaptive sports, earning a coveted slot on Team Air Force. He continues to use adaptive sports as part of the process to strengthen his long-term resiliency, saying, "It has really helped me stay goal-oriented and given me a healthy outlet, allowing me to stay positive to curb any anxiety I may have."

SWIMMING TEAM CAPTAIN

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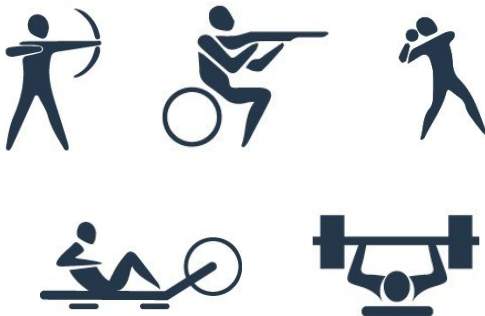
Rank: SSgt

Service Status: Active Duty

Hometown: Crestview, Florida

As an EOD technician for more than 10 years, Garrett Corbett has been exposed to numerous blasts and detonations causing loss of consciousness and impacting his head. This causes him to struggle every day with cognitive, memory and sensory problems. He received multiple awards in his career but says that his greatest achievement is being a father. One thing he learned since being a part of AFW2 is that going it alone is not always the best way to recover. He said, "I've learned that sharing and growing with others will return better results than trying to go about things on your own. Life is one big journey and the big picture is what is most important." He uses adaptive sports as part of that journey and says, "It has shown me that even with injuries, we can still learn new things and excel at them. Those lessons carry over to every other aspect of life and provide a positive growth mindset for recovery."

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ROWING TEAM CAPTAIN

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-Jon Stewart

GARY KELLER



Rank: SMSgt

Service Status: Veteran (>1 yr)

Hometown: Silver Spring, Maryland

Gary Keller served 28 years in the Air National Guard as a Security Forces Defender and later as a First Sergeant. During a deployment to Kandahar, Afghanistan, his quick thinking saved the life of an “Afghan Hand,” a U.S. Air Force Major, who had a gun pointed at her by a local national. Gary suffered two TBI’s, the last occurring in 2020 when he got hurt during an indirect fire attack. Upon his return home, he suffered a stroke while driving and says he doesn’t remember a thing about the incident. “If it wasn’t for my wife’s quick action and understanding of the situation the outcome could have been much worse,” he said. “I am so proud of what she did to get the vehicle stopped and getting me to the hospital.” He says that before getting involved with AFW2 he was living in a “fish bowl.” Gary said, “I would just to my rehab and doctor’s appointments and back to my house for the rest of the day. Since joining AFW2, I venture out of my house to go to the gym every day which has changed my life.”

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ARCHERY TEAM CAPTAIN

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-Jon Stewart

HANNAH GRIMM



Rank: SSgt

Service Status: Veteran (<1 yr)

Hometown: Yukon, Oklahoma

Hannah joined the Air Force in 2017 as a personnel journeyman, spending the majority of her career at Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado. Her first event with AFW2 was the Air Force Trials in 2023 where she had her first taste of competition in adaptive sports. While she did not make the team she did push herself to try again, earning a slot on Team Air Force in 2024 alongside her husband Colten.

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TRACK TEAM CAPTAIN

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-Jon Stewart

HEATHER SEALOVER



Rank: Maj

Service Status: Active Duty

Hometown: Harrisville, West Virginia

Major Heather Sealover commissioned in the Air Force in 2009 and works as the Branch Chief for the Sentinel Weapon System Team at Barksdale AFB, Louisiana. One of her greatest achievements was serving on all of the major disciplines of the Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) weapon systems including operations, maintenance and munitions maintenance. Her efforts helped shape the future of the Sentinel program as the replacement for the aging ICBM fleet. For more than half her life she competed in long distance races including half-marathons, marathons and 50-milers. Following a series of injuries her doctor told her she may never be able to race again but she beat the odds, qualifying for the Boston Marathon in a racing wheelchair. She feels pride in her ability to adapt to new ways of participating in the sports she loves saying, "Focus on what you can do and work hard at it."

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HOUSTON THOMAS



Rank: 1stLt

Service Status: Active Duty

Hometown: Orlando, Florida

Houston enlisted in the Air Force as a Tactical Air Control Party member, later commissioning to be a TACP officer. He suffered life altering injuries during a training exercise in Guam that led to burst fractures in his vertebrae as well as decompression injuries that would further impact his quality of life. Despite these injuries he continues to persevere in his recovery, working hard to gain a coveted slot on Team Air Force. His positive attitude and motivational spirit are a testament to how he has been able to overcome the mental hurdles from an injury that left him paralyzed. Now he will highlight that spirit along with the power of adaptive sports in aiding with recovery.

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JAMES RICHARDS



Rank: SrA

Service Status: Veteran (<1 yr)

Hometown: St. Louis, Missouri

James joined the Air Force in 2018 as a Security Forces Defender, earning qualification on the Phoenix Raven program, a highly specialized emergency air security service. He faced challenges with his mental health due to a number of traumatic incidents at his previous duty station which led to his enrollment in AFW2. Despite these challenges, James continues to be active and uses adaptive sports to help in his recovery process. This is the first time he is competing with AFW2 and he looks forward to representing Team Air Force.

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JASON DEMOSS



Rank: MSgt

Service Status: Active Duty

Hometown: Largo, Florida

Jason is an Active Duty First Sergeant stationed at Ramstein AB, Germany. His diagnosis for complex, combat-related PTSD brought him to AFW2 in 2023 where he learned about adaptive sports. This is the first time he has competed with AFW2 and he is looking forward to the opportunity to represent his service as part of Team Air Force.

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JESSICA DERHAMMER



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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Rank: TSgt

Service Status: Veteran (<1 yr)

Hometown: Biloxi, Mississippi

Jessica Derhammer joined the Air Force in 2013 starting out her career as a Linguist, with schooling at the Presidio of Monterey. She graduated the Pashto basic course with Honors, maintaining a 4.0 GPA. Her first assignment was to Fort Gordon, Georgia where she supported a high-visibility tactical mission translating audio of known enemy combatants, allowing for exact locations to allow for a successful hostage recovery. Jessica retrained as a Personnel Specialist, which is a huge change from her previous career. But, she says, "I am proud to have served with some extremely phenomenal people through two career fields and different branches of service." She has taken full advantage of what AFW2 has to offer by becoming a mentor and participating in adaptive sports. "AFW2 and adaptive sports has done so much for my recovery. Not only have I been shown there are so many possibilities, but I now have a network of friends and coaches that understand what I am going through."

FIELD TEAM CAPTAIN

ULTIMATE CHAMPION

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Ji Mi WAKARIA



Rank: SSgt

Service Status: Veteran (<1 yr)

Hometown: Waldorf, Maryland

Ji-Mi Wakaria joined the Air Force in 2015 and her career immediately took off. She received Honor Grad in basic training, became an NCO within 3 years, received NCO of the year, NATO Medal Workhorse of the Month and earned 13 other medals throughout her career. In June of 2022, that all changed when she was involved in a motorcycle accident that resulted in numerous polytrauma injuries. Despite her injuries she managed to earn a bachelor's degree in psychology while in-patient at Walter Reed and the Polytrauma Center. She persevered despite the cognitive impact her accident had, graduating Manguam Cum Lauda and making it on the Dean's list. This incredible show of strength truly highlights the resilience of wounded warriors. "I've come to realize that everything is possible for me," she said. "I used to be terrified to engage in any physical activity outside of physical therapy until I started adaptive sports at Walter Reed. It helped me discover I am capable of more than I think."

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JOMAR RODRIGUEZ PAGAN



Rank: SrA

Service Status: Veteran (<1 yr)

Hometown: San Juan, Puerto Rico

Jomar joined the Air Force in 2018, serving as a firefighter at Little Rock AFB, Arkansas. Prior to joining the military, Jomar worked at a fire house in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where he supervised ten firefighters, training them to the rigorous standards set by the Chief. He later went on to earn certificates in cybersecurity and technical support fundamentals. Now he uses adaptive sports as part of his recovery and looks forward to representing Team Air Force at the DOD Warrior Games in June.

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JONATHAN GEREN



Rank: SMSgt

Service Status: Veteran

Hometown: Millington, Tennessee

Jon served in the Air Force as a Security Forces Defender as a Senior Master Sergeant. Since his retirement he has gone on to be a staff member with AFW2 and is now working in the assignments section for his former career field. This is Jon's first outing with AFW2 as a Wounded Warrior and he looks forward to showcasing what adaptive sports can do as part of the recovery process.

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TEAM CO-CAPTAIN

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JORDAN JONES



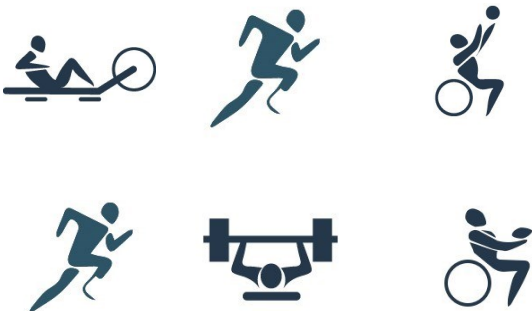
Rank: SrA

Service Status: Veteran (<1 yr)

Hometown: Pensacola, Florida

Jordan joined the Air Force in 2017 as a Security Forces Defender where he served for six years before his medical retirement. During his career he buried his emotions concerning a number of traumatic events, all of which came to a head leading to his enrollment in AFW2. Jordan worked to overcome the obstacles he faced with his mental health, using adaptive sports as a tool to push himself out of his comfort zone. He said he is extremely excited to represent Team Air Force and cannot wait to showcase the power adaptive sports has in helping.

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SPORTS COMPETING IN



“Warrior Games symbolizes the resiliency and dedication of each warrior, and the tens of thousands of others they represent. Their fearless approach to recovery, and refusal to be defined by their worst day, is inspirational.”

-Jon Stewart

JORDAN WAID



Rank: SrA

Service Status: Veteran (<1 yr)

Hometown: River Falls, Wisconsin

Jordan joined the Air Force in 2019 as a ground transportation technician until a near fatal fall in March 2020. During an off-duty hiking trip he fell, sustaining a severe TBI and polytrauma injuries. When talking about it with fellow AFW2 Wounded Warriors he said, "I died. Really, I died for a few minutes then they brought me back." Since his injury he has been working to gain his mobility and cognitive abilities closer to a new sense of normal. He does this through continued therapy and the use of adaptive sports as part of his recovery.

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JUSTIN BEASLEY



Rank: SMSgt

Service Status: Active Duty

Hometown: Wilmington, North Carolina

Justin works as an EOD Flight Chief at Ramstein AB, Germany where he says, "Leading these EOD technicians is easy as they are extremely adaptive and capable of solving complex problems that arise. I'm very proud to be part of the team. During a deployment to Afghanistan, Beasley's convoy ran over an improvised explosive device, with him narrowly escaped the ensuing firefight. This led to a traumatic brain injury and long-term hearing loss. During that deployment, then Senior Airman Beasley conducted 82 combat missions during which, he cleared 51 improvised explosive devices, 2,200 pounds of explosives and spearheaded the destruction of 184 enemy weapons and 1,100 pounds of explosives. He also trained 125 coalition forces soldiers on IED tactics, techniques and procedures. In 2012, Justin received the United Service Organizations of N. Carolina Spirit of Freedom for outstanding service in his profession both stateside and overseas.

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JUSTIN WOLFE



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Rank: TSgt

Service Status: Veteran (>1 yr)

Hometown: Dawson, Iowa

Justin Wolfe joined the Air Force Reserves in 2003 serving as an Air Transportation Craftsman. In 2008 his vital leadership led to his unit winning the Air Reserve Component Air Transportation Activity and he was nominated for 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year due to his exemplary leadership and professionalism. In 2012, he was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) but was still able to return to duty. Over time, his symptoms worsened, and he was forced to separate. His first event as the 2023 Air Force Trials where he exemplified the power of adaptive sports in pushing past what a wounded warrior is told they “can’t” do. His selection as a member of Team Air Force solidified that. He said, “Competing in adaptive sports has reinvigorated a fire in my stomach that makes me want to do better.”

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KAMAILE CASILLAS



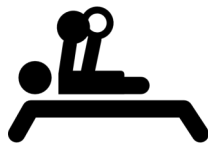
Rank: MSgt

Service Status: Active Duty

Hometown: Kaneohe, Hawai'i

Kamaile joined the Air Force in 2005, serving as a public affairs technician with multiple deployments. Earlier this year she had a chance to sit down with the Governor and Lt. Governor of North Dakota to talk about her career highlights and her role as a career development advisor. She was diagnosed with Lupus, a chronic autoimmune condition impacting various body parts, but has not let that curb her enthusiasm. Kamaile uses adaptive sports as part of her recovery process and excited to be a part of Team Air Force.

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KENNETH HINTON



Rank: Maj

Service Status: Veteran (<1 yr)

Hometown: Minot, North Dakota

Ken medically retired from the Air Force due to cognitive issues stemming from what he said were, "Too many shocks to the body." These electrical shocks left him with impairment in speech and cognitive areas of the brain as well as causing migraines and nausea. But Ken has not let any of that get in the way of doing what he wants. He served as a firefighter in Minot, North Dakota and continues to push Wounded Warriors with his infectious spirit and attitude. This is Ken's first time as a member of Team Air Force and will truly showcase the power of adaptive sports as part of his personal recovery.

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TORCH BEARER

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MARK ROSE



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Rank: MSgt

Service Status: Active Duty

Hometown: Corydon, Iowa

Mark, while stationed as a flightline expeditor in Turkey, saved a 15-year old boy who lost consciousness during a wrestling practice. Sergeant Rose was a volunteer assistant wrestling coach and instructor that taught basic and advanced life-saving skills to teenagers. During a practice on January 12, 2016, Sergeant Rose noticed one of his wrestlers struggling to stay on his feet. Rose rushed to his side to assess the situation, where the boy was now convulsing, so he sent some students to call for emergency services. While monitoring vital signs, Rose noticed the child's pulse was erratic then began to slow. Moments later his heart stopped beating. Rose immediately began CPR where he was able to revive the student by getting his heart beating again! Due to his rapid response, the child went only three seconds without oxygen and was awake and talking when the ambulance arrived. For his actions, TSgt. Mark Rose was named AMC Airman of the Month.

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MOSES DEBRASKA



Rank: SrA

Service Status: Veteran (<1 yr)

Hometown: Knobnoster, Missouri

Moses Debraska joined the Air Force in 2013 serving as a Security Forces Defender at Whiteman AFB, Missouri. During his brief career he served as an installation entry controller, responsible for safeguarding 14K personnel at Whiteman AFB. As he continues on his road to recovery he says, “Wellness, or the act of being well, is a ‘goal,’ a state of being and way of living.” He uses adaptive sports as part his recovery, seeing it as a way of staying connected with others. “The AFW2 event where I won the ‘Spirit Award’ has become a catalyst of changes for me,” he said. “You never know what you do not know. Allow yourself to be around and with others who care for you and about you. AFW2 has assisted and helped me in many ways to become a better version of myself.”

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NICOLE STICKEL

Rank: TSgt

Service Status: Active Duty

Hometown: Allentown, Pennsylvania

Nicole serves in the Air Force as a radiologist, serving at Nellis AFB, Nevada as well as tours in Korea and Japan. She attended her first event with AFW2 in November 2023 during Warrior Care Month where she learned about the power of music as part of recovery. Seeing how fun adaptive sports looked drew her to come out for a coveted slot on Team Air Force. She plans on using her time at Warrior Games to really show everyone how much adaptive sports can help aid in recovery.



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Rank: MSgt

Service Status: Veteran (<1 yr)

Hometown: Ann Arbor, Michigan

Paul Vermaire joined the Air Force in 2014 serving as an Air Traffic Controller at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio as well as a deployment to Kuwait. He would later go on to attend the Presidio at Monterey to learn Spanish to aid with missions in the Southern Command area of operations. He said he was most proud of the fact he earned his Air Traffic Controller ratings at every installation he was assigned as each have their own unique challenges and obstacles. Two years ago, he suffered medical complications from an abscess on his brain leading to significant speech impairment requiring extensive speech therapy. He credits AFW2 as being instrumental in his recovery. "Being with people who understand what you went through, understand what you are currently going through, and believe in you is life changing," he said. "The athletics allows you to be part of a time, something bigger than yourself."

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PHILIP ANDERSON



Rank: SrA

Service Status: Veteran (<1 yr)

Hometown: River Falls, Wisconsin

Philip joined the Air Force in 2009 as a Tactical Air Control Party member, earning an Air Force Combat Action Medal. Throughout his career he sustained multiple injuries associated with the rigorous nature of job that required medical intervention. His injuries started to make themselves known in 2015, but it was really only until a few years later he began to seek help. He also received a diagnosis of PTSD related to traumatic events occurring in Afghanistan in 2013. His injuries have not kept him from being active, they've only made him learn to adjust to his new abilities. He looks forward to showcasing how adaptive sports have helped him get better in his recovery.

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ROSCELLE BROWN



Rank: SSgt

Service Status: Active Duty

Hometown: Charleston, South Carolina

Roschelle Brown joined the military in 2010 and has been very successful in her career and in her life. She earned the John Levitow Award during Airman Leadership School, which is no small feat since only person from each class earns the coveted award. When discussing what makes her proud in her life she said, "I am the only grandchild with a graduate degree and the only child to have owned a home in my family." Since her enrollment in AFW2, she has continued to give back, becoming an AFW2 Ambassador and mentor and she continues to use adaptive sports as part of her recovery. "AFW2 consists of advocates who have a passion to create consistent positive change within the disabled military community. I would not be where I am in my journey, had it not been for them."

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SEAN STUTSON



Rank: SrA

Service Status: Active Duty

Hometown: Ocala, Florida

Sean joined the Air Force in 2021, serving as a firefighter at Cheyenne Mountain and Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado. During a hiking trip in August 2023, Sean fell off a cliff, sustaining multiple injuries that led to significant damage to his spinal cord. Despite his injuries he maintains a positive attitude and is ready for the next part of his life. His parents said, "It's amazing how well he has taken the injury. We couldn't be happier with how he is doing."

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WOUNDED WARRIOR
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