



WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME	RORY AGUILAR
Rank	E-6/Petty Officer 1 st Class
Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran)	Retired
Service Branch and MOS	Navy Construction Mechanic
Hometown (City, State)	Whittier, Calif.
Current Location (City, State)	Victorville, Calif.
Injury or Illness (Optional)	Combat-wounded
Event(s)	Cycling, Shooting, Track & Field

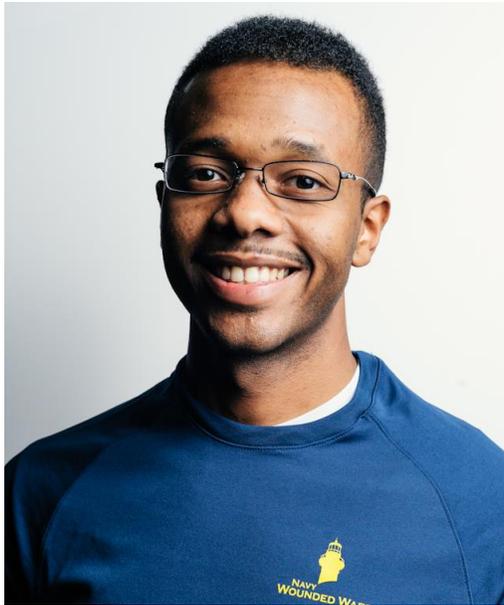
PERSONAL PROFILE

Aguilar served in the Navy for 10 years and is currently retired and living in Victorville, Calif. Aguilar suffered several injuries as a result of a combat deployment before he retired in 2007. He is extremely motivated to participate in the DoD Warrior Games, where he can showcase his athletic skills and competitive drive. Aguilar’s training gives him a sense of purpose in life: “I have a reason to get up in the morning. The Games fill me with indescribable pride.” He has received tremendous support from his girlfriend and daughter. “They have shown me that they truly care for me,” he said. The DoD Warrior Games align with his two primary goals in life: to stay healthy and live in peace.





WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME	ANGELO ANDERSON
Rank	E-5/Petty Officer 2 nd Class
Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran)	Active Duty
Service Branch and MOS	Navy Hospital Corpsman
Hometown (City, State)	Atlanta, Ga.
Current Location (City, State)	Jacksonville, N.C.
Injury or Illness (Optional)	Combat-wounded
Event(s)	Cycling, Track, Wheelchair Basketball

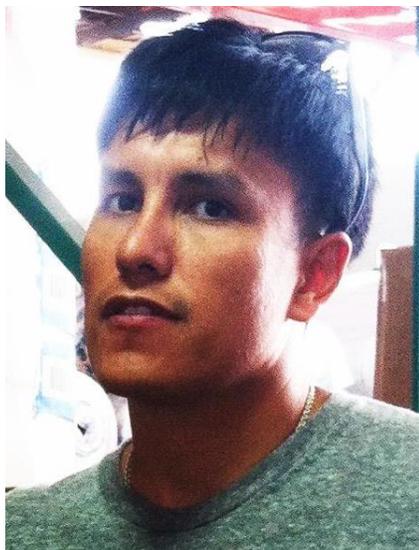
PERSONAL PROFILE

Anderson enlisted in the Navy in April 2001. He has always been interested in a medical profession; however, achieving the necessary educational degrees would be time-consuming and expensive, so becoming a Navy hospital corpsman seemed like an ideal course of action. Anderson was injured during his first deployment. He was on patrol with Marines in Afghanistan when he sustained gunshot wounds to his right arm and thigh. He talked his comrades through his care, while waiting to be evacuated by a helicopter. He considers himself fortunate to have survived the incident and credits it for changing his outlook on life. Anderson said: "I live life for what it is and to the fullest." Anderson has since returned to full duty and is working at the Marine Special Operations School at Camp Lejeune. He credits participation in the adaptive sports program with his increase in mental fortitude and physical capacity. He comes to the DoD Warrior Games with an incredible sense of pride, dedication and motivation.





WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME	JORGE ARREOLA
Rank	E-5/Petty Officer 2 nd Class
Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran)	Retired
Service Branch and MOS	Navy Hospital Corpsman
Hometown (City, State)	Corsicana, Texas
Current Location (City, State)	Lubbock, Texas
Injury or Illness (Optional)	Combat-wounded
Event(s)	Cycling, Track

PERSONAL PROFILE

Arreola joined the Navy in 2003 and enjoyed serving as a corpsman for 11 years. In September 2013, he sustained a traumatic brain injury while deployed to Afghanistan; he was medically separated from the military last December. He attended an introductory adaptive sports clinic earlier this year, and it sparked an interest in athletic activities. He currently is enrolled in Texas Tech University, where he is working toward a Bachelor of Science degree. Throughout his recovery, he has credited his wife Amanda and their two sons for his motivation, calling them his “power source.” He previously participated in the Wounded Warrior Project Soldier Ride in Sacramento, Calif., and he is excited about competing at the 2015 DoD Warrior Games. “It is an honor and privilege to continue to serve the Navy and this beautiful country we call America,” he said.





WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME	SHAHNAZ ASKINS
Rank	E-6/ Petty Officer 1 st Class
Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran)	Retired
Service Branch and MOS	Navy Legalman
Hometown (City, State)	San Diego, Calif.
Current Location (City, State)	Suffolk, Va.
Injury or Illness (Optional)	Combat-wounded
Event(s)	Cycling, Track & Field

PERSONAL PROFILE

Askins enlisted in the Navy in December 1995, and, while her family has an extensive military history, she was only the second woman in her family to serve. During her naval career, she enjoyed traveling the world and experiencing other cultures. She was deployed to Iraq from April to October 2004, and her experiences in combat resulted in post-traumatic stress and other disabilities. Her condition was further aggravated during a subsequent deployment to Kuwait. Unfortunately, she did not receive treatment until 2009, when she was transferred off a ship and began the medical evaluation process. Askins officially retired in 2012, and she recently received her undergraduate degree in psychology at Regent University (Class of 2015). Going forward, she plans to pursue a doctorate degree in physical therapy. She is the proud mother of three children, Tristan, Dereck and Savanna, and she recently became engaged to Wayne Deyette. Adaptive sports and interaction with teammates have been essential tools for her recovery. “Through adaptive sports we know we are not alone and can be transparent with our teammates – not only creating a healthy body from training with a purpose, but building a stronger mind through the recovery process,” said Askins. “My naval career was cut short, and I was not ready to quit, and competing in the DoD Warrior Games while representing the Navy makes me extremely proud.”





WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME	LETICIA BAUGHER
Rank	E-7/Chief Petty Officer
Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran)	Retired
Service Branch and MOS	Navy Logistics Specialist
Hometown (City, State)	Mexica, Texas
Current Location (City, State)	Independence, Mo.
Injury or Illness (Optional)	Serious injury
Event(s)	Cycling, Track & Field

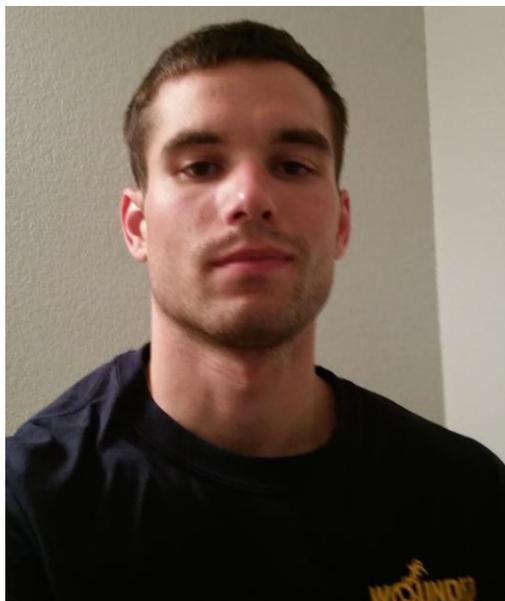
PERSONAL PROFILE

Baugher, a Navy Reservist, joined the military in 1996. During her more than 18 years of service, she most enjoyed meeting new people at her various duty stations. She was deployed to Bahrain in 2013 when she began experiencing debilitating back pain. She was diagnosed with lumbar radiculopathy, reflex sympathetic dystrophy and other conditions. After surgeries and multiple complications, Baugher was medically separated from the Navy in 2014, and today she continues to grapple with pain management and ongoing medical intervention. She recently became involved in adaptive sports, and she is enjoying the benefits it has afforded her. "Adaptive sports helped me see that there is more to life," she said. She added, "I am honored to represent the Navy at the DoD Warrior Games. I never in my life would have thought that I would be doing something as phenomenal as this!"





WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME MICHAEL BYARS

Rank E-5/Petty Officer 2nd Class

Status (*Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran*) Active Duty

Service Branch and MOS Navy
Fire Controlman

Hometown (*City, State*) Kings Mountain, N.C.

Current Location (*City, State*) Suffolk, Va.

Injury or Illness (*Optional*) Serious injury

Event(s) Sitting Volleyball, Track, Wheelchair Basketball

PERSONAL PROFILE

Byars enlisted in the Navy six years ago and is currently serving at Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, Va. In June 2014 he was involved in a serious motorcycle accident, and he suffered extensive spinal and lower-body injuries. Regardless of his injuries, his professional and personal goals remain intact. Byars is working hard to build strength in his lower extremities, to pass the American Council on Exercise certification test to become a personal trainer, and to earn a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. "Being involved in adaptive sports has helped to push me both mentally and physically to exceed my limits in a way I didn't think possible. Words can't describe what it means to me to represent Team Navy in the DoD Warrior Games," said Byars.





WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME	JAMIE BYRD
Rank	E-6/Petty Officer 1 st Class
Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran)	Active Duty
Service Branch and MOS	Coast Guard Maritime Enforcement Specialist
Hometown (City, State)	Central City, Ky.
Current Location (City, State)	Temecula, Calif.
Injury or Illness (Optional)	Serious injury
Event(s)	Archery, Shooting

PERSONAL PROFILE

Byrd joined the Coast Guard 12 years ago, and he has enjoyed serving as a maritime enforcement specialist, providing security and law enforcement support to critical Coast Guard missions. He currently is stationed at the Pacific Tactical Law Enforcement Team in San Diego. In August 2013, during a defensive tactics training scenario, a participant attempted to tackle Byrd. While they were wrestling, Byrd collided head-first with a wall, and he sustained a C1 (spinal) burst fracture, a fracture to the base of his skull, separation of his vertebral artery, and a subsequent stroke. During his recovery, he was introduced to adaptive sports, and he is excited to compete at his first DoD Warrior Games. "The adaptive sports program has been great for me," Byrd said. "It has allowed me to meet some wonderful servicemen and women who have been through some of the same experiences that I have. When I could no longer perform my job, I felt like I was no longer part of a team. The adaptive sports program has shown me that I can still enjoy and compete in some of my favorite pastimes." Looking to the future, he hopes to complete a master's degree in Business Administration, spend more time with his family and enjoy his recreational hobbies, and find employment with the Wounded Warrior Project.





WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME	BRIAN CANICH
Rank	E-4/Petty Officer 3 rd Class
Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran)	Retired
Service Branch and MOS	Navy Hospital Corpsman
Hometown (City, State)	Upland, Calif.
Current Location (City, State)	Ramsay, Mont.
Injury or Illness (Optional)	Combat-wounded
Event(s)	Shooting, Sitting Volleyball, Wheelchair Basketball

PERSONAL PROFILE

Canich enlisted in Navy as a corpsman in February 2007 to further his education in the medical field, and “to be part of the strongest corps in the military,” he says. He particularly enjoyed working alongside his Marine “brothers” and providing hands-on training to younger corpsmen. After he deployed to Afghanistan with 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines in 2011 – where he was exposed to several improvised devices and combat fire – he was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress. He also sustained a right shoulder injury that resulted in four surgeries and additional back procedures. Canich retired from the Navy in October 2013. He currently works for Canich Farms, a family business, and he enjoys the flexibility it provides him as he pursues his athletic ambitions. He has called his wife his hero: “She has been my biggest support through by injuries – without it, I wouldn’t be here.” He is very excited to participate in the DoD Warrior Games. “It’s awesome that I have the skills and ability to be on Team Navy,” added Canich.



WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME	JAMES CASTANEDA
Rank	E-6/Honorary Chief Petty Officer
Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran)	Retired
Service Branch and MOS	Navy Boatswain's Mate
Hometown (City, State)	El Paso, Texas
Current Location (City, State)	San Antonio, Texas
Injury or Illness (Optional)	Serious illness
Event(s)	Shooting, Field

PERSONAL PROFILE

Castaneda joined the Navy in 1990 to see the world. Having grown up in El Paso, Texas, a very arid desert climate, he was drawn to the cool blue waters of the ocean and the promise of where they would take him. He did not join the Navy with the intention of making it his career, but stayed in the Navy because he enjoyed the tempo of military service, changing jobs every three years, meeting new people, and the challenges and rewards that come with a new position and new duty station. Early one morning in October 2007, Castaneda suffered a stroke during muster aboard USS Tortuga (LSD 46), while the ship was underway near the Philippines. Castaneda retired from the Navy after 20 years of service in September 2010. Castaneda continues to suffer seizures and uses a wheelchair; however, he remains very active in adaptive athletics. Castaneda said: "Adaptive sports therapy has mentally and physically motivated me to achieve my current level of strength and ability, which, I believe, would have taken years of regular appointments and therapy." Castaneda has a wife, Alona, who serves as his primary caregiver. Together, they have three children, Mariaa, Jim, and Jef. In March, Castaneda was named an honorary Navy chief petty officer during a special pinning ceremony at the Wounded Warrior Pacific Trials in Honolulu, Hawaii, and he is proud to move on and compete in the DoD Warrior Games. "I am very much honored to represent the U.S. Navy. This gives me a chance to support my teammates and show them, they can do this," continued Castaneda.



WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME DANIEL CROSSLEY

Rank E-5/Petty Officer 2nd Class

Status (*Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran*) Retired

Service Branch and MOS Navy
Aviation Electrician's Mate

Hometown (*City, State*) Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Current Location (*City, State*) Moore, Okla.

Injury or Illness (*Optional*) Serious Injury

Event(s) Wheelchair Basketball

PERSONAL PROFILE

Crossley served in the Navy for six years, and he is now medically separated and living in Moore, Okla. In 2013, Crossley was involved in a serious motorcycle accident, and he suffered extensive spinal and lower-body injuries. He is extremely motivated to participate in the DoD Warrior Games, where he can showcase his athletic skills and competitive drive. "I want to win the gold medal for Team Navy in the wheelchair basketball game," said Crossley. His training gives him a sense of purpose in life: "I am no longer depressed and through participation in adaptive sports I have proven to myself that I can still do the things that I love." Crossley's caregiver and family have shown him tremendous support throughout his training and are standing behind him, cheering him on during the DoD Warrior Games.



WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME KATRIANA DURAKOVICH

Rank E-3/Hospitalman

Status (*Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran*) Active Duty

Service Branch and MOS Navy
Hospital Corpsman

Hometown (*City, State*) York, Pa.

Current Location (*City, State*) Bethesda, Md.

Injury or Illness (*Optional*) Serious illness

Event(s) Archery, Cycling

PERSONAL PROFILE

Durakovich joined the Navy nearly three years ago, and she currently is stationed at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) in Bethesda, Md. In August 2013, while she was serving in Guam, she was admitted to the hospital for ulcerative colitis, which was very aggressive and eventually resulted in a stroke. “The stroke literally left me speechless, and my right side was completely paralyzed,” Durakovich said. “My brain was mostly OK, though, so it felt a like a prison in my own head.” She was soon moved to WRNMMC, where she underwent surgery for a total colectomy. Still in recovery, Durakovich now works with service dogs and participates in music therapy. She is looking forward to her first DoD Warrior Games: “It means the world to me. I figure if I can’t go the route I originally intended, this is helping me find a new way where I can still fulfill my duties.” Eventually, she hopes to become a physical therapist and plans to use her experiences to inspire others.



WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME	JOHN DUSSEAU
Rank	E-6/Petty Officer 1 st Class
Status (<i>Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran</i>)	Active Duty
Service Branch and MOS	Navy Aviation Structural Mechanic
Hometown (<i>City, State</i>)	Brunswick, Maine
Current Location (<i>City, State</i>)	Holland, Mich.
Injury or Illness (<i>Optional</i>)	Serious illness
Event(s)	Archery, Shooting

PERSONAL PROFILE

Dusseau has been athletic his entire life. He grew up playing football, wrestling and boxing, and he had great success with karate. He joined the Navy in 1998 because he wanted to serve his country and do something special. He loved the aviation community, and he served in a strike fighter squadron (VFA 146 Blue Diamonds) and patrol squadron (VP 26 Tridents). From the sleepy family town of Brunswick, Maine, he enjoyed traveling around the world as well as training future Sailors. It was on Dusseau's shore tour at Navy Recruiting District Michigan that he was diagnosed with cancer. After a vigorous chemotherapy regimen, his cancer went into remission. He has a wife and four beautiful daughters. Last year, he achieved his goal to remain on active duty. "Through the long battle with cancer," he says, "doing adaptive athletics has given me a bright spot to look forward to." Dusseau is proud to represent the Navy in the Warrior Games. "It's awesome to represent Team Navy, being surrounded by fellow Sailors, whose lives have been challenged in many different ways."





WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME JACOB EMMOTT

Rank E-5/Petty Officer 2nd Class

Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran) Retired

Service Branch and MOS Navy
Hospital Corpsman

Hometown (City, State) Snug Harbor, R.I.

Current Location (City, State) Narragansett, R.I.

Injury or Illness (Optional) Combat-wounded

Event(s) Shooting, Sitting Volleyball, Swimming

PERSONAL PROFILE

Emmott – "Doc Emmott" to his Marines – joined the Navy looking for some direction after high school. Less than a year after graduating, he deployed for his first time to Iraq with 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine regiment. On his second tour, this time to Afghanistan, he sustained a gunshot wound to the head while providing medical assistance to two of his Marines. The bullet struck him on the right side of his nose, exiting behind his left ear and piercing through his Kevlar helmet, thankfully only grazing his carotid artery. He blacked out briefly, came to and continued to direct the treatment of the two men and himself. He was awarded the Silver Star in July 2011. Emmott retired from the Navy in January 2013, and he hopes to go back to school and perhaps pursue a career in the medical field. His recovery has been slow; in addition to suffering from migraines and chronic pain, he was hospitalized for post-traumatic stress in 2012. "Adaptive sports has helped me discover my abilities and strengths. I am now able to exercise on my own, without exacerbating any preexisting conditions," said Emmott. Going into the DoD Warrior Games has given him a strong sense of pride and encouragement. "Standing next to my Navy brothers and sisters is something that keeps me going every day, especially off the courts," he said.

WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME	KRISTEN ESGET
Rank	E-4/Petty Officer 3 rd Class
Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran)	Retired
Service Branch and MOS	Coast Guard Yeoman
Hometown (City, State)	Beaufort, S.C.
Current Location (City, State)	Ridgeway, Va.
Injury or Illness (Optional)	Serious injury
Event(s)	Shooting, Swimming

PERSONAL PROFILE

Esget enlisted in the Coast Guard in 2008 and trained as a yeoman. Just three years after her enlistment, she was hit by a motor vehicle. She sustained a traumatic brain injury and damaged her right knee. Additional effects of the accident included insomnia, aphasia, cognitive issues and loss of memory. Esget has worked hard throughout her recovery process; she has learned how to write again, but she still has trouble reading. Esget was separated from the Coast Guard in March 2012. Today, she teaches autism awareness, volunteers for a local rescue squad and assists Emergency Medical Technicians on preparing for their state practical exams. The adaptive sports program has had a major impact on her recovery. "Before they found me, I felt like I was always alone and no one understood what I was going through. I felt empty inside. At my first training camp I was nervous; however I realized that I wasn't alone," said Esget. "We pushed each other to be better and improve. I felt like I was a part of something meaningful again," she continued. Through her training she has received tremendous support, not only from her family and friends, but from members of the local community including the rescue squadrons, fire departments, police, county dispatchers, and hospital nurses. "It means so much to be able to represent the Coast Guard in the DoD Warrior Games. I believe I am not only representing my service, but showing everyone I can do this! I want to encourage fellow wounded warriors that just because something is wrong with you does not mean you have to stop doing what you love," said Esget.

WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME	ROEL ESPINO
Rank	E-5/Petty Officer 2 nd Class
Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran)	Active Duty
Service Branch and MOS	Navy Hospital Corpsman
Hometown (City, State)	Pasadena, Calif.
Current Location (City, State)	Waipahā, Hawaii
Injury or Illness (Optional)	Serious injury
Event(s)	Archery, Shooting

PERSONAL PROFILE

Espino enlisted in the Navy in September 2008 because of the unexpected adventure a military career promised. When he finished training, he hoped his first duty station would be Naples, Italy; however, he was assigned to the 1st Marines – an assignment that ultimately had a tremendous impact on his life. Then, in March 2014, while stationed at his second command, Naval Health Clinic Hawaii, Espino was riding his motorcycle when he was struck by a car and thrown from his bike. He suffered a traumatic brain injury, as well as injuries to his right leg. He now suffers amnesia that plagues him daily. He is a graduate of Kaplan University, and he expects to medically retire from the Navy this year. He has long been active – playing football and baseball in high school – but he had never tried archery before he started adaptive sports. “After my accident I was angry. Through adaptive sports, I was able to discover new skills and make new friends who suffered from similar ailments,” said Espino. He is preparing to go into competitive archery and shooting when he transitions to civilian life. He is grateful for the positive influence sports have had on his life, and he is excited about competing at the DoD Warrior Games again.



WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME	ISAAC FRANCOIS
Rank	E-5/Petty Officer 2 nd Class
Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran)	Retired
Service Branch and MOS	Navy Hospital Corpsman
Hometown (City, State)	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
Current Location (City, State)	Kensington, Md.
Injury or Illness (Optional)	Combat-wounded
Event(s)	Cycling, Shooting

PERSONAL PROFILE

Before his difficult deployment, Francois was an avid soccer player who enjoyed the sport whenever he could. He coached soccer for kids in Panama City Beach, Fla., and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. After a combat deployment in Afghanistan in 2008 – where he carried heavy gear and equipment daily – Francois returned home with compartment syndrome in his legs, a painful condition that occurs when pressure in the muscles builds to dangerous levels. Though it went undiagnosed for years, he also had post-traumatic stress from his experiences in theater, where he was exposed to the injuries and deaths of some of his teammates. He underwent several surgeries on his legs during his subsequent deployment to Guantanamo Bay, but his condition continued to plague him. He was formally diagnosed with post-traumatic stress at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in 2012, and he is medically retired from the Navy. Since his involvement in adaptive sports, he has noticed reduced stress and improved health. He looks forward to competing in the DoD Warrior Games and representing the Navy. He is married to Wisline and they have two sons.



WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME	MARIA GOMEZ-MANNIX
Rank	O-4/Lieutenant Commander
Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran)	Active Duty
Service Branch and MOS	Navy Surface Warfare
Hometown (City, State)	Hamden, Conn.
Current Location (City, State)	San Diego, Calif.
Injury or Illness (Optional)	Serious illness
Event(s)	Cycling, Shooting, Track & Field

PERSONAL PROFILE

Gomez is a surface warfare officer who has proudly served more than 23 years in the Navy. She assigned to Naval Undersea Warfare Center in San Diego when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Initially, she thought she had a persistent case of the flu, but after visiting the doctor to treat the symptoms, it was discovered she had cancer. She underwent major surgery in January 2013 and commenced chemotherapy. She continues treatment, and has had multiple reconstructive surgeries, but she remains committed to building her strength in advance of the DoD Warrior Games. She is married to attorney Thomas Mannix, who she called her “greatest supporter during my illness and in my training.” She added: “It is a great honor to represent the U.S. Navy. I absolutely feel it’s a privilege and I will do my best. Being a part of this team influences many factors in my life, and it is great to have so many wonderful teammates.”



WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME	NATHANIEL HAMILTON
Rank	E-4/Petty Officer 3 rd Class
Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran)	Retired
Service Branch and MOS	Navy Hospital Corpsman
Hometown (City, State)	Yorktown, Va.
Current Location (City, State)	Sneads Ferry, N.C.
Injury or Illness (Optional)	Combat-wounded
Event(s)	Cycling, Shooting, Sitting Volleyball

PERSONAL PROFILE

Hamilton joined the Navy in 2007 and trained as a corpsman, serving alongside his Marine “brothers.” On Nov. 17, 2010, while he was deployed to Afghanistan, he was on foot patrol when a massive improvised explosive device detonated beneath a vehicle 10 meters from him. He woke up moments later on the ground and began treating the occupants of the downed vehicle. He was medevaced to Camp Bastion in Afghanistan. He was diagnosed with a severe concussion, a ruptured tympanic membrane and loss of hearing. He medically retired from the Navy three years later in November 2013. He is grateful for the positive influence of adaptive sports and is excited to participate in the DoD Warrior Games again. “My teammates and coaches have really supported me through my training. It feels great to be part of a team again and to encourage other warriors to keep going,” said Hamilton.





WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME	DOUGLAS HILL
Rank	E-4/Petty Officer 3 rd Class
Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran)	Retired
Service Branch and MOS	Navy Sonar Technician
Hometown (City, State)	Knoxville, Tenn.
Current Location (City, State)	Knoxville, Tenn.
Injury or Illness (Optional)	Serious injury
Event(s)	Cycling, Field, Sitting Volleyball, Wheelchair Basketball

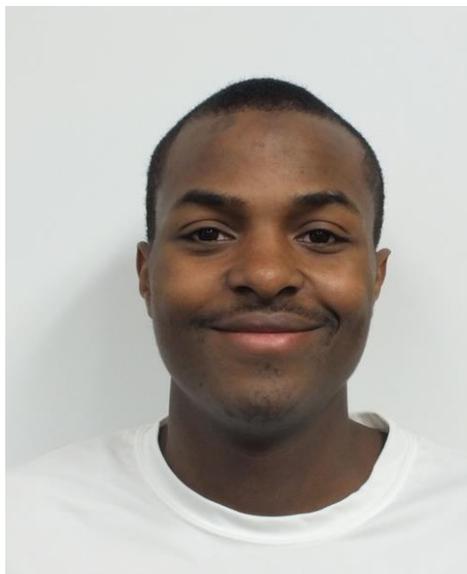
PERSONAL PROFILE

In July 2010 – only one year after he joined the Navy and began planning for an exciting career in military service – Hill was involved in a motor vehicle accident that resulted in a right leg below-the-knee amputation, a left leg above-the-knee amputation, multiple fractures and other serious injuries. Since then, he has been on a long and challenging path toward recovery; he medically separated from the Navy in 2012. He has been enjoying adaptive sports and the many health benefits they provide. “Adaptive sports have given me an outlet for my competitive spirit, and something to strive for and train for – a reason to get better every day. I am in the gym lifting weights and training a minimum of five days a week to train for my sports and overall better myself,” he said. His family, especially his wife Misty, and friends have been extremely supportive of him and his teammates, and Hill is very excited for his first DoD Warrior Games experience. “Representing the world’s finest Navy at the Warrior Games means everything to me. I have learned so much from the other warriors in such a short time.”





WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME DONALD JACKSON

Rank Petty Officer 3rd Class

Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran) Retired

Service Branch and MOS Navy
Aviation Boatswain's Mate

Hometown (City, State) New Orleans, La.

Current Location (City, State) Seattle, Wash.

Injury or Illness (Optional) Serious illness

Event(s) Ultimate Champion

PERSONAL PROFILE

Jackson has long been a sports fan, and when he was assigned to USS John C. Stennis, he was thrilled to make the cut for the command's flag football team. He also really enjoyed playing basketball, and his sports hero is Magic Johnson. In 2013, a biopsy confirmed that Jackson had epiglottal (throat) cancer. After completing intense medical treatments – during which he was grateful for support from his mother and brother – Jackson was medically separated from the Navy last year. He is planning to go back to school to earn his degree and to remain active. He said of adaptive sports: "It's helped me get active and out of a rut, and it's meant a lot. Not many people get to do what I'm doing, and I'm happy I was chosen for Team Navy." To other wounded warriors interested in adaptive sports, he said, "Get out there and do it. Don't worry about how – you'll just do it."





WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME	ANDREW JOHNSON
Rank	E-6/Petty Officer 1 st Class
Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran)	Retired
Service Branch and MOS	Navy Aviation Structural Mechanic
Hometown (City, State)	Moore, Okla.
Current Location (City, State)	Moore, Okla.
Injury or Illness (Optional)	Serious illness
Event(s)	Cycling, Track

PERSONAL PROFILE

Johnson enlisted in the Navy in 1999 and enjoyed a distinguished naval career that afforded him opportunities throughout the country. In April 2009, a fall down a flight of stairs led to Johnson's diagnosis of Stage III brain cancer. After surgery, he lost the use of his right leg and arm, and initially needed a wheelchair to get around. At Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., Johnson recovered by leaps and bounds and regained the ability to walk with the use of adaptive devices. He received chemotherapy and physical therapy at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, where he was introduced to adaptive sports. Johnson retired from active-duty service in 2011 and is currently volunteering for a local nonprofit organization, Honoring America's Warriors, which provides 10-man teams of Iraq and Afghanistan disabled combat veterans in service dress uniform for augmented full military funeral honors. He also is the co-captain of the Warrior Row Team OKC, an all-veteran row team that competes in Oklahoma and other venues. Additionally, he is encouraging his younger brother – who was diagnosed with cancer last year – to embrace athletics in his journey to get well. Both men have completed four "Tough Mudders" and one "Spartan Beast" (races through military-style obstacle courses). This year he also took on the challenge of coaching youth baseball for his 9-year-old son's team.





WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME	SANCHO JOHNSON
Rank	O-3/Lieutenant
Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran)	Retired
Service Branch and MOS	Coast Guard Maritime Enforcement
Hometown (City, State)	Jackson, Miss.
Current Location (City, State)	Madison, Miss.
Injury or Illness (Optional)	Serious injury
Event(s)	Cycling, Field

PERSONAL PROFILE

As a Marine Investigating Officer and a Marine Inspector in the Coast Guard, Johnson kept waterways and coastlines secure through the protection of the marine environment and the promotion of safe passage of marine-related traffic. It was a freak accident while on liberty that drove Johnson back to dry land. He was riding in a bus on the island of Dominica in February 2009 when the bus lost control and drove off a cliff, throwing him from the vehicle and leaving him with all but one rib broken, a broken right femur, a broken right shoulder, and a spinal-cord injury. Now retired, Johnson is an entrepreneur, and he is married to Shundra, his greatest supporter. Looking to the future, his personal goal is to continue to grow in his religious faith, and his professional goal is to expand his nonprofit outreach beyond Mississippi. He said, "It is a privilege to represent the U.S. Coast Guard at the DoD Warrior Games while competing alongside great athletes from the other branches of service."



WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME STEVEN LEE

Rank E-6/Petty Officer 1st Class

Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran) Retired

Service Branch and MOS Navy
Aviation Structural Mechanic

Hometown (City, State) Erie, Pa.

Current Location (City, State) Jamestown, N.Y.

Injury or Illness (Optional) Serious injury

Event(s) Archery, Cycling

PERSONAL PROFILE

Lee proudly served in the Navy for more than 18 years before he was medically separated in March 2010. He was involved in a motor vehicle accident while on liberty in 2009, and he suffered a spinal cord injury – and subsequent infection – that resulted in paraplegia. Throughout his recovery, his goal has been to continue enjoying life with family and friends. Lee said adaptive sports help him feel like part of a team again, and he added, “Sports put me in touch with other veterans and what they went through, which helps me understand more about what I went through.” He credited his wife, Staci, for pushing him to have fun and try new things; together the couple has a son and a daughter. Lee is excited to participate in his first DoD Warrior Games: “It makes me feel like I am back in the Navy in a sort of way. The Navy was a huge part of my life and when I was medically retired, it almost felt like I lost a big part of myself. Representing the Navy gives me back that part of who I am.”



WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME	SONNY LEMERANDE
Rank	E-5/Petty Officer 2 nd Class
Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran)	Retired
Service Branch and MOS	Navy Hospital Corpsman
Hometown (City, State)	Baraga, Mich.
Current Location (City, State)	Twentynine Palms, Calif.
Injury or Illness (Optional)	Combat-wounded
Event(s)	Field, Sitting Volleyball, Wheelchair Basketball

PERSONAL PROFILE

Lemerande grew up in Michigan, and he joined the Navy after high school. Because of his interest in the medical field, as well as the influence of a family member serving as a medic in the Air Force, he decided to enlist as a Navy corpsman. Before his injury, he enjoyed basketball, football, volleyball, and baseball. His sports hero is football great Emmitt Smith. Lemerande went on two deployments during his more than nine-year naval career. During his second deployment his Humvee was struck by a pressure plate anti-tank mine. Lemerande's injuries haven't slowed him down. He finished his military career in Twentynine Palms, where he worked as assistant leading petty officer and mentored junior Sailors. Now retired, he is attending school to become a social worker. He is the proud father of two daughters, McKenna and Jacqueline. Since his injury five years ago, Lemerande's participation in adaptive sports has positively impacted his life. "I have gained a new family, which has helped me cope with the many struggles I have endured. Two years ago I participated in the Cooper River Bridge Run as part of Team Semper Fi, and I look forward to competing in future events," said Lemerande. He was planning on serving 30 years in the Navy prior to his injury, and he is proud to continue representing Team Navy at the DoD Warrior Games.





WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME AVERILL MALONE

Rank E-7/Chief Petty Officer

Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran) Active Duty

Service Branch and MOS Navy
Logistics Specialist

Hometown (City, State) Nashville, Tenn.

Current Location (City, State) Upper Marlboro, Md.

Injury or Illness (Optional) Combat-wounded

Event(s) Archery, Cycling

PERSONAL PROFILE

Malone joined the Navy in 1993 – after he graduated from high school – in large part because of its educational benefits. His favorite career memory was seeing, for the first time, the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), at his first duty station. “I had never seen anything so huge,” he said. In 2007 and 2008 – when he was deployed to Iraq to conduct dining facilities inspections throughout the provinces – he was exposed to rocket attacks and death. When he returned home, he suffered from post-traumatic stress but did not discuss it. He was twice admitted for inpatient treatment, but dealing with his symptoms remains a daily struggle. He is the proud father of Dominique, Aprielle, Joshua, Alonzo, and Iyanna, and a grandfather to Kyla and Azahirah. He calls his grandmother, Grace Richardson, his personal hero. Since enrolling in Navy Wounded Warrior – Safe Harbor, he has had the opportunity to intern with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. His involvement in adaptive sports has dramatically improved his disposition, and he is eager to compete again at the DoD Warrior Games. He credited adaptive sports for saving his life: “My interaction with fellow athletes helped me out of the dark places. I can now smile and joke.” Malone also participates in art therapy and has found a new love for painting.





WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME	STEVE MILLER
Rank	E-5/Petty Officer 2 nd Class
Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran)	Retired
Service Branch and MOS	Navy Aviation Boatswain's Mate
Hometown (City, State)	Lakewood, Ohio
Current Location (City, State)	Lakewood, Ohio
Injury or Illness (Optional)	Serious illness
Event(s)	Cycling, Track

PERSONAL PROFILE

From Lakewood, Ohio, Miller grew up running and competed in high school track and cross-country. He joined the Navy as an aviation boatswain's mate, serving tours on USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), USS Tarawa (LHA 1), and USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75). During his second enlistment, he became seriously ill with various cognitive disorders. He is now medically retired and enjoys participating in adaptive sports, which he said "brought out the competitive side in me and, ultimately, the best in me." In addition to the 2015 Warrior Games, Miller participates in sailing, rowing and the World T.E.A.M. Sports Face of America bike ride. He said that competing "means a great deal because it makes me feels needed and appreciated. I am able to reach out to others and make new bonds."



WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME ADRIAN MOHAMMED

Rank E-5/Petty Officer 2nd Class

Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran) Retired

Service Branch and MOS Navy
Master-at-Arms

Hometown (City, State) Milwaukee, Wis.

Current Location (City, State) Oconomowoc, Wis.

Injury or Illness (Optional) Combat-wounded

Event(s) Archery, Cycling

PERSONAL PROFILE

Mohammed served six years in the Navy. He currently is retired and residing in Oconomowoc, Wis. In May 2004, he was injured while on patrol operating in the Middle East. His injuries include post-traumatic stress, visual impairment, a traumatic brain injury, hearing loss, orthopedic injuries, facial paralysis, and jaw problems. His impairments have not prohibited him from setting goals for the future. Maintaining his physical and mental health are important priorities, and he also wishes to attend college. Adaptive sports have given life more meaning for him. "It is hard to find things to do that offer gratification in my current condition. The opportunities provided by the Navy Wounded Warrior – Safe Harbor program has brought enjoyment and emotional stability to my life," said Mohammed. He looks forward to competing in the DoD Warrior Games and offered the following advice to teammates: "There is nothing to be ashamed of when participating in competition and physical trials. Alone you may lose the battles, together you can win the war."



WARRIOR PROFILE



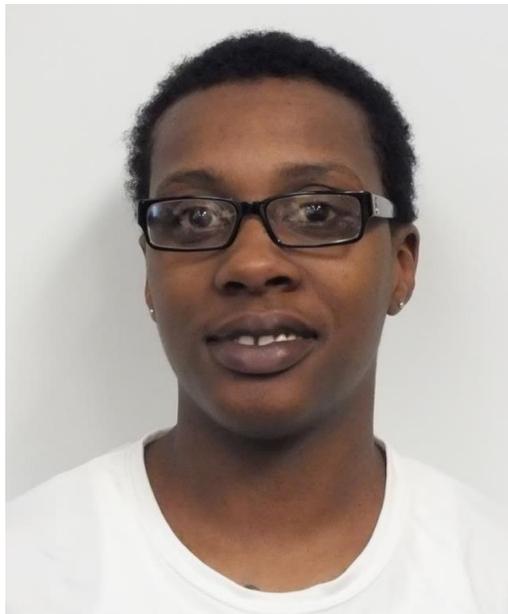
NAME	THOMAS MURPHY
Rank	E-6/Petty Officer 1 st Class
Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran)	Retired
Service Branch and MOS	Navy Hospital Corpsman
Hometown (City, State)	Andrews Air Force Base, Md.
Current Location (City, State)	Cleveland, Ohio
Injury or Illness (Optional)	Serious injury
Event(s)	Cycling, Shooting

PERSONAL PROFILE

Murphy proudly served in the Navy for 20 years and is currently retired and residing in Cleveland, Ohio. Despite his disabilities and serious illnesses, including a below-the-knee amputation, post-traumatic stress, right ankle reconstruction, right knee reconstruction, right shoulder reconstruction, and testicular cancer, he maintains an active lifestyle by participating in the Standing Amputee Hockey National Championships and USA Warriors Ice Hockey. He also enjoys hunting, golf, skiing, fishing, and cycling. The adaptive sports program allows him to make the most of each day. "I am proud to be a member of Team Navy and participate in the Warrior Games. I believe I have been entrusted with sharing the message and proof that regardless of disabilities or illnesses, life is still important and you should strive to always do your best," said Murphy.



WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME KENYACTHA MYERS

Rank E-4/Petty Officer 3rd Class

Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran) Retired

Service Branch and MOS Navy
Aviation Ordnanceman

Hometown (City, State) Magee, Miss.

Current Location (City, State) Collins, Miss.

Injury or Illness (Optional) Combat-wounded

Event(s) Sitting Volleyball, Track & Field

PERSONAL PROFILE

Myers joined the Navy in January 2009, and during her career, she really enjoyed the many travel opportunities the Navy provided. In 2011, she deployed to Iraq for six months, and shortly after returning home, she began receiving treatment for anxiety, depression and nightmares. Less than two years later, she deployed again to Afghanistan with Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 138 for three months, and afterwards was formally diagnosed with post-traumatic stress. She has always been active in athletics, and her sports heroes are Allen Iverson and Dominique Dawes. Myers said, "It's an honor to participate in the 2015 DoD Warrior Games. The Navy was and will always be a part of my life, so to represent it on the 'big stage' makes me proud. Honor, Courage, Commitment!"



WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME	BRETT PARKS
Rank	E-3/Airman
Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran)	Retired
Service Branch and MOS	Navy Aircrewman
Hometown (City, State)	Miami, Fla.
Current Location (City, State)	Jacksonville, Fla.
Injury or Illness (Optional)	Serious injury
Event(s)	Field, Sitting Volleyball, Swimming

PERSONAL PROFILE

While training to become an aviation flight engineer, Parks was wounded in 2012 in Jacksonville, Fla., when he came to the aid of a man being robbed at gunpoint. Parks – a husband and father with a second child on the way – was preparing to conduct a training session at his gym when he heard a man scream behind the fitness center and decided to intervene. Two gunshots were fired at Parks; the first shot hit his abdomen, but the second shot missed him. While in a coma for 20 days, his lower right leg was amputated, and Parks spent four months recovering from his wounds and learning how to use a prosthetic limb. In addition to his athletic ambitions, Parks has published a book about his experiences titled "Miracle Man." Parks also has established an organization called Second Shot Ministry, which enables him to share his faith and journey toward recovery. He serves as a motivational speaker and travels the nation, visiting schools, churches and companies. In addition to the 2015 DoD Warrior Games, Parks competes with the USA Sitting Volleyball A2 team. Parks said, "Adaptive sports help me get out of bed in the morning. Being severely injured like most of us are, it's tough to find any positives to live for, but knowing we're a part of a team helps us get up and work to better ourselves, one day at a time."





WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME	SCOTT RADETSKI
Rank	O-4/Lieutenant Commander
Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran)	Retired
Service Branch and MOS	Navy Chaplain
Hometown (City, State)	Sheboygan, Wis.
Current Location (City, State)	Poulsbo, Wash.
Injury or Illness (Optional)	Combat-wounded
Event(s)	Cycling, Shooting

PERSONAL PROFILE

Radetski first began experiencing post-traumatic stress symptoms while he was deployed to Iraq in 2004. There, he served as the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines chaplain, and he witnessed intense and complex combat, as well as the deaths of several service members. Major Doug Zembiec, who was known as the "Lion of Fallujah," said of him: "I will always remember [Radetski] holding memorial services for fallen Marines while bullets still flew overhead. His efforts gave peace of mind to my Marines and Sailors, and let us fight our enemies with absolute commitment." During the following decade, Radetski worked incredibly hard to manage his post-traumatic stress, participating in extensive counseling and therapy programs. In September 2008, he retired from the Navy after 27 years of dedicated service. He enjoys participating in adaptive sports, and he has taken part in various cycling programs and yoga. He looks forward to his first DoD Warrior Games experience: "I am extremely humbled to be included within the ranks of these warriors. I am grateful for the opportunity and will do my best to represent Team Navy. I never would have had the chance to participate without the encouragement, coaching, and support of the Navy Wounded Warrior - Safe Harbor program." Radetski added that wounded warriors should, "Never give up. Lean into the storm, pour out your heart, mind, and spirit - believe in something bigger than your pain and suffering."





WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME REDMOND RAMOS

Rank E-4/Petty Officer 3rd Class

Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran) Retired

Service Branch and MOS Navy
Hospital Corpsman

Hometown (City, State) Fremont, Calif.

Current Location (City, State) Murrieta, Calif.

Injury or Illness (Optional) Combat-wounded

Event(s) Sitting Volleyball, Swimming, Track & Field

PERSONAL PROFILE

In 2007, ten days after graduating from high school, Ramos decided to follow in his older brothers' footsteps and join the Navy to serve as a corpsman. In March 2011, Ramos was wounded in Helmand Province in Afghanistan while serving with the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment. His left leg was badly injured by an improvised explosive device while his squad was maneuvering to assist an injured Marine. He was sent to Naval Medical Center San Diego, and – despite efforts during the following months to salvage the limb – it ultimately was amputated below the knee. Ramos was medically separated from the Navy in April 2013, but he remains very active in adaptive athletics events. He currently works in military combat training. Ramos said, "Adaptive sports truly changed my life for the better. Anyone can get back to where they were before their injury – only adaptive sports can help you become better than you ever were."



WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME KATHLEEN RAY

Rank E-4/Petty Officer 3rd Class

Status (*Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran*) Retired

Service Branch and MOS Navy
Aviation Technician

Hometown (*City, State*) Palmdale, Calif.

Current Location (*City, State*) Palmdale, Calif.

Injury or Illness (*Optional*) Serious injury

Event(s) Cycling, Swimming

PERSONAL PROFILE

Ray joined the Navy in September 2005, because, as she says, the Navy involves work on the ground, at sea, and in the air – you never know what you’re going to get. While growing up in Palmdale, Calif., Ray enjoyed recreational sports, especially dancing, and she participated in her high school marching band’s color guard. In 2010, she was injured in a traffic accident that left her with a traumatic brain injury. She is medically retired from the Navy, and she is pursuing an associate degree from the University of Phoenix. She enjoys adaptive sports, and she credited her friend Marc at Code Blue Fitness, as well as Janice and Shiloe, for encouraging her throughout her training. She said about the 2015 DoD Warrior Games: “It’s not about getting first place; it’s about beating your own time and pushing yourself. It’s about your own achievements and finding fun during this time. Never give up.”





WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME RYAN "AUSTIN" REESE

Rank E-8/Senior Chief Petty Officer

Status (*Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran*) Active Duty

Service Branch and MOS Navy
Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician

Hometown (*City, State*) Bowie, Md.

Current Location (*City, State*) Virginia Beach, Va.

Injury or Illness (*Optional*) Serious injury

Event(s) Cycling, Swimming, Track & Field

PERSONAL PROFILE

Reese has served in the Navy as an explosive ordnance disposal technician (EOD) for 13 years, and he currently is stationed with EOD Training and Evaluation Unit 2 in Virginia Beach, Va. He suffered a spinal cord injury in September 2013 during a sky diving accident, and he has spent the past two years working hard toward recovery. Since his injury, he has undergone multiple surgeries, and he is confined to a wheelchair; however, he hasn't let that slow him down. Last summer, Reese advanced to senior chief; this summer, he looks forward to participating in the DoD Warrior Games. Adaptive sports, he said, "have given me a sense of purpose and also a feeling of competition again. It makes me feel very proud that I'm able to represent my service and also the other team members who are not able to compete." He said his wife, Charity, is his biggest supporter, encouraging him to push further each day. Looking to the future, Reese wants to find a job that provides him with a feeling of fulfillment, and to find a new place to call home with his family.





WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME JAVIER RODRIGUEZ SANTIAGO

Rank E-7/Chief Petty Officer

Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran) Retired

Service Branch and MOS Navy Yeoman

Hometown (City, State) Bayamon, Puerto Rico

Current Location (City, State) Saint Cloud, Fla.

Injury or Illness (Optional) Serious injury

Event(s) Cycling, Sitting Volleyball, Wheelchair Basketball

PERSONAL PROFILE

Born and raised in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, Rodriguez Santiago enlisted in the Navy in 2002 wanting to serve his country while exploring the world. His duty stations included USS Montpelier (SSN 765) in Norfolk, Va.; the Navy Officer Recruiting Station in San Juan, Puerto Rico; an Individual Augmentee deployment to Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; USS North Carolina (SSN 777) in Groton, Conn., and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam; and Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCS D). A victim of a hit-and-run accident while riding his motorcycle in January 2011, he sustained severe trauma to his lower extremities. Since then, he battled through extensive surgeries and physical therapy, and, ultimately, he had his left leg amputated above the knee. In addition to the 2015 DoD Warrior Games, Rodriguez Santiago enjoys adaptive surfing and Soldiers Who Salsa. He said, "It's a great honor to represent Team Navy. It feels good to have that camaraderie again, and I love showing the world we haven't given up." He is married to Edna, and he has a son, Eddier, and a daughter, Aulani.





WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME	MICHAEL ROGGIO
Rank	E-4/Petty Officer 3 rd Class
Status (<i>Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran</i>)	Retired
Service Branch and MOS	Navy Aviation Electrician's Mate (AWR)
Hometown (<i>City, State</i>)	New Smyrna Beach, Fla.
Current Location (<i>City, State</i>)	Orlando, Fla.
Injury or Illness (<i>Optional</i>)	Serious injury
Event(s)	Cycling, Swimming, Track

PERSONAL PROFILE

Roggio joined the Navy in 2006, in part because he hoped to take advantage of the generous education benefits offered through the military. During his naval career, he particularly enjoyed working on drug and human trafficking enforcement issues, as well as executing rescues. In 2009, two months after he was transferred to Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 46, he was injured at an air hangar. He fell down a ladder well and hit his head, losing consciousness for a few moments. When he first woke up, he could not stand up or move his legs. He was later diagnosed with spinal cord swelling and a traumatic brain injury. He retired from the Navy four years later, in 2013. He currently is focused on his recovery, hoping to reach a point where he can be independent of a caregiver, and he said adaptive sports have been a very positive influence throughout that process. He said of the 2015 DoD Warrior Games: "It means a lot to me to be part of this team and active in this community again."





WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME	STEVEN SIMMONS
Rank	O-3/Lieutenant
Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran)	Retired
Service Branch and MOS	Navy Administration
Hometown (City, State)	Perry, Ohio
Current Location (City, State)	South Jordan, Utah
Injury or Illness (Optional)	Serious injury
Event(s)	Archery, Cycling, Track & Field, Wheelchair Basketball

PERSONAL PROFILE

In 2014, Simmons was medically separated from the Navy after more than 16 years of dedicated service. Just a few years earlier, Simmons began experiencing health problems that were later attributed to his deployment to Japan to aid victims of the March 2011 Fukushima earthquake and tsunami, as well as the radioactive fallout from the city's disabled nuclear plant. His degenerative condition has resulted in a spinal cord injury and confined him to a wheelchair. Thankfully, adaptive sports have given him a new sense of purpose. Simmons hopes to help Team Navy net as many medals as possible at the 2015 DoD Warrior Games, and, eventually, he hopes to become a Paralympian. He said, "Sports have been extremely therapeutic and have given me an outlet and a family, which ultimately made my relationship with my own wife and family even stronger." Simmons had hoped to serve in the Navy for more than 30 years before his career was cut short, and his experiences with Team Navy connect him to the military once more. He said his wife Summer and their three children have been incredibly supportive: "They provide the encouragement and love that keeps me going."





WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME SADIE STRONG

Rank E-3/Airman

Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran) Retired

Service Branch Navy

Hometown (City, State) Bel Air, Md.

Current Location (City, State) Bel Air, Md.

Injury or Illness (Optional) Serious illness

Event(s) Archery, Shooting

PERSONAL PROFILE

Strong joined the Navy in January 2012 because she wanted to make a difference, and to be part of something bigger than herself. During first assignment she was stationed with Patrol Squadron 46. In October 2012, Strong was assaulted; she was later diagnosed with post-traumatic stress because of the experience. She was subsequently medically separated from the Navy. She is grateful for the support of Team Navy, and she is eager to compete at the 2015 DoD Warrior Games. A returning gold medalist, she said, "Adaptive sports saved me when I was still on active duty. I was going through the most stressful time in my life, and learning these new sports helped me ... they allowed me to open my horizons and become social again." In the future, she plans to enroll in school.





WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME	HECTOR VARELA
Rank	E-7/Chief Petty Officer
Status (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or Veteran)	Retired
Service Branch and MOS	Navy Gunner's Mate
Hometown (City, State)	Fabens, Texas
Current Location (City, State)	Temecula, Calif.
Injury or Illness (Optional)	Serious injury
Event(s)	Field, Sitting Volleyball, Wheelchair Basketball

PERSONAL PROFILE

Varela joined the Navy in April 1988; he wanted to leave the small farm town where he grew up and see the world. He is very proud of his many career achievements – particularly being promoted to chief petty officer and leading great Sailors – as a result of all his hard work. He has long been active in sports, and he especially enjoyed soccer, softball and basketball when he was younger. He was injured in February 2012 in a motorcycle accident, which resulted in the amputation of his left leg above the knee. Since his injury, he has enjoyed playing wheelchair basketball and participating in adaptive surfing. Now retired, he hopes to pursue a position within preventive medicine to aid others in recovering from physical injuries. He has a wife, Anna, and two daughters, Ashley and Amanda. He said it is an honor to represent Team Navy at the 2015 DoD Warrior Games, and he added, “Adaptive sports helped me in recovery by keeping me out of depression. It has also helped in me maintaining my weight and staying active.”

