

COL Patty Collins (Active)

Current Location:

Alexandria, Virginia

MOS/Current Occupation:

25A (Signal Officer)

Warrior Transition Unit:

N/A

Hometown:

Hackettstown, New Jersey

School(s):

Rutgers University, New Jersey (BA); National Defense University, Washington, D.C. (MS)

Events training for:

Running, Swimming, Cycling, Rowing

Injury or Illness:

Left leg below-the-knee amputee



"I have learned through my participation in adaptive sports, I can reach others by way of mentorship and encouragement."

Army Col. Patty Collins has no interest in slowing down. Despite an injury that required her left leg to be amputated below the knee, she plans to participate in four sports during the 2014 Invictus Games.

"Sports have been a part of my life and lifestyle since I was in grade school," she said. "Becoming a physically challenged athlete has done nothing to change that mentality."

Collins is training to compete in running, swimming, cycling and rowing in London. She is excited for the opportunity to represent the United States at the Invictus Games, comparing the games to much like wearing a military uniform, but offering "the opportunity to represent my country on a different stage and interact with international military servicemen and women."

Collins also said the Invictus Games remind her of the Olympic Creed, which emphasizes that participation and struggle are more important than winning. "I have learned through my participation in adaptive sports, I can reach others by way of mentorship and encouragement," she said.



Constantly moving forward, Collins hopes to qualify for the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. In the meantime, she says, her focus is on being "the best parent I can be to my son."