

## SGT Elizabeth Wasil (Active)



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### **Current Location:**

*Colorado Springs, Colorado*

### **MOS/Current Occupation:**

*68W Combat Medic/Paralympic Swimmer*

### **Warrior Transition Unit:**

*Warrior Transition Battalion, Fort Sam Houston, Texas*

### **Hometown:**

*Prescott Valley, Arizona*

### **School(s):**

*Arizona Project Challenge; Kaplan University*

### **Events training for:**

*Swimming, Cycling, Track, Field*

### **Injury or Illness:**

*Bilateral hip injuries*



Sgt. Elizabeth Wasil is the first Paralympic swimmer in the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program (WCAP) and the current American record holder in the 200-meter breaststroke.

"If I had never been injured I would have never known that I could swim and compete in this capacity," she said.

Wasil joined the Army in 2008, shortly after her 17th birthday, following in the footsteps of her father, a Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran. "As a soldier, I joined the military because I love my country," she said. "Anytime I wear the flag in competition or as a soldier, it brings me great pride. It means being able to compete for my country and show my love and appreciation by pushing as hard as I can."

While on assignment in Iraq as a combat medic, she sustained bilateral hip injuries. She has since had three surgeries to restructure her hips to regain mobility allowing her to walk.

Now, Wasil is part of the resident swimming team at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. "It is safe to say that adaptive reconditioning has changed my life in a way I could have never thought possible and led me down a path that allows me to represent my country and the military every day."

"I am not recovering," she said, "I am discovering a new normal."

