

2014 ARMY WARRIOR GAMES ATHLETE

NAME

Kelly Elmlinger

RANK

First Lieutenant

STATUS

Active

MOS

66H (Medical-Surgical Nurse)/
Registered Nurse

WARRIOR TRANSITION UNIT

Warrior Transition Battalion,
Fort Sam Houston, Texas

HOMETOWN

Attica, Ohio

CURRENT LOCATION

San Antonio, Texas

SCHOOL(S)

Seneca East High School, Ohio;
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill;
University of Texas Arlington

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Synovial sarcoma, nerve damage, left
forearm nerve impairment

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

2013

EVENT(S)

Swimming, Track and Field



Kelly Elmlinger has been training for months in cycling, track and field and swimming for the opportunity to compete in this year's Warrior Games. "It's an absolute honor to be chosen to represent the Army and compete in sports I love," she said. "This opportunity is not about me, but about the men and women on my deployments who did not return to their loved ones and always remembering the sacrifices so many have made."

Sports have consistently played an important role in Elmlinger's life. In high school and college, she ran track and cross country and played basketball. In 2013, she ran the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon, competed this year at the Inaugural Invictus Games and hopes to make the 2016 Paralympic team. "I have always been involved in athletics, and adaptive reconditioning offers a new way to continue competing. At times, it allows me to forget about my disabilities. I enjoy being a teammate and encouraging each other to push harder," she said. "My recovery has been slow with many ups and downs, but I am certain adaptive sports has tremendously aided in my recovery process."

Elmlinger was diagnosed with synovial sarcoma, a rare form of cancer, in her left lower leg with permanent foot drop, nerve damage and left forearm nerve impairment and is recovering at the Warrior Transition Battallion at Fort Sam Houston. "Although it will be me competing, there are many others who played an integral role in restoring my health, allowing me to get to this point. Without a doubt, I represent and thank those individuals who aided me."



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