

2014 ARMY WARRIOR GAMES ATHLETE

NAME

Billy Meeks

RANK

Staff Sergeant

STATUS

Veteran

FORMER UNIT

2-1 Special Troops Battalion,
2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team,
1st Armored Division, Fort Bliss, Texas

HOMETOWN

Weatherford, Texas

CURRENT LOCATION

Las Cruces, New Mexico

SCHOOL(S)

Abilene High School, Abilene, Texas

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Torn medial collateral ligament (MCL),
a torn labrum and other injuries

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Iraq, 2007

EVENT(S)

Archery, Shooting



While serving in Iraq in 2007, now retired Staff Sgt. **Billy Meeks** began noticing intense pain in his knee and hip. “I thought it was a normal Soldier thing, so why complain,” said Meeks. He was diagnosed with a torn medial collateral ligament or MCL, a torn labrum and other injuries. Meeks was unable to continue serving in his unit and medically retired.

His interest in archery developed before his retirement while supporting a senior leaders’ course at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. “I had to volunteer for one event. I was responsible for setting up archery and providing support,” said Meeks. “I picked it up, and it all took off from there.”

Meeks began practicing archery in the backyard. Then he started meeting people who attended archery tournaments and learning more. “Sports allow me to be competitive and allow me to be around like-minded people,” said Meeks. In April 2014 he took a trip to Las Vegas where he learned about the Warrior Games and adaptive sports.

“I really didn’t know that much about it. I thought I was just going to retire and move on with my life,” said Meeks. “My participation in archery and in the 2014 U.S. Army Warrior Trials opened up a new avenue for me. I’m now thinking of going professional with archery. It’s a big change.”

He credits his Family, friends and coaches for their support during his training. Meeks is also finishing his master’s degree in agricultural engineering.



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