

2014 ARMY WARRIOR GAMES ATHLETE

NAME

Michael D. Smith

RANK

Sergeant First Class

STATUS

Active

MOS

Awaiting orders, currently 79R (Recruiter)

WARRIOR TRANSITION UNIT

Fort Sam Houston, Warrior Transition Battalion, Texas

HOMETOWN

Dallas, Texas

CURRENT LOCATION

San Antonio, Texas

SCHOOL(S)

Palo Duro High School, Amarillo, Texas

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Above-the-elbow amputation (right)

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Tennessee, 2011

EVENT(S)

Swimming, Track, Field



This summer, Sgt. 1st Class **Michael D. Smith** heard important news: he was determined fit for duty by his medical board. The victim of a hit-and-run accident in 2011, his severe injury ultimately led to the amputation of his right arm above the elbow. Now, Smith will be able to continue his career in the military and will also become the first above the elbow amputee to return to active duty.

“It was one of the greatest days of my life. Knowing that it’s never been done before—that means a lot to me,” said Smith, recalling the day he heard the news.

It was a successful summer for Smith in other ways, too. He left the 2014 U.S. Army Warrior Trials with seven medals from competitions in cycling, track and swimming.

Smith exemplified resilience in all his events, perhaps most poignantly so in the cycling competition. He finished strong, even after his prosthetic arm broke off in the middle of the track, and took home a bronze medal.

He takes that resilient spirit with him to Warrior Games, where he will compete in swimming, track and field events.

“It feels like a huge accomplishment and a great achievement. I feel like I still have a lot to prove to myself, and I want to see all my hard work pay off,” Smith said. “Taking home the gold is the plan,” he added.



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