

2014 ARMY WARRIOR GAMES ATHLETE

NAME

Petrina Williams-Swaby

RANK

Staff Sergeant

STATUS

Active

WARRIOR TRANSITION UNIT

Warrior Transition Battalion,
Fort Benning, Georgia

HOMETOWN

Queens, New York

CURRENT LOCATION

Fort Benning, Georgia

SCHOOL(S)

Carnegie High School, Brooklyn,
New York; Post University

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Lower back

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Missouri, 2003

EVENT(S)

Sitting Volleyball, Wheelchair Basketball



Sgt. **Petrina Williams-Swaby** never doubt her life path. “I knew I wanted to be a Soldier, since I was eight,” shared Williams-Swaby. “However, I didn’t know I’d get a chance to be a Soldier athlete.”

An incident during basic training caused a lower back issue that changed the course of her life. At that point, her doctor told her she needed to get out of the military. Then she received word that she could participate in adaptive sports.

“We had a sports coordinator who would come and recruit. She had to beg me for some time, because I didn’t want to talk to anyone. Luckily she didn’t give up,” said Williams-Swaby. “I fell in love with it. It gives me something to look forward to, and it’s great hanging out with the guys.”

She’s looking forward to competing in her first Warrior Games, especially after the Army Warrior Trials. “Being in New York gave me a different outlook on being a wounded warrior,” shared Williams-Swaby.

“Sometimes the wounds are mental or TBI, PTSD. It’s not just what you can see, so you just have to get to a point where you respect everyone’s issues.”



Williams-Swaby is using her experiences “to motivate me to do better and want more.” She credits the occupational therapy department and her coaches with providing great support and preparing her for Colorado Springs.

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