



WOUNDED WARRIOR

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Warrior Games 2011 Special Edition

Event is about more than medals

by Capt. Mary Danner-Jones
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.
-- The 2011 Warrior Games officially came to an end here

May 21 following closing ceremonies.

The Air Force team, consisting of 23 wounded Airmen, earned 12 medals at the event.

But for the athletes, the games were not just about medals. The Warrior Games were an opportunity for the current and former service members to incorporate athletic training as a part of their overall transition and recovery plan.

"The purpose of these games is to build our confidence and to help us move on to bigger and better things," said retired Senior Airman Matthew Bilancia.

Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Phil Breedlove visited the games to meet with the participants and watch them compete.

"These are great people who have served their country well, and that certainly takes a certain amount of physical ability, stamina and guts," General Breedlove said.



Retired Maj. Gwendolyn Sheppard was selected by her teammates for the honor of being the torch bearer for the Air Force team at the 2011 Warrior Games. (U.S. Air Force photo/Duncan Wood)

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Airman, Family, Wounded Warrior and Community Operations
ATTN: AFW2
550 C. St. West
Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4739

1-800-581-9437
Fax: (210) 565-3385/DSN 665-3385

Visit: www.woundedwarrior.af.mil

E-mail: wounded.warrior@us.af.mil

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Let the Games begin...



Supporters, friends and family cheer the Air Force team during opening ceremonies May 16. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. J. Paul Croxon)



Cadet Matthew Pirrello heads up the court during a practice wheelchair basketball game. (U.S. Air Force photo/Bill Evans)



Retired Staff Sgt. Jeanne Goldy-Sanitate chats with Gen. William Shelton, the Commander of Air Force Space Command, and fellow Air Force competitor retired Staff Sgt. Gregory Miller, moments after they completed a six-mile cycling course during practice May 9. (U.S. Air Force photo/Duncan Wood)



Retired Staff Sgt. Jason M. Morgan competes in a swimming competition May 18. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Desiree N. Palacios)



If you're interested in competing in the 2012 Warrior Games, please contact Rebecca Dominguez at rebecca.dominguez.ctr@us.af.mil.

Retired Senior Airman Jennifer Stone keeps her eye on the ball during a wheelchair basketball game against the Army team May 18. (U.S. Army photo/Master Sgt. Dave Largent)



Retired Staff Sgt. Jeanne Goldy-Sanitate blurs past at the start of the womens handcycle/recumbent/bicycle race May 20. She won bronze with a time of 35:54 over the 10-kilometer course. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. J. Paul Croxon)



Senior Airman Matthew Bilancia throws a shot put during the track and field event May 17. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Christopher Griffin)



Air Force coach Cami Stock hugs retired Chief Master Sgt. Damian Orslene after he finished the men's 50-meter freestyle during the preliminary swimming competition May 18. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Desiree N. Palacios)



Click [here](#) for more information on the 2011 Warrior Games

Retired Staff Sgt. Michael Rushton rides by during the men's open bicycle class race, and finished the 30-kilometer race with a time of 53:39. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. J. Paul Croxon)



Team Air Force stands during the national anthem before the swimming competition May 18. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Desiree N. Palacios)



Retired Airman 1st Class Chatriex Goodson takes aim in the shooting competition May 17. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Desiree N. Palacios)



Air Force team members talk strategy during a wheelchair basketball competition May 18. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Christopher Griffin)



Retired Staff Sgt. Stacy Pearsall looks back as the volleyball slips past and is saved by Staff Sgt. Christopher D'Angelo during a game against the U.S. Special Operations Command team May 17. The U.S. Special Operations Command team won two out of three games. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Christopher Griffin)



The Air Force team prepares for a Navy shot on the first day of the wheelchair basketball competition May 17. The Navy team beat the Air Force team 23-14. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Griffin)

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Martin E. Dempsey leads the applause for athletes during the closing ceremony May 22. (U.S. Army photo/D. Myles Cullen)



Team Air Force for the 2011 Warrior Games. (Photo courtesy of Tom Kimmell Photography)