



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Warrior Transition Command

2014 U.S. Army Warrior Trials celebrate strength and the spirit of competition

West Point, New York — Athletes attending the 2014 U.S. Army Warrior Trials at West Point June 15-19, 2014 were not motivated to compete by the idea of coming in first or going home with gold. Competitors had already seen a lot of firsts in their lives: the first car in a convoy hit by an improvised explosive device (IED), the first in their squad to sustain a training injury, the first to fall ill. For the more than 100 Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and Veterans at the Army Warrior Trials, motivation stemmed from celebrating strength in the spirit of competition after facing life-changing circumstances. The Warrior Transition Command (WTC) hosted wounded, ill and injured Army, Air Force and Marine athletes who competed in at least two of seven sports: archery, cycling, shooting, sitting volleyball, swimming, track and field and wheelchair basketball. Some ran track on prosthetic limbs. Others shot air rifle accompanied by their service dog. All proved that life can continue after sustaining a wound, injury or becoming ill.

Soldiers and Veterans representing team Army competed with dedication and heart in seven events, bringing home a total of 104 gold medals, two first place trophies and one third place trophy. Many were life-long athletes; some did not start participating in sports until they entered the Warrior Transition Unit (WTU), where they work on recovery and rehabilitation. Skills learned from adaptive reconditioning activities like sports benefit the physical and emotional well-being of wounded warriors and build confidence as these Soldiers and Veterans adapt and take back control of their lives. Medaling at the Army Warrior Trials was a goal for many—now athletes look to the future: September's Warrior Games. The Army Warrior Trials help determine which Army athletes will attend this Department of Defense-wide event, where emotions run even higher. More than displaying prowess on the track field, in the swimming pool or in any other sport, Army Warrior Trials and Warrior Games are the ultimate proof of the resiliency of these incredible athletes..

To read more stories from the Army Warrior Trials and to see a full list of medaling athletes, please visit:

www.wtc.army.mil/warrior_games/warrior_trials_2014.html

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CUTLINE: Members of the Army Green team celebrate their win over the Air Force at the sitting volleyball championship game at the 2014 Army Warrior Trials, at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY, July 18, 2014. The Army won the gold medal after three close sets of volleyball; the final set went into overtime with a final score of 17-15. (Photo by Suzanne Ovel, Madigan Army Medical Center Public Affairs)

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Warrior Transition Command (WTC) is a major subordinate command under the U.S. Army Medical Command (MEDCOM). WTC's mission is to develop, coordinate and integrate the Army's Warrior Care and Transition Program (WCTP) for wounded, ill and injured soldiers, veterans and their families. For more information on WTC, visit the new WTC website, www.WTC.army.mil, follow on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/armyWTC> or join Facebook at <http://facebook.com/armyWTC>.