

1LT Kelly Elmlinger (Active)



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Current Location:

San Antonio, Texas

**MOS/Current Occupation:**

66H (Medical-Surgical Nurse)/Registered Nurse

Warrior Transition Unit:

Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas

Hometown:

Attica, Ohio

School(s):

Seneca East High School, Ohio; University of North Carolina Chapel Hill; University of Texas Arlington

Events training for:

Cycling, Track and Field, Swimming

Injury or Illness:

Synovial sarcoma, nerve damage, left forearm nerve impairment

Kelly Elmlinger has been training for months in cycling, track and field and swimming for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. "It's an absolute honor to be chosen to wear the U.S. colors and compete in sports I love," she said. "This opportunity is not about me, but about the men and women on my deployments who did not return to their loves ones and always remembering the sacrifices so many have made."

Sports have consistently played an important role in Elmlinger's life. In high school and college, she ran track and cross country and played basketball. In 2013, she ran the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon. "I have always been involved in athletics, and adaptive reconditioning offers a new way to continue competing. At times, it allows me to forget about my disabilities. I enjoy being a teammate and encouraging each other to push harder. My recovery has been slow with many ups and downs, but I am certain adaptive sports has tremendously aided in my recovery process."

Elmlinger was diagnosed with synovial sarcoma, a rare form of cancer, in her left lower leg with permanent foot drop, nerve damage and left forearm nerve impairment. "Although it will be me competing, there are many others who played an integral role in restoring my health, allowing me to get to this point. Without a doubt, I represent and thank those individuals who aided me."

This will not be the last you hear of Elmlinger. She hopes to make the 2016 Paralympic team and with Invictus under her belt, she is a force to be reckoned with.

