

SSG Chanda Gaeth (Veteran)



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Current Location:

Kempner, Texas

MOS/Current Occupation:

N/A

Warrior Transition Unit:

Warrior Transition Battalion, Fort Sam Houston, Texas

Hometown:

La Crosse, Wisconsin

School(s):

Logan High School, Wisconsin; Texas A&M University, Texas (MS)

Events training for:

Swimming, Cycling, Indoor Rowing

Injury or Illness:

Traumatic brain injury (TBI), spinal cord injury (SCI)



Retired Army Staff Sgt. Chanda Gaeth is a seasoned adaptive sports athlete, arriving in London with three years of Warrior Games gold medals. "I medal in most of my events," said Gaeth, "but the friendship and helping others improve themselves is more important." Gaeth competes in wheelchair racing, cycling, swimming, shot put and discus.

The wheelchair has been a part of Gaeth's life since 2003, when she sustained spinal cord injuries serving overseas. At Warrior Transition Battalion (WTB) Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Gaeth's adaptive reconditioning began with water therapy. She was on bed rest at the time her mentor, Master Sgt. Rhoden Galloway, convinced her to learn how to swim. "I was lost before I started doing sports," she explained. "I thought my life didn't have anything." Gaeth is proud to say that she went from not being able to swim to learning the backstroke.

"Representing the United States at the Invictus Games means getting to compete with Soldiers from different countries," Gaeth said. "We go to war together, and we can show our strength and team spirit with the games."

Back in Texas, Gaeth competes in local competitions, such as triathlons and the Alamo Marathon. In addition to looking forward to the 2014 Warrior Games in Colorado Springs in the fall, Gaeth hopes to be a member of the American team in the 2016 Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. "These games and the people I have met on the way will forever be part of my life."

