

## SGT Robbie Gaupp (Veteran)



*"I thought my life in sports was over and it had only actually begun."*

**Current Location:**

*Gatesville, Texas*

**MOS/Current Occupation:**

*92F (Petroleum Supply Specialist)/US Paralympian*

**Warrior Transition Unit:**

*N/A*

**Hometown:**

*Gatesville, Texas*

**School(s):**

*Gatesville High School, Texas*

**Events training for:**

*Track and Field*

**Injury or Illness:**

*Shattered shoulder, brachial plexus damage*



With Warrior Games medals of every color to his credit, retired Sgt. Robbie Gaupp is a seasoned competitor. He will now join the U.S. Army delegation to the Warrior Games, where he will compete in four track and field events.

"When I was growing up, it was my dream to be in the Olympics," said Gaupp, who ran track in high school and played semi-professional football in Brownsville, Texas. "When I was injured, I didn't know what my future would look like, but I seized this opportunity."

While on assignment in the U.S. supporting Operation Jumpstart, Gaupp shattered his right shoulder assisting border patrol units along the Texas–Mexico border. He has since had two surgeries to repair the damage and regain some of his range of motion.

A lifelong athlete, Gaupp joined the Army out of high school in 2003, and medically retired in January 2010.

"You don't have to give up just because you're injured," he said. "Everyone has a different injury, and we've learned to adapt. Just going out there and showing how much is possible can really inspire others."

In 2013, Gaupp was named to Team USA for the International Paralympic Committee World Championships. He hopes to qualify for the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

"My injury took me to a dark place in life," he said, "I thought my life in sports was over and it had only actually begun."

