

2014 ARMY WARRIOR GAMES ATHLETE

NAME

Ray O'Donnell

RANK

Major

STATUS

Active

MOS

11A (Infantry Officer)

CURRENT UNIT

Pacific Regional Medical Command,
Hawaii

HOMETOWN

Mililani, Hawaii

CURRENT LOCATION

Hawaii

SCHOOL(S)

University of Hawaii

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Traumatic brain injury (TBI),
damage to face, femur, hips,
pelvis and spinal cord

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Afghanistan, 2007

EVENT(S)

Swimming



In 2007 Maj. **Ray O'Donnell** sustained multiple injuries when ejected from his Humvee, while serving on an advisory team in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In addition to other injuries, he sustained a traumatic brain injury, damage to his face, femur, hips, pelvis and spinal cord. "I was essentially broken in some way from head to toe," O'Donnell said in a 2008 interview.

During his recovery, O'Donnell spent eight months as an inpatient, with stints at Walter Reed, Brooke Army Medical Center and the James A. Haley Veterans Administration. He then spent an additional 14 months as an outpatient at the Center for the Intrepid and Tripler Army Medical Center, before returning to the force with 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. There he commanded 2nd Brigade, Headquarters and Headquarters Company deploying them to Iraq, in support of Operation New Dawn.

He has since served at the Warrior Transition Battalion, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, as executive officer and now works as an operations officer at Pacific Regional Medical Command.

"I believe sports and competition are so important in the recovery process and in the 'rehab for life' philosophy," said O'Donnell, who stays active by swimming.

After earning five gold medals in swimming at the 2014 Army Warrior Trials, O'Donnell is primed to take on the other services at the 2014 Warrior Games.



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