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INVICTUS
GAMES

DÜSSELDORF 2023

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THE INVICTUS GAMES FOUNDATION

Source: Invictus Games 2023

The Invictus Games Foundation was established following the success of the first Invictus Games in London in 2014, with the aim of establishing an Invictus tradition that will be perpetuated worldwide. The first Invictus Games thus became a blueprint to inspire and support many more injured and wounded servicemen and women on their life’s journey.

The Invictus Games Foundation owns the Invictus Games brand. It selects future venues and ensures that the high standards of the Games are maintained. It is also responsible for sports and competition management, rules and categorization, and public image. It also has the final say on the inclusion of additional sports and on the participating nations.

The Bundeswehr and the city of Düsseldorf are proud to be part of this great idea and community with the INVICTUS GAMES DÜSSELDORF 2023 and look forward to actively developing it further.



“They are ordinary people doing extraordinary things. That is something we can all aspire to. You do not have to be a veteran who has fought back from injury to be inspired by the Invictus Spirit”

Prince Harry, The Duke of Sussex
Invictus Games Foundation Patron

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INVICTUS AN IDEA THAT INSPIRES PEOPLE

Source: Invictus Games 2023



The origin of the Invictus Games

Through the power of sport, the Invictus Games support the recovery and rehabilitation of participating servicemen and women. At the same time, we want to create a broader understanding as well as respect for all people who serve their country and especially honour those who have paid their commitment to our freedom with their mental and physical wellbeing. This also includes the relatives and friends of the competitors – the “Family & Friends”, who have often made the decisive contribution to the recovery of our wounded soldiers. They are as integral to the Invictus Games as they are to the lives of the athletes.

“Invictus” means “undefeated.” The term embodies the fighting spirit of the participating men and women, as well as their motivation to move on with their lives, to gain a new place in life, and to not let themselves be defined by the trauma they have suffered.

Sport is certainly the best way to support recovery

In May 2012, Prince Harry met with a British group that had just participated in the “Warrior Games,” a competition for wounded and ill military personnel. The men and women proudly and joyfully described their competition experiences to him. A moment of realization for Harry:

“Sport is certainly the best way to support recovery. It fulfils all the criteria that are so sorely lacking in active duty. The premise is simple: set a goal, turn off all negative thoughts, focus on the challenge at hand, and learn to use your body to the best of its ability to do so. We servicemen and servicewomen love challenges.”

The following year, he went to the Warrior Games himself; they became one of the most incredible and inspiring events of his life. But they did not go far enough for him. He felt the participant and spectator

numbers were too small, considering how big the impact could be – for integration across society. So, Harry decided to organize his own major event in 2014. The Invictus Games 2014 in London were born.



SPECTACULAR OPENING CEREMONY

Source: Invictus Games 2023

On Saturday, September 9, the INVICTUS GAMES DÜSSELDORF 2023 presented by Boeing will open with a spectacular show in the MERKUR SPIEL-ARENA. The special musical guest of the evening will be rap superstar Macklemore.



Macklemore

Macklemore has thrilled his fans with groundbreaking successes. In the Opening Ceremony of the international sporting event for wounded, injured and sick service personnel and veterans, he will perform his new songs as well as number one hits such as 'Can't Hold Us' or 'Thrift Shop'.

Jörg, the captain of Team Germany, is very much looking forward to

the start of the INVICTUS GAMES DÜSSELDORF 2023 presented by Boeing: "The entrance of the nations at the grand opening show will surely be first of many goosebump moments of the Invictus Games in Düsseldorf for me. It's a huge honour for me to lead Team Germany."



Hadnet Tesfai

The show, which is packed with highlights, will be hosted by TV stars Hadnet Tesfai and Steven Gätjen. Hadnet Tesfai is a nationally known presenter and DJ, who, in addition to having her own TV show, podcasts or radio shows, has also hosted the opening show of the Berlin film festival. Her counterpart Steven Gätjen, as the host of shows like 'Joko & Klaas gegen Pro7', 'Schlag



Steven Gätjen

den Raab' or the broadcast of the Academy Awards, is a universally known TV face. In his own podcast 'Kino oder Couch' (cinema or couch), the film specialist Steven Gätjen chats about films, series or his private life.

In addition to the special guest Macklemore, a rousing dance show will also thrill the audience. Well-known personalities from politics and society will also attend the opening. The glamorous live opener with the entrance of the competitors is the first festive and touching highlight of the Invictus Games, which take place from September 9-16 under the motto 'A HOME FOR RESPECT'.

The heart of INVICTUS GAMES DÜSSELDORF 2023 will be the MERKUR SPIEL-ARENA – located directly on the banks of the Rhine

It offers space for 54,600 spectators and unforgettable ceremonies and competitions. This is where the Games will open and a large part of them will be held.

But the entire area around the arena will also be included in the Games. This is where the Invictus Games Park will be created where, in addition to other competitions, cultural events and open sports activities for the public will take place.

The Invictus Games Park includes the sports facilities, such as the cycling track, the Rhine pool and the Invictus Village – our meeting place for competitors, fans and visitors, with accommodation, meeting points, souvenir stores and gastronomy.












The unique one-location concept of INVICTUS GAMES

DÜSSELDORF 2023 thus offers space for an intensive sports experience, as well as room for community and dialogue.



INVICTUS GAMES DÜSSELDORF 2023

GAMES SCHEDULE

	Saturday 09.09.		Sunday 10.09.		Monday 11.09.		Tuesday 12.09.			
	Stage	Center Court	Stage	Athletics Track	Athletics Field	Center Court	Athletics Track	Athletics Field	Center Court / Field I	Stage
09:00										
09:30				1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4		1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4		
10:00				Qualification	Qualification & Finals	Quarter Finals	Finals	Finals	Pool Matches	Finals
10:30			Finals							
11:00										
11:30										
12:00										
12:30		Pool Matches								
13:00										
13:30			Finals							Finals
14:00										
14:30										
15:00						Semi Finals				
15:30										
16:00										
16:30										
17:00										
17:30			Finals							
18:00										
18:30	Opening Ceremony									
19:00										
19:30						3rd Place				
20:00						Final				
20:30										
21:00										
21:30										

As of July 2023 – The schedule is subject to change.



Archery



Athletics



Indoor Rowing



Power Lifting



Sitting Volleyball



Cycling



RESILIENCE THROUGH ADAPTIVE SPORTS: ANNIKA HUTSLER'S PATH TO INVICTUS

By Alyssa McBeth

Inspirational journeys often arise from the depths of struggle and resilience. Retired Lance Corporal Annika Hutsler's story is no exception. As a member of Team U.S. for the Invictus Games, Hutsler's journey into the world of adaptive sports and her determination to overcome challenges have made her an inspiring figure for many. In an exclusive interview, she shared her experiences, aspirations, and the transformative power of sports.

Discovering the World of Adaptive Sports

For Hutsler, her introduction to adaptive sports came as a result of her service in the Marine Corps. Prior to her injury, she was sent to the Wounded Warrior Battalion, where she became a part of a community that encouraged adaptive sports to promote physical activity and camaraderie among service members. Despite having no prior experience in sports, Hutsler was captivated by the coaches and facilities available. Even before her leg amputation, she found herself falling in love with these activities. "After my amputation," said Hutsler. I just went off with it. I went from doing zero sports to now I do 19 sports regularly."

Competing at the Invictus Games

The Invictus Games presented an extraordinary opportunity for Hutsler to showcase her athletic skills. Although a newcomer to the event, she will be competing in an impressive five sports, including her favorite – track. As a sprinter, she has already tasted success in wheelchair track events, taking home two silver medals at the DoD Warrior Games only eight weeks after her amputation.

"I remember during that competition [DoD Warrior Games] thinking, the next competition I'm doing, I'm going to be upright running," said Hutsler. "So that's been a really big goal for me from the beginning, and to be doing it at Invictus Games – it's just unreal! I'm so excited to be doing it."

The Transformative Impact of Sports on Physical and Mental Health

The benefits of adaptive sports extend far beyond physical fitness. Engaging in sports has been pivotal in her journey to recovery and well-being, both physically and mentally. On the physical front, the pursuit of her goals motivated her to push herself harder during physical therapy, accelerating her progress compared to many of her peers.

"Sports really did save my life," said Hutsler. "When I was going through my limb salvage, and after my amputation... it gets really hard. It can be a really depressing place. But having these sports available to me, I was making these commitments to my coaches, to my peers. I said I was going to be at practice the next day, and even the days I didn't want to get out of bed, I made that promise. Sports really do play into my mental health more than anything else. I really think sports are a big reason I'm here today."

The Anticipation of the Invictus Games

As the Invictus Games draw nearer, Hutsler eagerly anticipates being part of a community once again. Losing her limb and retiring from the Marine Corps left her with a void in her sense of belonging and camaraderie. The Invictus Games offer a unique opportunity to reunite with like-minded individuals who share similar goals and experiences, rekindling the sense of community she thought she had lost forever.

"I'm excited to be part of a community again," said Hutsler. "Our culture is very

similar, even though we're all different branches. I'm really excited to just be around other people who have the same goals again."

Future Aspirations

Beyond the Invictus Games, Annika's ambitions in adaptive sports continue to flourish. Recently, she discovered a passion for skiing and has set her sights on competing in Alpine Skiing at the 2026 Paralympic Games. Her love for skiing has grown and she hopes to move to Salt Lake City for full-time training with the developmental team.

A Message for Aspiring Athletes

For those hesitant to explore the world of adaptive sports, Hutsler's advice is simple yet powerful: "You don't have to be good at things to enjoy them." She encourages individuals to let go of the fear of not being proficient and instead embrace the joy and sense of community that comes with participating in sports. She believes that starting somewhere and having fun is the key to unlocking the transformative potential of adaptive sports.

Hutsler's journey from the Wounded Warrior Battalion to the Invictus Games is nothing short of inspiring. Her determination, resilience, and passion have not only helped her on her path to recovery but also inspired many others. As she prepares to represent Team U.S., Hutsler serves as a shining example to all. The Invictus Games will undoubtedly be enriched by her presence, and her story will continue to resonate long after the competition has ended.



TRIUMPH OVER ADVERSITY: AN INTERVIEW WITH LAUREN MONTOYA, CO-CAPTAIN OF TEAM U.S.

By Alyssa McBeth

From her initial foray into adaptive sports to her upcoming participation in the 2023 Invictus Games, Retired Sgt. 1st Class Lauren Montoya, U.S. Special Operations Command, shares her experiences and sheds light on the importance of funding for these life-changing programs.

Discovering Adaptive Sports

Montoya's journey into the world of adaptive sports began around early 2015 when she got involved with the Special Operations Command's adaptive sports program. However, it wasn't until 2016 that she participated in her first Invictus Games in Orlando. Following her debut, Montoya competed in the Warrior Games in Colorado Springs and even had the privilege of being a part of the planning staff for the 2019 Warrior Games.

Embracing New Challenges

With a fierce determination to embrace new challenges, Montoya competes in an impressive range of 4-5 sports, including seated volleyball, wheelchair basketball, swimming, track, and indoor rowing. While some of these sports were unfamiliar to her before her injury, Montoya's willingness to explore uncharted territory has been instrumental in her successful transition into the world of adaptive sports.

Adaptive Sports: A Pathway to Recovery

For Montoya, adaptive sports became more than just a competitive outlet; they became a lifeline after her injury. The camaraderie and support she

found among the community of fellow athletes made the challenging journey of recovery much more manageable.

"With adaptive sports, it made the transition a lot easier just because there were people I could relate to, people I could lean on, people I could ask for advice or felt supported," said Montoya.



A Shifting Passion

As Montoya's journey has evolved, so too have her favorite sports. While seated volleyball holds a special place in her heart due to the teamwork involved, she also finds joy in swimming, track, indoor rowing, and wheelchair basketball. Her passion for each sport has ebbed and flowed over time, depending on her physical location and the opportunities available. Nevertheless, her love for each discipline has remained unwavering.

The Anticipation of Invictus Games

Looking ahead to the Invictus Games

in Germany, Montoya expresses her excitement at being part of the diverse U.S. team.

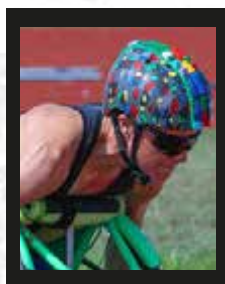
"It's very unique in that Invictus is the one time you get to be mixed with athletes from the other services and really just kind of meld and work together to accomplish individual goals or team goals," said Montoya. "It's just really fun to be part of this massive U.S. team."

Advocating for Funding and Opportunities

Finally, Montoya emphasizes the significance of funding for adaptive sports programs, not just for active duty service members, but also for Veterans. These programs provide invaluable support and empowerment to wounded, ill, and injured service members, opening doors to new opportunities and life-changing experiences.

"I just don't want to see these programs go away when I know how much good comes out of them," said Montoya. "As someone who was able to take advantage of the opportunities and all the doors that being a part of adaptive sports have opened, I just want that for the next generation of service members."

From her early introduction to adaptive sports through her remarkable achievements in multiple disciplines, Montoya's determination and passion serve as an inspiration to athletes and individuals alike.



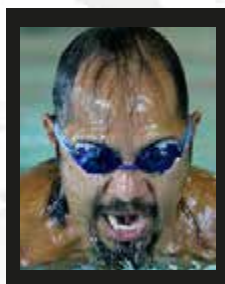
Heather Sealover

United States Air Force



Major
Active Duty

Cycling
Field
Indoor Rowing
Swimming
Track



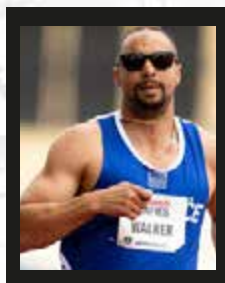
Garrett Kuwada

United States Air Force



Chief Master
Sergeant
Veteran

Cycling
Field
Swimming
Track



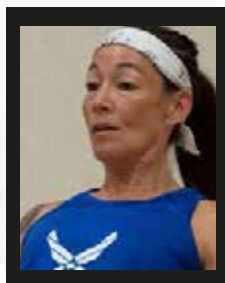
Greg Walker

United States Air Force



Staff
Sergeant
Veteran

Cycling
Field
Indoor Rowing
Track



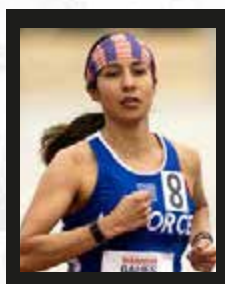
Nicole Favuzza

United States Air Force



Senior Master
Sergeant
Active Duty

Cycling
Field
Indoor Rowing
Swimming
Track



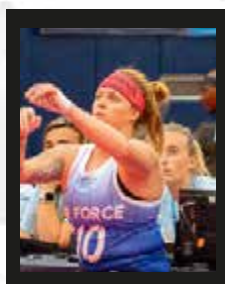
Jessica Garcia

United States Air Force



Technical
Sergeant
Active Duty

Archery
Field
Indoor Rowing
Track



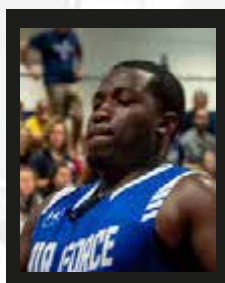
Carly James

United States Air Force



Staff
Sergeant
Active Duty

Indoor Rowing
Sitting Volleyball
Swimming
Track
Wheelchair Basketball



Demarcus Garrett

United States Air Force



Staff
Sergeant
Active Duty

Archery
Field
Wheelchair Basketball
Wheelchair Rugby



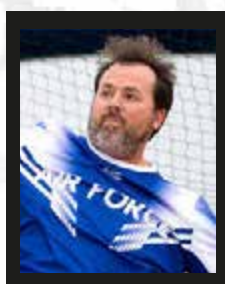
Kevin Greene

United States Air Force



Technical
Sergeant
Active Duty

Cycling
Sitting Volleyball
Track
Wheelchair Basketball
Wheelchair Rugby



Justin James

United States Air Force



Master
Sergeant
Veteran

Archery
Field
Sitting Volleyball
Swimming



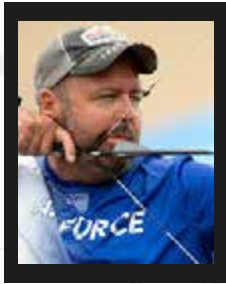
Christopher Ferrell

United States Air Force



Technical
Sergeant
Veteran

Indoor Rowing
Powerlifting



Scott Caroon

United States Air Force

Master Sergeant
 Veteran



Archery
 Field
 Indoor Rowing
 Swimming
 Track



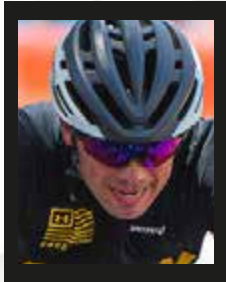
Christian Vega

United States Air Force

Senior Airman
 Veteran



Cycling
 Indoor Rowing
 Swimming
 Track



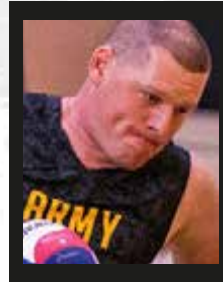
Ryan Arthur

United States Army

First Lieutenant
 Active Duty



Cycling
 Field
 Swimming
 Track



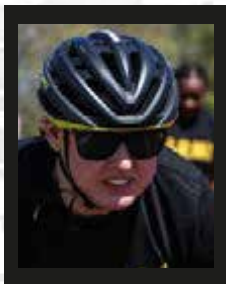
Gerald Blakley

United States Army

Specialist
 Veteran



Field
 Track
 Wheelchair Basketball
 Wheelchair Rugby



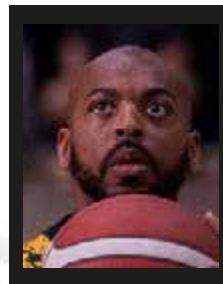
Victoria Camire

United States Army

Major
 Veteran



Cycling
 Field
 Indoor Rowing
 Swimming
 Table Tennis
 Track



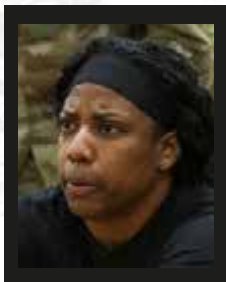
Brent Garlic

United States Army

Specialist
 Veteran



Cycling
 Powerlifting
 Wheelchair Basketball
 Wheelchair Rugby



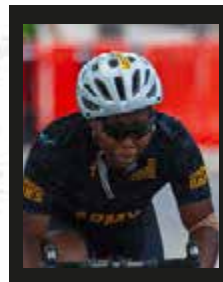
Corine Hamilton

United States Army

Specialist
 Veteran



Cycling
 Field
 Track



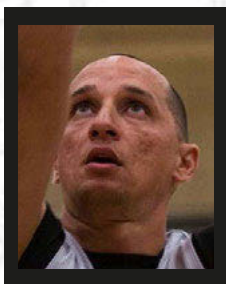
Tiffanie Johnson

United States Army

Corporal
 Veteran



Cycling
 Field
 Track



Earl Ohlinger

United States Army

Master Sergeant
 Veteran



Cycling
 Field
 Track



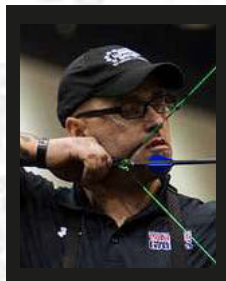
Joshua Olson

United States Army

Sergeant First Class
 Veteran



Archery
 Field
 Sitting Volleyball



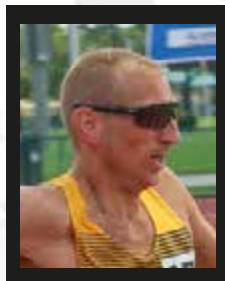
Greg Quarles

United States Army

Sergeant
First Class
Veteran



Cycling
Indoor Rowing
Table Tennis



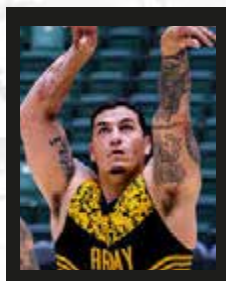
Jeffrey Peters

United States Army

Sergeant
First Class
Active Duty



Cycling
Field
Indoor Rowing
Swimming
Table Tennis
Track



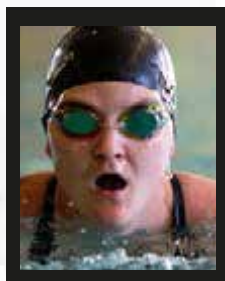
Jason Smith

United States Army

Staff
Sergeant
Veteran



Indoor Rowing
Powerlifting
Sitting Volleyball



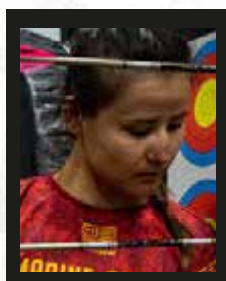
Angela Euson

United States Army

Specialist
Veteran



Field
Indoor Rowing
Swimming
Track



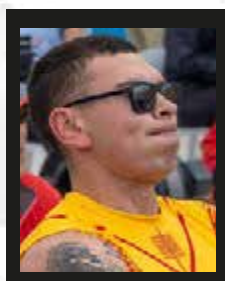
Faheemah Bostan-Ali

United States Marine Corps

Corporal
Veteran



Archery
Field
Sitting Volleyball
Track



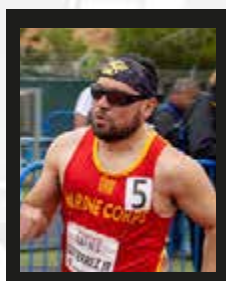
Xavier Cardona

United States Marine Corps

Corporal
Active Duty



Field
Indoor Rowing
Table Tennis
Track



Rosendo Gutierrez

United States Marine Corps

Staff Sergeant
Active Duty



Cycling
Indoor Rowing
Track



Patrick Nugent

United States Marine Corps

Captain
Veteran



Cycling
Field
Indoor Rowing
Powerlifting
Table Tennis



Danielle Pothoof

United States Marine Corps

Staff
Sergeant
Veteran



Cycling
Sitting Volleyball
Swimming
Table Tennis
Track
Wheelchair Basketball



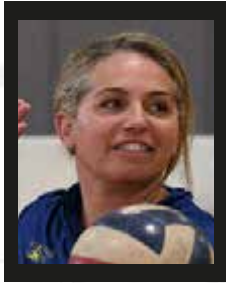
Denise Medina

United States Marine Corps

Gunnery
Sergeant
Active Duty



Cycling
Powerlifting
Swimming



Cydney Rose

United States Marine Corps

First Sergeant
 Active Duty



Archery
 Powerlifting
 Sitting Volleyball
 Swimming
 Table Tennis



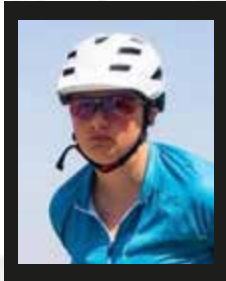
Kionte Storey

United States Marine Corps

Corporal
 Veteran



Indoor Rowing
 Swimming
 Track



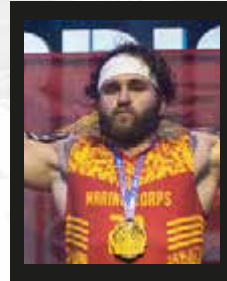
Andrea Collins

United States Marine Corps

Lance Corporal
 Active Duty



Cycling
 Indoor Rowing
 Swimming
 Table Tennis
 Track



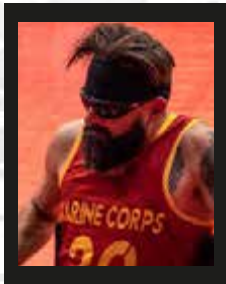
Daniel Norman

United States Marine Corps

Corporal
 Veteran



Indoor Rowing
 Powerlifting
 Table Tennis
 Track
 Wheelchair Basketball
 Wheelchair Rugby



William Pieczarka

United States Marine Corps

Master Sergeant
 Veteran



Archery
 Indoor Rowing
 Swimming
 Table Tennis
 Wheelchair Basketball



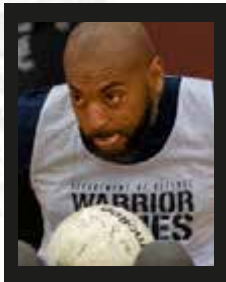
Annika Hutsler

United States Marine Corps

Lance Corporal
 Veteran



Field Swimming
 Table Tennis
 Track
 Wheelchair Rugby



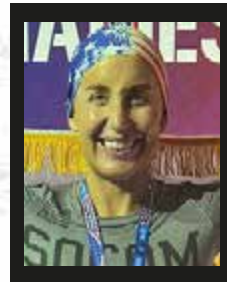
Jacob "Jake" Anthony

United States SOCOM

Sergeant First Class
 Veteran



Indoor Rowing
 Sitting Volleyball
 Track
 Wheelchair Rugby



Alanna Ball

United States SOCOM

Lieutenant Commander
 Veteran



Powerlifting
 Swimming



Brian Castillo

United States SOCOM

Sergeant First Class
 Veteran



Cycling
 Indoor Rowing
 Swimming
 Table Tennis
 Track



Kevin Coleman

United States SOCOM

Staff Sergeant
 Veteran



Indoor Rowing
 Track



Brian Hotchkiss

United States SOCOM

Major
Active Duty

Cycling
Swimming



Tiffany Hudgins

United States SOCOM

Gunnery
Sergeant
Veteran

Archery
Indoor Rowing
Powerlifting

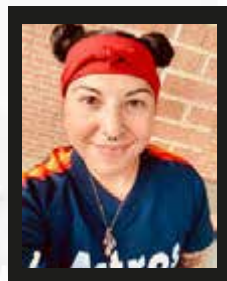


Werner "Tiny" Mammen

United States SOCOM

Senior Chief
Petty Officer
Veteran

Archery
Field
Swimming



Lauren Montoya

United States SOCOM

Sergeant
First Class
Veteran

Indoor Rowing
Sitting Volleyball
Track
Wheelchair Basketball



Ivan Morera

United States SOCOM

Master
Sergeant
Active Duty

Archery
Field
Indoor Rowing

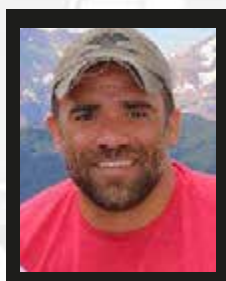


Anthony "Tony" Smith

United States SOCOM

Lieutenant
Colonel
Active Duty

Archery
Field
Indoor Rowing
Wheelchair Basketball



Isaiah Staley

United States SOCOM

Lieutenant
Veteran

Indoor Rowing
Swimming

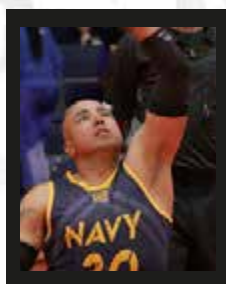


Alfred "Davey" Martinez

United States SOCOM

Master
Sergeant
Veteran

Archery
Field
Sitting Volleyball
Table Tennis
Wheelchair Rugby

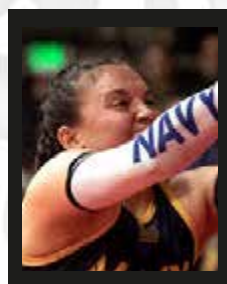


Donald Calero

United States Navy

Hospital
Corpsman
2nd Class
Active Duty

Archery
Field
Sitting Volleyball
Swimming



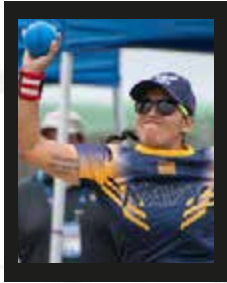
Kayla Saska

United States Navy

Fire
Controlman
2nd Class
Active Duty

Archery
Field
Track
Wheelchair Basketball



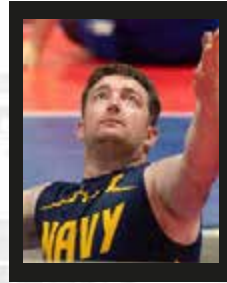


Jamie Lopez

United States Navy

Hospital Corpsman
 1st Class
 Active Duty

Cycling
 Field
 Indoor Rowing
 Sitting Volleyball
 Table Tennis
 Wheelchair Rugby

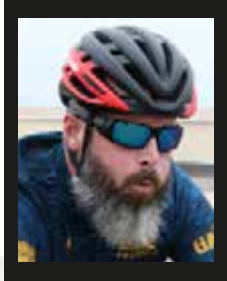


Matthew Parker

United States Navy

Chief Engineman
 Active Duty

Cycling
 Table Tennis



William Crews

United States Navy

Lieutenant
 Veteran

Cycling
 Field
 Indoor Rowing
 Swimming
 Wheelchair Rugby

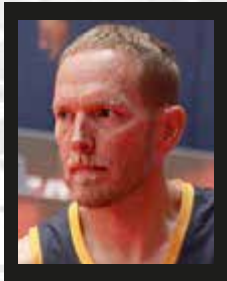


Sara Rockhold

United States Navy

Hospital Corpsman
 2nd Class
 Veteran

Cycling
 Indoor Rowing
 Powerlifting
 Table Tennis



Travis Wyatt

United States Navy

Operation Specialist
 1st Class
 Veteran

Archery
 Cycling
 Field
 Swimming



Julius McManus

United States Navy

Chief Navy Diver
 Veteran

Cycling
 Field
 Sitting Volleyball
 Swimming
 Track
 Wheelchair Basketball



Jessica McHam-Rewerts

United States Navy

Chief Yeoman
 Veteran

Archery
 Indoor Rowing
 Table Tennis
 Track
 Wheelchair Rugby



Lorraine Currow

United States Coast Guard

Yeoman
 1st Class
 Veteran

Cycling
 Indoor Rowing
 Powerlifting
 Table Tennis



Suzanne Brown

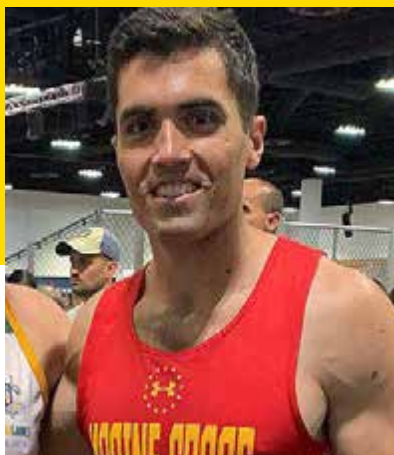
United States Coast Guard

Captain
 Veteran

Cycling
 Field
 Indoor Rowing
 Swimming
 Track



A HOME FOR RESPECT.



PATRICK NUGENT'S INSPIRING JOURNEY TO THE INVICTUS GAMES

By Alyssa McBeth

The Invictus Games, a symbol of strength and resilience for wounded, injured, or sick service personnel and veterans, boasts a roster of remarkable individuals, including Patrick Nugent, Co-Captain of Team U.S. In this exclusive interview, Nugent, a retired Marine Corps Captain, shares his awe-inspiring story of overcoming adversity, finding purpose through adaptive sports, and his journey to shine on the global stage of the Invictus Games.

Nugent's journey to the Invictus Games began with a life-altering event—an injury during his service as a Marine. It was in the aftermath of his injury that he discovered adaptive sports, thanks to a key figure at Walter Reed in charge of adaptive sports. The Invictus Games caught his attention, and he was determined to be part of the event.

However, fate had other plans. Nugent was initially selected for the Invictus Games in The Hague, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event was postponed, coinciding with his graduation from Wharton, the University of Pennsylvania's prestigious business school. Undeterred, he reapplied and secured his spot for this year's games in Düsseldorf.

Competing in five different events—cycling, indoor rowing, powerlifting, table tennis, and field—Nugent has found solace and passion in adaptive sports. He ranks powerlifting, indoor rowing, and cycling as his top three favorites, showcasing his unwavering competitive spirit and dedication to pushing boundaries.

A gunshot wound that severed his right sciatic nerve left Nugent paralyzed from

the knee down, challenging his physical capabilities. However, he refused to be confined by his injury and found ways to adapt, embracing rowing and cycling as alternative ways to fulfill his passion for physical activity.

Beyond the physical benefits, adaptive sports played a pivotal role in Nugent's mental and emotional healing. After a year of grappling with physical limitations, engaging in adaptive sports training provided him with a renewed sense of purpose and an avenue to push his recovery to new heights.

The Warrior Care Program within the Marine Corps introduced him to adaptive sports, creating a supportive environment for wounded service members to explore new athletic pursuits.

"I think at first I was in disbelief that this injury was going to essentially alter my entire life and once I came to grips with that, being in the program there with other individuals that suffered similar injuries or injuries that were way worse," said Nugent. "It was an extra set of people you could talk to and share your



experience with and get assistance."

It was through this program that Patrick found inspiration and discovered a path to graduate school, setting the stage for his post-service success.

As Patrick prepares to represent Team U.S. at the Invictus Games in Düsseldorf, his excitement is amplified by the presence of his family. Their support throughout his recovery has been a pillar of strength, and witnessing him compete on the global stage is a testament to their love and devotion.

Additionally, Nugent looks forward to forging friendships with fellow athletes from different countries. Through sports, he has already developed strong bonds with athletes from Australia during the Warrior Games, and he hopes to continue building connections that transcend borders.

As Nugent looks forward to his next chapter with the Boston Consulting Group in New York City, his educational achievements—a Wharton MBA and an MPA from Harvard Kennedy School—underscore his determination to succeed beyond his military service.

Before joining the NYC office of the Boston Consulting Group, Nugent plans to seize an opportunity to learn Spanish in Spain, further exemplifying his commitment to continuous growth and personal development.

Nugent's journey to the Invictus Games is an awe-inspiring tale of determination, resilience, and the transformative power of adaptive sports. From overcoming adversity to becoming a Co-Captain of Team U.S., he stands as a testament to the human spirit.



Source: Invictus Games 2023

ICE HOCKEY GAME DAY FOR THE INVICTUS GAMES

Invictus On Ice – At the Düsseldorf EC game against Adler Mannheim, athletes from Team Germany Invictus Games will present the pennant gifts to the team captains of both teams. Afterwards, the competitors and support staff from Team Germany, representatives of the DEG, the captains of both teams and representatives of the project team for the organisation of the Invictus Games 2023 will come onto the ice for a group photo in front of the players' bench. In the second period break, Staff Sergeant Stefan Huss, Ambassador for the Invictus Games 2023, will talk in an interview about his own rehabilitation journey and what the Invictus Games mean to him.

It has become a tradition that the Düsseldorf EC also uses its match days to place important social issues. With the Invictus Games, a world-renowned sporting event is coming to Düsseldorf in September, with topics that are more topical than ever. For the competitors at the Invictus Games, it is also about what they have sacrificed for society. This is why DEG also supports the idea of the Invictus Games, which has become even more topical due to the events in Eastern Europe: "Last year left us speechless. Many of our fans responded to the call to attend games of the Ukrainian handball club Motor Zaporizhzhia. As an individual, it is sometimes difficult to bring in your support. Attending the Invictus Games is an important sign here to show recognition and appreciation. Our soldiers in the German Armed Forces stand up for our freedom and peace in this world and accept injury, wounding and illness to do so. It is therefore a matter of course for us to promote attendance at this unique sporting event," emphasises Frieder Feldmann, Press Officer, DEG.

For Brigadier General Alfred Marstaller, Project Manager of the Invictus Games Düsseldorf 2023, today is a special opportunity: "The DEG family is known for its open-heartedness and social sensitivity. For our freedom, we need people who are willing to stand up

for it or defend it – inside and outside the armed forces. The Invictus Games represent a vision of open and fair interaction, breaking down barriers in everyday life and providing forums for the citizenry – in and out of uniform – to exchange ideas. I am therefore delighted that we have been given the opportunity to present the idea of the Invictus Games directly to DEG fans and to invite the fan community directly."

Staff Sergeant Stefan Huss, who himself suffers from PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) due to his deployment in Afghanistan, is an ambassador for the Invictus Games 2023: "The opportunity to present the Invictus Games in front of the DEG fan community is a great honour for me and at the same time an indication of how far I have already come on my personal journey in dealing with my illness. I have been working my way back into everyday life for ten years. Before I started my therapy, I could never have imagined that I would ever be able to visit a packed stadium again because of my own illness. But thanks to the support I also received from the German Armed Forces, I was able to take part in the Invictus Games in Toronto and Sydney myself. And also to stand here today in the PSD BANK DOME. In September, the DEG family has the unique chance to become a part of the personal rehabilitation story of the competitors."

As a sporting event for servicemen and women who are wounded, injured or ill in action or on duty, the Invictus Games want to offer competitors a stage to shift their own physical and mental barriers. The Invictus Games want to be an inspiration, not only for wounded soldiers, but also offer a place where we as a society can give ourselves a vision for living together. The stories of suffering of the competitors and those of their families and closest friends have the potential to inspire people in and out of uniform to push the boundaries of their own trauma and physical disabilities with professional support and perhaps sport.



**A
HOME
FOR
RESPECT.**

FAMILY AND FRIENDS INVICTUS GAMES 2023

As Family & Friends, you will enjoy an extensive benefit programme. Once you arrive in Germany, we will take care of your accommodation and meals. You can use the public transport free of charge every day. In addition to free access to the Games and preferential access to the competitors in exclusive areas of the MERKUR SPIEL-ARENA during the Games, you can also expect a wide range of cultural activities and excursions, as well as other exciting highlights. Our carefully selected volunteers will be on hand at all times to help you create unforgettable experiences at the Invictus Games 2023, so that you will want for nothing during your entire stay.

Further information about the programme will be available shortly before the Games at invictusgames23.de, among other things.

THINGS TO DO IN DÜSSELDORF



City tours



Rhine Tower



Hop-On Hop-Off Bus



Public transport



Panorama cruise



Various museums

Source: Invictus Games 2023

BOEING'S CALLING: TO PROTECT THE HEROES

Source: Invictus Games 2023

Joining the Armed Forces is a calling. I've had the great fortune of visiting military bases across the globe, meeting the brave service members who answered that call. Every time, I'm wildly impressed that – at such a young age and in a world that sometimes values self-importance over humility – these young people chose a career of service and sacrifice.

At Boeing, our mission – our calling – is to protect heroes, save lives and safely bring home our service members to their loved ones. While Boeing is by the side of our service members throughout their military journey, our mission extends to life post-military, too. As service members transition back into civilian life, we welcome them into the workforce, offering meaningful employment opportunities and a chance to help make a difference for future generations of service members. We know their unique perspectives and skillsets are formidable assets to our team.

In 2022, Boeing contributed more than \$13 million in support of veteran causes globally, including employment readiness programs for veterans and their spouses and recovery programs focused on physical, mental and emotional well-being. Through partnerships with many veteran-focused



Boeing employees from the Boeing Veteran Engagement Team (BVET) and Adaptive Training Foundation (ATF) athletes participate in a workout program tailored for individuals with physical disabilities.

nonprofits, we have supported programs including training of service dogs for veterans, building specially adapted homes for injured veterans, and our employees have helped build tiny homes for veterans experiencing homelessness. We firmly believe these heroes deserve the absolute best for all they have done in the name of global security, and we are

committed to doing our part.

As a company that supports military personnel and veterans globally, deepening our connection with this community through the Invictus Games is a natural fit. The Games celebrate and honor the values and never-ending perseverance of those who defend their countries. To all the service members transitioning out of the military and the obstacles that transition brings, know that Boeing is here to help you pursue your next mission.

Please join me in thanking our service members, veterans, and their families for answering the call to serve – today and every day.

Ted Colbert is the president and CEO of Boeing Defense, Space & Security.

“Every time, I’m wildly impressed that – at such a young age and in a world that sometimes values self-importance over humility – these young people chose a career of service and sacrifice.”

Ted Colbert
President and CEO of Boeing Defense, Space & Security

ATHLETICS - IT COULD HARDLY BE MORE VARIABLE

Source: Invictus Games 2023

At the Invictus Games, athletics is one of the most variable sports.

Whether in running, throwing or jumping disciplines – with 14 different categories, everybody is able to participate in athletics events, regardless of whether they rely on a wheelchair or do not require one. The physical performance parameters of the competitors can be assessed and improved individually. For the discus and shot put events, for example, the competitors sit in a throwing chair, to which they are fixed. The competitors will be provided with the discuses and shots to be used in the competitions.



The focus is on the people

Whereas women and men compete in separate events in the individual sprint, discus throwing, shot put and long jump events, there is also a 4 x 100-metre relay race in which mixed-gender teams can compete. This makes this relay race a very special experience for all participants. As with all the other sports competitions at the Invictus Games, it is not the setting of new records that is important, but the people – the focus is on the individual competitors, who have suffered heavy strokes of fate and are striving to overcome them.

This is also confirmed by the sprinter and long jumper Felix Streng, who is one of the 21 civilian Paralympic top athletes promoted by the Bundeswehr: “The Invictus Games tell extraordinary stories of servicemen and women – characterised by courage, motivation, readiness for self-sacrifice, willpower, and solidarity.”

Power and coordination skills are required

Athletics is one of the most ancient sports still practiced today, and already formed an integral part of the Olympic Games in Ancient Greece. It is a multifaceted core sport, which already counted among the eight sports featured in the first Paralympics held in Rome in 1969. The motor skills – power, endurance, speed, agility and coordination – can be enhanced through training in various ways, depending on the requirements and preconditions, and promote rehabilitation in a wide variety of ways in line with the objective. Given the clearly defined performance parameters, athletes are able to assess their personal performance and easily recognise improvements in their motor skills.



FISHER HOUSE FOUNDATION IS PREMIER PARTNER

Source: Invictus Games 2023



Fisher House Foundation is an international nonprofit organization established to improve the quality of life for military personnel, veterans and their families. For more than 30 years, the Fisher House programme has provided comfortable housing for families of patients receiving medical care at major military and Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers. In these accommodations, families of active and former military personnel can stay free of charge to be near their loved ones during medical treatment. To date, there are 94 Fisher Houses located in the USA, Germany and the UK.

Fisher House Foundation enables Family & Friends Program

Fisher House Foundation will continue to sponsor the Invictus Games Family & Friends Programme in 2023, which it helped create in 2014. The programme enables competitors from all participating nations to bring two family members or friends to the Games, accompanying them during this important step on the road to rehabilitation. Family & Friends are an integral part of recovery journey supported by the Invictus Games. In return for having walked the path back to a self-determined life together with the competitors, they are to experience respect and recognition at the Games, enjoy a carefree

time and take away positive memories. Thanks to the programme, Family & Friends are not only able to experience the sporting events with the competitors, they can also explore the city of Düsseldorf with them as part of a cultural and excursion programme. Further benefits will include free travel and accommodation on site, free use of public transport and meals during the Games.

International Sports event under the banner of recovery and rehabilitation

This year, the sixth Invictus Games will take place from September 9-16 in Düsseldorf, Germany for the first time. More than 500 wounded, injured and sick service personnel and veterans from 22 nations will take part in ten sports. What counts is not elite performance, but competition, people, team spirit and the will to live. Through sport, the competitors draw strength for their recovery and rehabilitation. Their sporting achievements show their progress in their recovery and their will to find their way back into life after serious injuries or illnesses.

“We have been honored to partner with the Invictus Games for the past ten years and are excited for the Invictus Games Düsseldorf 2023.”

Ken Fisher
Fisher House Foundation Chairman and CEO

About Fisher House Foundation

Fisher House Foundation is best known for its network of nearly 100 comfort homes where military and veteran families can stay at no cost while a loved one is receiving treatment. These homes are located at major military and VA medical facilities nationwide, and in Europe, close to the medical facility they serve. Fisher Houses have up to 21 suites, with private bedrooms and baths. Families share a common kitchen, laundry facilities, a warm dining room and an inviting living room. Fisher House Foundation ensures that there is never a lodging fee. Since inception, the program has saved military and veteran families an estimated \$575 million in out-of-pocket costs for lodging and transportation.



FROM SERVICE TO SUCCESS

HOW AMAZON EMPOWERS VETERANS IN THE WORKFORCE, THE COMMUNITY, AND ADAPTIVE SPORTS

Courtesy of Amazon

Meet Tim Bomke, war Veteran, senior partner account manager with Amazon Web Services and avid sports enthusiast. The southern California native joined the Army after college in 2002. Following his training, Bomke was deployed to Iraq where he was severely wounded in action during an IED ambush. This attack cost Bomke his right leg below the knee and left him with severe injuries on his left leg. However, his tenacity and resilience gave him the strength he needed to start the second part of his military journey and a road to recovery alongside family, fellow veterans and his adaptive sports partners.

After retiring from the military in 2008, Bomke worked for the Department of Defense (DoD) and eventually moved into military

affairs work. During his time with the DoD, Bomke was approached by a friend who worked at Amazon to consider joining his team's effort to create innovative programs for servicemembers transitioning into the civilian workforce.

"He came to me and said 'Hey, you know, I want you to think about coming over to do military affairs for Amazon,'" said Bomke. "And boy, was that a no brainer for me to go to work for a company like Amazon—a company where you can break barriers to support the military community that faces a lot of challenges."

In 2016, Jeff Bezos joined the White House Joining Forces initiative and pledged to hire 25,000 veterans and military spouses in five years. This sparked the beginning of the Global Military Affairs team's mission to

be Earth's most military-friendly company. After surpassing the goal ahead of schedule, Amazon quadrupled its commitment and pledged to hire 100,000 veterans and military spouses by 2024. Bomke joined this team in September of 2016, where he helped developed programs to hire, offer professional development, and support military members across Amazon and in the community.

Amazon offers many programs to assist transitioning service members and military spouses as they shift into civilian careers. The company funds skills training through initiatives like the Amazon Technical Apprenticeship Program and AWS re/Start. They also offer free upskilling opportunities for military community members to gain technical skills and move into high

demand and high-paying jobs, such as Career Choice and the Amazon Technical Academy.

“At Amazon, we deeply value the skills, service, and sacrifices of veterans and the military community,” said John Quintas, Director of Inclusive Communities at Amazon. “Our commitment goes beyond just hiring veterans; it involves creating an inclusive environment that supports their growth and development at Amazon and beyond.”

In addition to veterans, military spouses at Amazon have access to fellowships, mentorships, military spouse support, deployment benefits, and the Warriors@Amazon military-focused affinity group for employees in the military community. Through Program Honor, Amazon works to improve the lives of veterans and their families by solving the communities toughest challenges: veteran suicide, mental wellbeing, disability support, and urgent needs like homelessness and food insecurity.

The culture of innovation and support of the military community set the tone for Bomke’s almost 7-year career with Amazon; and as he’s watched the company continue to create new opportunities for veterans and their families, he is grateful for the personal support he’s received while pursuing his personal passions.

“I started some new sports that were not what I did before,” said Bomke. “I had swam growing up in Southern California, but I was never a competitive swimmer and I was never on a team. I had to start from square one and I had a great coach that helped me out.”

Bomke began his adaptive sports journey through camps such as the Olympic Training Center to remain active. In 2017, he had the opportunity to learn about the U.S.-based Warrior Games and the international Invictus

Games—two events dedicated to active recovery through adaptive sports and a celebration of resiliency for wounded, ill, and injured active duty and veteran service members.

With the support of his family and leadership team at Amazon, Bomke went on to compete in seven different sports during the 2018 and 2019 Warrior Games for Army Team, including, swimming, sitting volleyball, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair rugby, shot put, discus, and wheelchair tennis. He earned 11 winning medals.

“When I was competing, my director at the time got really into it himself,” said Bomke. “He since left Amazon, but he fully supported this. Anyone that I was able to talk to, both on my team and in other parts of the business that got involved, I got them to come to the games and see the benefits of it [adaptive sports], shared it with others, and I got Amazon to support the games which really meant a lot.”

The decorated, adaptive sports athlete later accepted the opportunity to join Team U.S. for the 2020 Invictus Games. Although his dreams to participate were cut short due to the Covid-19 pandemic, he remains grateful for making the team and inspired to advocate for adaptive sports.

Bomke believes that participating in adaptive sports helped improve his overall health and wellbeing—a common challenge for amputees,



Tim Bomke (center) with former Amazon employees, Sean Kelly (left) and Beau Higgins (right), after winning 3 medals at the 2019 Warrior Games. Courtesy of Tim Bomke.

according to Human Performance Resources by CHAMP (HPRC).

“My first competition in the Warrior Games was in 2018 and that was more than 10 years since I was medically retired,” said Bomke. “Whether you’re active duty, going through a medical retirement or separation, or you’ve been out for 10 years or longer like I have, there’s a way to get involved in adaptive sports. It’s extremely important to pursue activities that add to mental and physical wellness, so you can stay out of those dark places.”

Through the continued advocacy of veterans like Bomke and Amazon’s greater military community, Amazon is signed on to serve as the official Ticket Partner of the 2023 Invictus Games where they will provide free admission to all attendees.

Learn more about Amazon’s Global Military Affairs team’s fellowship programs and career opportunities for veterans and military spouses at <https://www.amazon.jobs/en/military>.

Amazon will hire 100,000 veterans and military spouses by 2024

**Are you ready
to embrace
the challenge?**

military


amazon.jobs/en/military

