

# Staff Sgt. Andrew Fink

U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC)



**Assigned Unit:** 409th Area Support Medical Company  
**Military Occupational Specialty:** Health Care Specialist (68W)

**Hometown:** Cook, Minn.

**Year of Enlistment:** 2007

## **What were your job responsibilities while deployed?**

I am a Special Operations Combat Medic for my assigned platoon.

## **What is the most interesting thing about your time deployed that you want to share with the American People?**

The most interesting part of deployment is the amount of coalition support there was amongst all the countries fighting the war on terrorism. Every one of the foreign troops that I worked with and met were happy be there doing their job.

## **Do you have any family members who have served or are serving in the military?**

My father volunteered and enlisted in the Army 1970-73 as an infantryman. He was stationed in Germany for two years and served one tour in Vietnam.

## **What military awards and achievements have you received or accomplished?**

My awards include the Distinguished Honor Graduate in basic and AIT. Honor graduate from Special Operations Combat Medic (SOCM) Course, Commandant's List from the Warrior Leader Course. Graduate of Airborne School, the Ranger Indoctrination Program, SOCM, Ranger Course, SERE-C, two deployments in support of OEF. Recipient of the Expert Field Medical Badge, Combat Medic Badge, German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency (Silver), three ARCOMs, four AAMs. Distinguished Honor Graduate of the Senior Leaders Course.

## **Why did you join the Army?**

I joined the Army because it was the right time for me to go on an adventure. After attending college for four years with most of my friends graduating and ending a long-term relationship, I was interested in pursuing a career in the Army. I had gone through MEPS (Military Entrance Processing Station) a few years earlier but never signed the contract and I thought that it was the right time. The Army was never a foreign thing to me, due to my father serving in the Army and law enforcement. I grew up hiking and hunting/recreational shooting. The mental and physical challenges of the Army are what attracted me to this career.

**Why did you choose your MOS?**

I chose my MOS because it was very similar to the degree I had been pursuing at the University of Minnesota in Kinesiology. I thought they would both help me to be better in the Army at my job, and if I ever got out, vice versa.

**What motivated you to compete in the DA level Best Warrior Competition?**

Two reasons: I wanted to show my Soldiers in my platoon that if you have a goal, make a plan, work hard and are dedicated, then you can pursue and be successful in anything. Just because we are in the Army Reserve and have very, very busy lives does not mean we cannot have great success in the Army. Secondly, I wanted to prove to myself that I could still compete and perform at a high level, like my time with 3rd Ranger Battalion, after having major knee surgery and getting older.

**If successful in accomplishing your goal as one of the Army's Best Warriors, what do you think your role would be in representing the Army?**

Obviously, my role would be as an ambassador for the Army and getting whatever message needs to be said to the Soldiers currently serving. I feel as though I could do a great job relating to all three components of the Army, whether it was active duty, the reserves, or active Guard Reserve, because I have served in all three capacities and understand the challenges faced in each one.

**Who is your professional mentor?**

I have had many great mentors in my career. Currently, my professional mentor is my first sergeant. His years of experience and knowledge help me out every day.

**How did your mentor help you in your professional career?**

My first sergeant helps me through the everyday challenges and issues I face every day as an AGR Soldier. As an AGR Soldier, I have to have a hand in every aspect of the unit and his knowledge and experience help me to navigate it all.

**Who or what inspires you?**

My father has always been a motivator and person I aspire to be and surpass. My mother is always there to support me/anyone and lend a kind word when needed. All of the all-time greats, in business and sports, always inspire me with their dedication to excellence and their incredible work ethics.

**What are your military career goals for the future?**

My military career goals are to become a command sergeant major so that I may continue to lead, mentor, and influence Soldiers. I want to be able to serve the Army in a way that inspires those Soldiers in my charge to be inspired to do the best that they can, not just perform the minimum.

**What was the biggest challenge along the way to get to this level of competition?**

Finding the time to train and be able to focus on the competition with all the other distractors of work and personal life.

**Who is your Sponsor? How did they help prepare you for this level of competition?**

My first sergeant ensured I received the proper support from work, gave me a focus on what I should be training, quizzed me on my board questions and gave me mock boards.

**What will be the most challenging event for you? Why?**

The Ruck March is the most challenging for me because of my short legs.

**What do you think will be your best/favorite event? Why?**

My best/favorite event is always land navigation. I enjoy being alone in the wilderness facing and overcoming the challenges that may be encountered on the course.

**What are some significant facts about you that are not known by others; i.e. interesting stories, unique hobbies or accomplishments?**

I was a member of my high school knowledge bowl team. I was on the Minnesota state championship team my senior year.

**What are your hobbies/special interests?**

My hobbies are trivia, reading, movies, music, any/all sports leagues, hiking, target shooting, and traveling.