

Sgt. James Gawlowski

U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM)

Assigned Unit: Delta Battery 3-4 Air Defense Artillery, 108th Brigade

Military Occupational Specialty: Patriot Missile Enhanced Operator and Maintainer (14E)

Hometown: Macomb, Mich.

Year of Enlistment: 2010



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

My grandfather was in the Marine Corps.

What military awards and achievements have you received or accomplished?

I have two Meritorious Service Medals, Army Commendation Medal, three Army Achievement Medals, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Korea Defense Service Medal, Non Commission Officer Development Ribbon, Army Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Ribbon, three Certificates of Achievement, Air Assault Badge, and the Airborne Badge.

Why did you join the Army?

I joined because I felt that it was a very honorable profession. I felt that as the world gets more complex and more foreign issues arise I could help the United States and other service members solve the problem.

Why did you choose your MOS?

I feel that as a member of an Air Defense unit it helps serve the nation's defensive capability that could be easily exploited should it not be in place.

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

It not only brings credit to yourself and your unit, but it also shows other Soldiers that they can achieve more as long as they are willing to show a level of hard work, motivation, and dedication.

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?

I figure my role will to be a professional who represents the Army Values and what you can achieve while in the military.

Who is your professional mentor?

My mentor is 1st Sgt. Aaron Townsend.

How did your mentor help you in your professional career?

1st Sgt. Aaron Townsend gave me advice, inspiration, and motivation to achieve different goals. After becoming a junior noncommissioned officer, he gave me great advice on different avenues and services available to help Soldiers train and take care of any issues they might have.

Who or what inspires you?

It's not any person or thing that inspires me. It's a culmination of life experience and a proud family history that drives me to achieve higher.

What are your military career goals for the future?

My goals are to graduate Ranger School, return to Special Forces Qualification Course and graduate, and then possibly Federal employment.

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

The amount of preparation required while balancing training, work, and personal life had been my biggest challenge.

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

1st Sgt. Aaron Townsend helped me study necessary material and train in different areas needed to win previous competitions.

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

The most challenging will be stress shooting. It's a training event that I rarely encounter.

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

My favorite event will be the obstacle course. Historically, I'm pretty good at obstacle courses.

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

I spent two years in Special Forces Qualification before getting academically relieved at Robin Sage.

What are your hobbies/special interests?

Lifting Weights, Collecting Firearms, Auto mechanics, Off-roading, Billiards

Do you have any additional information you'd like to share?

This series of competitions and overall experience, though stressful at times, has been a very enjoyable one. I highly recommend this to anyone who wants to achieve higher goals in the military and pick up very good training experiences along the way.