

Sgt. Kristopher A. Grayson

Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC)



Assigned Unit: Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Military Occupational Specialty: Military Satellite Communications Systems Operator/Maintainer (25S)

Hometown: Augusta, Ga.

Year of Enlistment: 2012

What were your job responsibilities while deployed?

I have not had the opportunity to deploy.

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

My mother served 26 years in the U.S. Army retiring as a sergeant first class. My father served 24 years in the U.S. Army retiring as a master sergeant.

What military awards and achievements have you received or accomplished?

My awards include the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal (one OLC), National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, seven Certificates of Achievement, the Army Basic Space Badge and the Driver and Mechanic Badge-Wheeled.

Why did you join the Army?

Growing up as an Army brat, I have wanted to enlist in the Army since I was a child. I felt that as a Soldier I could help to defend freedom and have the satisfaction that comes from serving my country.

Why did you choose your MOS?

I was not technically proficient in information technology throughout my life. I felt that working in satellite communications would expose me to the knowledge I desired.

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

I have always been a very competitive person. I know that competing in the Best Warrior Competition would put me up against the best the Army has to offer. I also want to set myself apart from my peers.

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 think my role would be representing the Army at various events throughout fiscal 2016 and exemplifying the five essential characteristics of the Army Profession.

Who is your professional mentor?

My professional mentors are my mother and father.

How did your mentor help you in your professional career?

They have instilled in me what it is to be a soldier since I was a child. They have taught me how to carry myself and what it takes to be successful in the United States Army. Remaining a professional at all times. Maintaining a healthy balance between work and home.

Who or what inspires you?

I get my inspiration to be great every time I am with my family.

What are your military career goals for the future?

My military goals are to help in the fight to defend freedom and to continue to train and lead soldiers as a command sergeant major.

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

The biggest challenge for me has been balancing the preparation for the competitions and my family life. My son is 6 months old and my wife is an operations supervisor for J.B. Hunt. Our schedules do not coordinate with one another. If it were not for family and friends, I would not have been able to excel at both.

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

My sponsor is Staff Sgt. Abigail Keller. She has prepared me by thoroughly immersing me in what it is to be a noncommissioned officer. She has set aside time for me to train and to train with me. This training has led to my success in prior competitions and will continue until I am the Department of the Army Best Warrior.

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

I believe the most challenging event will be the mystery events. Only because of the uncertainty ahead. With my quick, adaptive-thinking abilities I will be able to accomplish the mission.

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

I think my best and favorite event will be the obstacle course. I have completed Spartan Races and Tough Mudders providing me with a lot of experience in such events.

What are your hobbies/special interests?

Coaching and playing sports and spending time with my family.