

Sgt. 1st Class Elijah Dean Howlett

U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR)



Assigned Unit: 1st Squadron 9151 Calvary Regiment, 173 Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne)

Military Occupational Specialty: Infantry (11B)

Hometown: Chatsworth, Calif.

Year of Enlistment: 2005

What were your job responsibilities while deployed?

I have served in multiple positions while deployed, ranging from machine gunner, Bradley fighting vehicle driver, grenadier, team leader, squad leader, and platoon sergeant.

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

The chance to deploy to a foreign country and operate in a manner that is helping the people of the USA is the most interesting part.

What military awards and achievements have you received or accomplished?

My awards include a Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, six Army Commendation Medals, and seven Army Achievement Medals.

Why did you join the Army?

I joined to do a job that people were not willing to do or would not want to do.

Why did you choose your MOS?

I wanted to be Infantry to be first in and last out of everywhere the Army finds it best fit to send me.

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

My motivation is to support my squadron and brigade in a manner that will motivate the younger Soldiers to step up and want to compete and better themselves.

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?

My role will be to support and execute anything my chain of command and NCO support channel ask of me.

Who is your professional mentor?

Command Sgt. Maj. Akuna, Sgt. 1st Class Hall, and Retired Sgt. Martin are my mentors.

How did your mentor help you in your professional career?

They invested in me and my career and went the extra mile to ensure that I was successful.

Who or what inspires you?

Motivated Soldiers inspire me.

What are your military career goals for the future?

My goal is to professionally develop in a manner to become a first sergeant in the future and hopefully command sergeant major one day.

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

Being away from my platoon throughout major training exercises was the hardest part of this competition.

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

I completed the 40 Mile Gen. Darby Challenge, finishing in 7 hours 27 minutes.

What are your hobbies/special interests?

My hobbies are hiking, running, and spending time with my family.