

Sgt. Justin McLendon

U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM)

Assigned Unit: Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion 4th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry)

Military Occupational Specialty: Infantryman (11B)

Hometown: Mobile, Ala.

Year of Enlistment: 2012



What were your job responsibilities while deployed?

I was an assistant operations sergeant and M240B gunner.

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

The Brotherhood of the unit, while deployed, is something that you can't get anywhere else.

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

My grandfather Goff was a Senior Master Sgt. in the Air Force during Vietnam and my grandfather McLendon was an Infantryman during WWII.

What military awards and achievements have you received or accomplished?

I have one Meritorious Service Medal, three Army Commendation Medals, Army Achievement Medal, and I won the FORSCOM Soldier of the Year competition.

Why did you join the Army?

I didn't feel it was right to ask someone else to do something that I wasn't doing.

Why did you choose your MOS?

I wanted to make a difference with boots on the ground.

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

My motivation is to prove to myself, and others in my unit, that I am trained and proficient in my assigned position.

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 is to be a face of morale, adaptability, and esprit de corps, which are all attributes in which others can look on for guidance.

Who is your professional mentor?

Staff Sgt. Justin Lewis is my mentor.

How did your mentor help you in your professional career?

Staff Sgt. Justin Lewis has encouraged me to always do my best and be better than I think that I am. He has taken off his own personal time to develop me in every aspect of life both professional and personal. He is helping me to prepare for this competition each day as well as getting ready for Ranger School.

Who or what inspires you?

My wife and kids inspire me.

What are your military career goals for the future?

I want to one day be the Sergeant Major of the Army.

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

Having faith in myself to be able to answer the questions correctly at the formal board was the biggest challenge.

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

Staff Sgt. Justin Lewis is my sponsor and has helped me develop a direct training plan for each day that is all encompassing of what I am expecting the competition to be like.

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

The most challenging event will be the written exam will be the most challenging for me because I am not proficient in spelling.

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

If there is a stress shoot that would be my favorite event because it allows me to sharpen my skills as an Infantryman.

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

I was a full-time musician for five years before I joined the Army. I did roughly 250 shows a year and put out four albums.

What are your hobbies/special interests?

My hobbies are writing, composing music, and traveling with family.