

# Sgt. Felipe A. Montoya

Medical Command (MEDCOM)



**Assigned Unit:** Bavaria Dental Activity

**Military Occupational Specialty:** Dental Specialist (68E)

**Hometown:** Miami, Fla.

**Year of Enlistment:** 2013

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

No, I am the first member of my Family to join the U.S. military. My family emigrated to the U.S. from Colombia in 2003.

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

I have earned multiple Army Commendation Medals and Army Achievement Medals in my Army career for multiple accomplishments. I also have earned the Military Outstanding Volunteering Service Medal by volunteering over 900 hours at the USO and other organizations. I attended and graduated the Army Air Assault Course in June of this year and completed my associate's degree in general studies.

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

I joined the U.S. Army right after I graduated high school because I wanted to attend college, to travel, be independent, and most importantly because I wanted to start a career at the young age of 17.

## **Why did you choose your MOS?**

I always wanted to work in the medical field and this was an available MOS.

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

This year the competition was more personal for me. I tried to compete at the Army level when I was a specialist in 2010 but I lost at the MEDCOM level. This year I have more knowledge, and I am better prepared. I have greater motivation from my unit, my friends, and the Soldiers I work with.

## **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 want to influence others to compete because during the competitions I have learned a lot of new skills and have met people to include other competitors that have taught me a lot. At the end of this competition, if I accomplish my goal to be one of the Army's best warriors, I think my role of representing the Army will be to represent through the Army Values that we live by daily in our profession.

**Who is your professional mentor?**

My professional mentor is my first line supervisor and my leader, Sgt. 1st Class Graham Charles.

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

He has all the qualities of what is to me a great leader (humble, puts others' needs in front of his own, respectful, good at everything, and honest), he is also highly-influential and knows how to motivate me.

**Who or what inspires you?**

I have a passion for motorcycle motorsports such as motorcycle road racing and motocross, but I am especially interested in the MotoGP world championship. My favorite rider is number 99, Jorge Lorenzo.

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

My career goals are to get promoted to the rank of staff sergeant, apply and get accepted to the AMEDD dietitian program, and later retire from the U.S. Army with the highest rank that I can achieve.

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

I don't think I had many challenges because I had great support from my unit and friends. I think what is hardest for me personally is that I am always trying to better myself. I am always trying to compete better than I did previously.

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

Sgt. 1st Class Graham Charles is my sponsor, NCOIC, and knows me very well. He gets very involved because he also used to compete and he knows how to motivate me. I also had other good sponsors that helped me a lot along the way when he could not be there.

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

The mystery event is always the most challenging to me because it is a mystery and I just have to be ready for anything. The oral board is usually very challenging as well because I feel that no matter how ready I get each time I still get very nervous and anxious.

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

My favorite event is the obstacle course because it challenges all the areas that I am strong at: strength, flexibility, speed, and agility. I also like it because ever since I joined the Army I thought it was a fun.

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

Besides riding motorcycles and watching motorsports, I enjoy volunteering. I especially like to volunteer at the local USO because you really help out other Soldiers and their families there. There is always a lot to do at the USO and there's always food.

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

I like to ride street and dirt road motorcycles and I am a strong follower of the MotoGP and WorldSBK championship series.