

Pfc. David Saunders

U.S. Army Military District of Washington (MDW)

Assigned Unit: 4th Battalion, 3d US Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard)

Military Occupational Specialty: Infantryman (11B)

Hometown: Roanoke, Va.

Year of Enlistment: 2014



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

Yes, my father was in the Navy, My great-uncle served in Vietnam in the Marines and my grandfather served in the Army during WW2.

What military awards and achievements have you received or accomplished?

I have two Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, the Outstanding Military Volunteer Service Medal, and have completed Air Assault School.

Why did you join the Army?

I joined to serve my country and better myself on a personal level while having the opportunity to work with people from all over the United States.

Why did you choose your MOS?

I chose to be an infantryman because it is a profession of great admiration and will push me to reach my full potential.

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

I wanted to compete to see how I would do compared with the rest of the Army's top competitors.

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 would be promoting a positive attitude and mentality and showing that you must be a well-rounded Soldier to be successful.

Who is your professional mentor?

My mentor is Staff Sgt. Smith.

How did your mentor help you in your professional career?

Staff Sgt. Smith has taught me the basic Soldier skills that I use and has always pushed me to be a better Soldier.

Who or what inspires you?

I am competitive and I always aspire to be the best.

What are your military career goals for the future?

My goals are to complete Ranger School and become a Command Sergeant Major.

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

My biggest challenge was preparation for the board.

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

Sgt. Thornborrow has prepared me by ensuring that I had all necessary equipment and made sure that I was in the right mindset to perform at a high level.

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

The board will be my most challenging event because even though I have the confidence in myself, I may lack the experience and knowledge compared to more senior personnel.

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

The APFT is my best because I have a high-level of focus when it comes to my physical fitness and throughout my military career I have achieved a score of 300 or better on every Army Physical Fitness Test.

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

I wrestled in high school and had a pretty impressive career.

What are your hobbies/special interests?

I am a big admirer of historical firearms. I enjoy going to the shooting ranges and firing new and unique weaponry.

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

I am planning on going to Ranger School after the completion of the Best Warrior Competition.