

# Spc. Travis Shooks

U.S. Army Africa (USARAF)



**Assigned Unit:** 517th Geospatial Engineer Detachment,  
Vicenza Italy

**Military Occupational Specialty:** Geospatial Engineer (12Y)

**Hometown:** Grand Rapids, Mich.

**Year of Enlistment:** 2013

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## **What were your job responsibilities while deployed?**

I'm a geospatial analyst, map production, and RFI manager while deployed.

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

The most interesting part of deployment are the things I learned about how other cultures live and do things.

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

My awards include two Army Achievement Medals, four Army Certificates of Achievement, and I am the I&S Company Soldier of the Month - July 2015.

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

I joined the Army to travel, gain life experience, and serve my country.

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

I love geography and this MOS sounded interesting.

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

I love to compete and test myself.

## **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'll do the same thing I do every day ... perform my duties to the best of my abilities.

## **Who is your professional mentor?**

Sgt. Salazar is my mentor.

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

Sgt. Salazar taught me many things about my MOS and about being an NCO.

## **Who or what inspires you?**

The desire to be successful inspires me.

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

My goals are to learn as much about my job and become as skilled as possible as a Soldier.

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

My biggest challenge is preparing to compete against very knowledgeable opponents.

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

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Schermerhorn gave me the tools to succeed.

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

The Board will be most challenging. There is so much material to learn and be knowledgeable on.

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

Land Navigation is my best because my job is to make maps.

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

My hobbies are rock climbing, golfing, ping pong, hiking, and camping.

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

My favorite food is spaghetti.