

# INSCOM Journal



## Spring 2009

The perseverance of the Soldiers and Civilian employees of the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command is one of the primary reasons the command is consistently able to support the warfighter worldwide. (photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jason Cauley)

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## The second chapter

Spring 2009  
BY Brian Murphy  
INSCOM Public Affairs



Sgt. 1st Class James Babin and Capt. Brian Jantzen became friends while both were rehabilitating at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. (photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jason Cauley)

James Babin was destined to be in the military.

After all, the Ventura, Calif., native came from a family full of veterans, most of which had served in either the Marine Corps or the Navy, so it was clearly a lifestyle he grew up idolizing.

“When I got to my junior year of high school, it wasn’t ‘What college am I going to go to?’ I was trying to figure out what branch I was going to go to,” Babin said.

The Navy was ruled out fairly quickly because, as Babin put it, the idea of being packed in with several bunkmates on a submarine for months at a time simply wasn’t very appealing, and the Marines lost out because “they wouldn’t guarantee me infantry,” he said.

Running out of options, Babin visited the Army recruiter and had but one simple request – make me infantry.

After seeing his Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery scores, his recruiter tried to sway the teenager into a military intelligence career. But the decision was already made. Babin wanted to be a “shooter.”

With a last-ditch effort, the counselor made Babin an offer he couldn’t refuse – become a medic and we’ll send you to jump school. It wasn’t infantry, but it was close enough.

“It just sounded fun,” he said. “So that’s how I got my job.”

And what was the appeal to the infantry jobs?

“Most of my relatives have all been infantry, and I have always had a certain level of respect for the guys on the front line,” Babin said. “That’s not an easy job to do, but it’s something that’s always appealed to me. I know there are a lot of good jobs in the military, and as time has gone on, I’ve learned you can’t do one job without all of the other jobs. But for me, at 17-year-old, I saw the cool-guy stuff and that’s what I wanted.”

With that, Babin left for basic training in June of ’96 and never looked back. He went through basic, advanced individual training and jump school before finally landing with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg. N.C.

“That’s where life as I knew it changed forever,” he said.

Fast forward to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Babin, having spent time in Kosovo, Bosnia, Nicaragua and seemingly everywhere in between, found himself in Baghdad as a company-level medic with the 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment.

On the night of Aug. 23, 2003, Babin saw a fellow Soldier struggling to stay awake during a nightshift and volunteered to take over so the wary Soldier could get some rest. As the shift came to an end around 2 a.m., Babin headed out of the building and around the corner to go wake up his first sergeant, when suddenly he heard a series of loud noises.

“I thought it was something down the road and I’m thinking ‘Crap, now I’ve got to go back to the radio and let them know what’s going on,’” he said. “The next thing I know, there was a big flash.”

That flash was a rocket-propelled grenade launched by the enemy.

The impact of the blast knocked him from his feet. Babin remained on the ground for a few seconds, until someone rushed over and dragged him to safety.

As things slowly came back into focus, Babin heard the distinct sound of his fellow Soldiers returning fire as others attempted to reassure him that everything was going to be okay. Although still groggy, Babin knew something wasn’t right.

But before he could do a self assessment of any potential injuries, Babin needed to figure out exactly why in the world he was being dragged to safety by a nude noncommissioned officer.

“I’m suddenly wondering what the hell was going on,” Babin said with a laugh. “Everything was really hazy at that moment. I see everyone screaming and freaking out and I still can’t figure out what’s going on. All I can see is this naked guy pulling me away.”

It turns out a fellow NCO was attempting to “shower” with some soap and a bucket of water at the time of the blast. As soon as he heard the impact, this Soldier – who shall remain nameless – immediately sprang into action.

“As soon as he got me to safety, this guy ran off, grabbed his M4 and returned fire,” Babin said. “He wasn’t concerned about having clothing or body armor; he was off to fight the enemy who just tried to kill the medic.

“So yeah, I was rescued by a naked guy,” he said. “You want to talk about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder? That would have been my reason, right there.”

While Babin’s sense of humor was still intact, his body showed wear and tear. He’d been peppered with shrapnel and

suffered a large laceration on his stomach. He was medically evacuated and needed countless stitches and staples to repair gashes in his head and down the right side of his body.

Shortly thereafter, he returned back to the unit in a less strenuous capacity, and he finished out the tour. Occasionally Babin felt pain and discomfort in his leg, but chalked it up to the aftereffects of the traumatic experience. It wasn't until he returned home after the 13-month deployment and was talked into getting an X-Ray that he learned he had fractured a portion of his pelvis and femur.

Doctors warned Babin that surgery would “dramatically change my lifestyle,” and likely result in him being separated from the Army. Babin declined.

“What are the chances of this healing on its own?” Babin asked.

“It might, as long as you don't do anything crazy,” the doctors answered.

Three years and two more deployments later, the fracture didn't heal on its own. With roughly one month remaining in his second Middle East rotation, the nagging pain and discomfort returned.

After the second medical evacuation of his military career, Babin was informed that a piece of his femoral head had broken off and that he would be heading back to the states immediately.

Babin arrived at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and learned he needed hip-replacement surgery, which finally happened in December 2007. During his recovery, Babin was dealt some sobering news – the Army had determined him unfit for duty and planned to discharge him.

This wasn't supposed to happen. Not to someone destined to serve in the military. He enlisted as soon as he legally could, volunteered to deploy on multiple occasions without thinking twice and now, after 12 years of dedicated service, the sergeant first class was essentially being told, “Sorry.”

Unacceptable, he thought. This wasn't going down without a fight.

## **Opportunity knocks**

After college, Brian Jantzen planned on becoming a business advisor. But then terrorists flew two airplanes into the World Trade Center and that just didn't seem important anymore.

Feeling compelled to “do something about it,” Jantzen went to Officer Candidate School and became an infantry officer. For his first assignment, the Herndon, Va., native was stationed with the 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, out of Fort Bragg, N.C.

Fast forward to December 2005, and Capt. Jantzen was now in the middle of his second deployment to Iraq. During a convoy, his vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb.

“Luckily, we didn't lose any guys, and thank God I got the brunt of it,” he said. “We got ambushed, but we came out of it pretty well.”

A remote-detonated explosive went off next to the front-right tire well, only two or three feet from Jantzen's legs. The impact from the explosion gave Jantzen a concussion, shattered bones in both of his feet, as well as his right ankle, tibia and fibula.

Jantzen was medically evacuated to Walter Reed, where he underwent numerous surgeries.

“I was in limb salvation with both of my legs because we weren’t sure what the outcome was going to be,” he said.

In May 2008, Jantzen had his right leg amputated from below the knee.

“It was a good decision, one I’m glad I made in retrospect,” Jantzen said. “It took a while for me to get all of the information, make my decision and be comfortable with it.”

During the rehabilitation process, Jantzen, like Babin, was told he was no longer fit for duty. And just like Babin, Jantzen wasn’t ready to go without a fight. He knew he faced a long road to recovery, but it was a challenge he embraced.

Jantzen knew the physical aspects of rehabilitation would be trying, but he quickly learned the mental and psychological toll was as tough, if not tougher.

“Coming from a unit like we did, the operational tempo is so fast, there’s not a lot of time to think about what’s going on or the effects of what’s going on around you. You’ve just got to drive on with whatever the next mission is,” he said.

“But in the hospital, you have a lot of spare time,” Jantzen continued. “You’re in a wheelchair and you have a lot of time to think about things. Sometimes that can be okay, but I think more times than not, it’s detrimental. Being around so many people going through so many different issues makes that transition back to normalcy, if you can call it that, that much more difficult.”

Fortunately for Jantzen, he crossed paths with Babin during his rehabilitation and the two quickly became friends. They leaned on each other for support during tough times and both felt a strong desire to remain in the Army, even as they were being shown the door.

While they were going through their respective appeals processes, each was offered a chance to be a part of a pilot program with the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command’s Warrior Transition Team HUMINT.

“We’re guys with lots of experience, we’ve been on the line and have a good base of military knowledge,” Babin said. “For those reasons, we were told with a little bit of training, we could possibly become good human intelligence collectors.

“I had no idea what anyone was talking about,” he said. “But I had just gotten out of my wheelchair, was starting physical therapy and was completely miserable. Any chance I could, I wanted to get out of the barracks and out of the hospitals.”

Babin embraced the opportunity to learn a new trade – especially if it increased his chances to remain on active duty. He immersed himself in online courses, training sessions and any other courses available. He was admitted into the Defense Strategic Debriefing Course and although it was challenging, he passed.

Shortly thereafter, Babin learned that the Army approved his appeal, meaning he’ll be able to remain in the military.

Jantzen started the appeals process later than Babin, but is hopeful he’ll also be able to continue down this new career path.

“The thing I’m most excited about is the program itself,” Jantzen said. “Giving wounded servicemembers a second chance or another opportunity that maybe they weren’t aware of. I find the entire human intelligence side completely fascinating, and I think a lot of other people will too as the program continues to grow.”

While Jantzen is fully aware that the military intelligence community has both Soldiers and Civilians, his first choice is clearly to remain in uniform.

“You know, the Army’s been good to me,” Jantzen said. “I love it. I love the camaraderie, the teamwork and as cheesy as it sounds, I love my country. I love being a part of the Army and what it stands for.”

Through initiatives like INSCOM’s Warrior Transition Team, the Army is now able to return some love to Soldiers like Babin and Jantzen.

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## One and done

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BY Sgt. 1st Class Jason Cauley

INSCOM Public Affairs



Pfc. Daniel Pharr, an imagery analyst with the 297th Military Intelligence Battalion, 513th MI Brigade at Fort Gordon, Ga., tandem jumps with Staff Sgt. Joe Abeln of The Golden Knights. (photo by Sgt. 1st Class Eric Heinsheimer)

“Welcome to my world.”

Those were the final words of the experienced skydiver who then lost consciousness thousands of feet in the air. It seems a fitting last line from a man who spent his career looking at the world from above, logging more than 8,000 aircraft exits. The sentiment and simplicity of the expression may have sounded liberating, almost noble. Unfortunately for the man strapped to him at the time, the words quickly lost their romance.

Pvt. Daniel Pharr, an imagery analyst with the 297th Military Intelligence Battalion, 513th MI Brigade at Fort Gordon, Ga., had to act quickly when he realized his skydiving instructor, George “Chip” Steele, 49, had become nonresponsive during Pharr’s first jump in Chester, S.C., Jan. 31.

“The parachute had deployed, and I mentioned how quiet it suddenly got. That’s when he said, ‘Welcome to my world,’” said the 25-year-old Soldier. “Then I asked him something else, and he never responded.”

Pharr said he thought the charismatic skydiver was “messaging” with him at first, but after he asked Steele several questions with no reply, he realized Steele had lost consciousness. He then noticed he and Steele were drifting in the opposite direction of the other jumpers and were heading toward a house, a pond and a grove of trees.

“I guess I just sort of kicked in to survival-mode,” said Pharr, who began to stretch and struggle for control of the toggles that steer the parachute. “I managed to grab the right one and I thought if I pulled it down we could maybe miss the pond and everything else below us.”



After a series of hard right turns, Pharr was able to guide the two past the obstacles on the ground. Pharr then gave one last hard pull on the toggle and the two “slid in” nearly a third of a mile from their intended landing zone.

Once on the ground, Pharr immediately worked to free himself from the harness so that he could begin CPR on Steele.

According to Pharr, the harness manufacturer later told him that he was the first person the company had ever heard of who had successfully released himself without assistance. After wrestling free, Pharr immediately began trying to revive Steele and continued to do so until the owner and the authorities arrived. Unfortunately, Steele never regained consciousness and was pronounced dead by the Chester County Coroner Terry Tinker who arrived several minutes later. Steele’s death was later attributed to a heart attack.

“I was trying to help in any way I could,” said Pharr of his attempts to revive Steele. “Once everyone else arrived and there was nothing else that could be done, I had one of the guys radio back to Jessica to let her know that I was OK.”

Jessica Brunson, Pharr’s girlfriend, had also jumped that day and landed safely with the other jumpers. Shortly after landing she actually witnessed Pharr and Steele heading toward the obstacles on the ground.

“As soon as I got on the ground I started looking for him,” said Brunson. “Then I saw him heading for the trees. Even after they radioed back and said he was fine, I knew something wasn’t right because he should’ve been back by then. I knew something had gone wrong.”

Though something had gone terribly wrong, according to Tinker, had Pharr not remained calm and performed as well as he did, the horrific incident could’ve been even worse.

“If the young man hadn’t remained calm and collected throughout the ordeal, there may have been two lives lost that day,” said Tinker. “His ability to stay composed and not panic probably saved his life.”

Pharr credits his Army training for his ability to work through those intense minutes without losing his composure.

“I just naturally fell back on my training,” said Pharr. “The Army teaches you to deal with that type of pressure – to identify the problem and make a decision on the best way to fix it.”

Pharr’s quick thinking and control of emotions came as no surprise to 1st Sgt. Russell McLeod, the senior noncommissioned officer in Pharr’s company, who received word of the incident later that afternoon.

“He is a total Soldier,” said McLeod. “He’s tenacious and he takes initiative, so I wasn’t really shocked to hear how well he performed in that situation.”

Pharr walked away from the tragedy of that day thankfully intact and swore to everyone that his first jump was also going to be his last. Despite Pharr’s initial convictions, this was not to be.

In March, Pharr was contacted by the Army’s elite skydiving unit, The Golden Knights. They offered Pharr the opportunity to jump again, this time with the team at their home station at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Pharr admits his first response was to decline.

“Initially I didn’t want to do it,” he said. “I really didn’t have any interest in jumping again.”

In the aftermath of the accident however, Pharr had gotten to know Steele’s two daughters, Jodie and Cheri, who

according to Pharr, spoke with enthusiasm of their father's joy for skydiving.

"I just thought I'd give it one more try, in honor of Chip," said Pharr, with some hesitation. Then smiling and shrugging, he added, "Here we go again."

On April 22, then newly promoted, Pfc. Daniel Pharr exited the U.S. Army Parachute Team's Twin Otter aircraft at an altitude of 12,500 feet. He was harnessed to Tandem Pilot Staff Sgt. Joe Abeln. Pharr's second jump ended with significantly less drama as he and Abeln landed safely, just a few meters from the center target on the ground in Larinburg, N.C.

"It went really well," said Pharr, after having a couple days to let the whole experience soak in. "I'm glad I did it. Everyone on the team was great. I think Chip would've been pleased."

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## From the shadows

Spring 2009

BY Staff Sgt. Christopher Fincham

116th MI Group



Fancy Norman (right) walks alongside Lt. Col. David May, commander, 206th MI Battalion, and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Scott, command sergeant major, 206th MI Battalion, while out on the M16 qualification range at Fort Gordon, Ga. (photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Fincham)

Senior year of high school can be a very busy and exciting experience. The fun, the time with friends, the prom, the entire ride goes on as the future – the unknown – lingers ever-so optimistically just around the corner.

This year, Fancy Norman, a senior at Harlem High School, in Harlem, Ga., took steps to become more familiar, and ideally more prepared, for that impending time.

She, like all of the other seniors in her class, was required to spend time “job-shadowing” as part of a senior project.

Unlike many of her classmates however, Norman sought to shadow an Army leader, and spent a day observing and interacting with Lt. Col. David May, commander, 206th Military Intelligence Battalion, 116th MI Group.

“Some of my friends shadowed jobs like welding and a masseuse,” explained Norman. “JROTC is something that I’ve been good at, so choosing to shadow an Army leader was an easy decision for me.”

Spending the day with May provided Norman, a Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps cadet commander, a glimpse of life as a battalion commander.

“My goal was to give Ms. Norman an opportunity to experience both the Army way of life and the responsibilities of Army leaders,” May said. “This was a perfect day. We had PT, a range, command and staff update, a training meeting, and interviews with battalion staff leads – a pretty full plate.”

Bringing Norman out to an M16 qualification range provided an opportunity not only to show her actual Army training, it demonstrated how many different pieces work collectively in order to accomplish the mission safely and professionally.

“I definitely learned a lot,” she said. “It was a great experience that I know many outside the Army do not get.”

Following the action of the rifle range, Norman was shown a calmer aspect of military life at the battalion staff meetings. Though not necessarily the most exciting aspect of military leadership, these meetings allowed her a behind-the-scenes look at what goes on within the unit.

“I was most surprised with the demeanor, ethics and hard work of the battalion staff, commanders, and leaders,” said Norman. “It was great to see how well they all worked together to get jobs accomplished and how prepared they were for their briefs.”

After the long day, Norman looks forward to someday being a part of the Army in a more official role.

“This experience made me want to be a part of the Army family more than ever,” she said. “I enjoyed every minute that I spent with Lt. Col. May and all the others who make up the 206th MI Battalion. I hope they enjoyed my company as much as I enjoyed being a part of their team for a day.”

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## Strangers no more

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BY Sgt. 1st Class Sheryl Lawry  
500th MI Brigade



1st Lt. Kelly Calway, of the 500th Military Intelligence Brigade, was named the 2008 female Army Athlete of the Year. (photo by Sgt. 1st Class Sheryl Lawry)

Kelly Calway holds many titles. She's a doting mother, loving wife, caring daughter, patriotic Soldier and a world-class runner. However, her newest title – 2008 female Army Athlete of the Year – is the one she's most surprised to have, although anyone familiar with her story can see how she got here.

It was Calway's lengthy running resume that caught the selection committee's attention and earned her this prestigious honor.

When Calway was eight years old her father was stationed in Hawaii. Her family lived in the Aiea area, which meant she was one of the only military kids at her school. She didn't fit in with the local crowd, who called her "haole," which means stranger, and was taunted for having blonde hair.

Things began to change for Calway when a teacher noticed her running ability during physical education class.

"He encouraged me to try out for the after-school track team," said Calway, now a lieutenant with the 500th Military Intelligence Brigade. "I did and before I knew it, I was one of the fastest kids at the school."

The best part about becoming a track star, according to Calway, was that participating in the after-school activity helped her to make friends and finally fit in. "I forged friendships with the people who teased me and my life at school improved dramatically."

From that point on, running was an integral part of her life. She competed in numerous local and state competitions, and even participated in the Junior Olympics. In high school, she ran varsity cross-country, and indoor and outdoor track. Calway continued with those three events during her four years at North Carolina State University, where she was an

ROTC cadet majoring in English. After graduation, Calway followed in her father's footsteps when she was commissioned in 2006.

"My father instilled in me the value of service to our great nation and I truly believe in it," she said. "Also, having grown up in the Army community, I value the people and the relationships I have made along the way. The Army has afforded me so many opportunities that I never would have had elsewhere. I truly love it."

One of those opportunities was being the first female to represent a foreign army in the Republic of Singapore's Annual Singapore Army Half Marathon, which she ran in 2008.

"It was incredible to represent the United States Army in a foreign country," Calway expressed. "During the race, it was especially motivating to know that I was running for more than myself."

But her favorite opportunity the military has provided was attending airborne school, where she met her husband.

"We met on the first day because we were next to each other in the alphabetical formation," said Capt. Christopher Calway. "The first thing I noticed about her was her excellent parachute landing fall. I fell in love with her because of it."

The couple, married for more than three years, has one child, a young daughter named Hazel. That addition to her life has changed Calway's life for the better, she said.

"Motherhood has changed my outlook on life in many ways," she said. "It's also given me a new sense of purpose. My daughter is always with me during those tough races when I need to overcome mental and physical obstacles. I just think of Hazel and I can make it happen."

Calway also takes pride in the fact that of the three All-Army sports teams she has competed on, she's been the only mother. "It's hard to be a great mom and a great runner."

While she's always been a good runner, no one was more surprised than Calway to learn she had been named the 2008 female Army Athlete of the Year.

"It was crazy," she said. "I thought they must have made a mistake. I was truly honored and very happy that, like my father always said, 'hard work pays off.'"

Which is why her husband wasn't shocked to learn of his wife's achievement.

"I knew she was a shoo-in," he said. "Her running resume from the past year is very impressive.

"I was deployed for 15 months and over that time she worked fulltime, took care of our daughter and compiled a running resume worthy of the being named the Army Athlete of the Year," he said. "Any one of these could easily be a fulltime job. It's incredible that she was not only able to do all three, but excel at them. I am so proud of what she has done."

After being named Army Athlete of the Year, Calway was accepted into the Army's World Class Athletes Program, located in Colorado Springs, Colo. When she reports in 2010, she will begin a rigorous training program in preparation for the 2012 Olympics.

"She represents the best of America's Army as they serve in their assigned duties and also compete in athletic competitions for our Army and our nation," said Gordon R. Sullivan, president of the Association of the United States Army, at the 2009 AUSA Symposium. "We are very proud of you."

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## Better late than never

Spring 2009

BY Sgt. 1st Class Sheryl Lawry

500th MI Brigade



Capt. Shawn Dodge, of the 500th Military Intelligence Brigade, was named the Army's 2008 male Athlete of the Year. (photo by Sgt. 1st Class Sheryl Lawry)

For better or for worse, running is an integral part of life as a Soldier. And while many servicemembers view it as a necessary evil, Capt. Shawn Dodge sees running, simply put, as a way of life.

That's one of the primary reasons Dodge, the company commander of Headquarters and Operations Company, 732nd Military Intelligence Battalion, 500th MI Brigade, was selected as the Army's 2008 male Athlete of the Year.

What makes Dodge's story unique is how and when the running bug bit him.

Most great runners, like world champions Amy Yoder-Begley and Steven Prefontaine, start out at a young age – running track and field in high school and continue during college before turning pro.

Those who don't become professional runners typically continue with it because of their love for the sport at their own time and pace. Dodge did not follow either scenario.

It wasn't until after he graduated college and joined the Army in 2000 that he even became interested in the sport. Five years later Dodge began competing on a global stage.

Born in Spokane, Wash., Dodge describes his family as not very athletic. After high school he attended the University of Oregon on an ROTC scholarship.

Dodge was commissioned in the Army National Guard upon graduating and is now a member of the Active Guard and Reserve Program.



While training at Fort Lewis, Wash., Dodge developed a love for running.

“I realized that running was an event on the PT test that most are not good at,” he said. “I wasn’t good at anything else. I trained with a lot of very smart people who motivated me to run.” And he’s never stopped.

Dodge runs an average of 70 to 80 miles a week and has competed in such prestigious races as the Boston Marathon, the Marine Corp Marathon, the Republic of Singapore’s 17th Annual Singapore Army Half Marathon and the Army Ten-Miler.

Dodge has also been a member of the All-Army Marathon Team and the All-Army Ten-Miler Team, competing in the International Division.

“Running has been so much fun for me, and I happen to be good at it,” he said. “I get an inner peace that can be found nowhere else, and a feeling of being fit.”

As an AGR Soldier, Dodge sees his selection for male Army Athlete of the Year as further proof that no matter the component, all Soldiers are the same.

“The Army Reserves are training, deploying and interacting with the Active components more and more,” he said. “It is becoming evident that we are all in one Army. I have enjoyed every Army experience I’ve had and I’m glad I was able to represent the Army as a reserve officer.” Through every step along the way, Dodge has had strong support at home, thanks to his wife, Danielle, and two-year-old son, Tyler. What impresses Danielle most about her husband is his devotion to his job, his family and his passion for running.

“Shawn can handle so many things on his plate at one time with such grace and excellence,” she said. “He’ll wake up at 4 a.m. to get a good run in, still do PT with his Soldiers, spend a full day at work giving 100 percent to his job and to his Soldiers, then come home and run around the house playing with our toddler as if he hasn’t been up and working for the last 14 hours.

“He doesn’t do anything halfway – whether it’s being a Soldier, an athlete, a husband, or a father, he gives everything he has to every part of his life,” she said.

Additionally, she said that her husband is incredibly dedicated and loyal – two qualities the Army strives to instill and develop in Soldiers.

“Shawn is in the Army because he loves his country and is so proud to serve,” Danielle said. “He’s not the type of person to do something halfway, so instead of just doing casual jogs to stay in shape, Shawn worked and trained relentlessly and has evolved into the incredible athlete that he is.”

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