Athlete Chris D'Angelo

Name: Chris D'Angelo

Hometown:
Philadelphia, Pa.

Rank:
Staff Sergeant

AFSC:
3E271 (Pavements and Construction Equipment Craftsman)

Unit:
819th RED HORSE Squadron, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.

Injury Type:
Scrap metal to face, 99 percent loss of hearing on left side, traumatic brain injury, post traumatic stress disorder

Date of Injury:
January 15, 2008

Goals:
Just be the best father and husband I can be. Educate everyone I can about PTSD and how it's something you can overcome if you want to. And maybe one day shoot under par at any golf course.

"I suffered from all kinds of things and it wasn't easy adjusting. But, after spending some time at Walter Reed and better understanding what I went through, I am happy to say that I am enjoying life one day at a time."

Staff Sgt. Chris D'Angelo is one of nine Airmen from the 819th RED HORSE Squadron to receive the Air Force Combat Medal for their efforts in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Staff Sgt. Chris D'Angelo is a Philadelphia, Pennsylvania native where he was raised by a single parent with one sibling. His family has a history of military service as his grandfather and two aunts both served in the Air Force. After moving from Philadelphia to Houston when he was 12-years-old, D'Angelo lost his aspirations for joining the Air Force. But, after high school his grandfather's stories about his time in the service helped re-ignite his passion to enlist.

In 2008, D'Angelo deployed to Iraq as part of the 819th RED HORSE Squadron Airborne team. He was the lead gunner during a convoy mission to resupply an Army FOB with equipment and supplies when his vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device. D'Angelo suffered scrap metal to his face and lost most of his hearing on his left side. After a few weeks recovering at a hospital at Joint Base Balad, he continued to do convoy missions and completed his deployment. When he returned to his home station, D'Angelo received the Air Force Combat Medal from Lt. Gen. Robert Elder, 8th Air Force commander.

Sergeant D'Angelo continues to serve as a pavements and construction craftsman at the 819th RED HORSE Squadron at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont.