Athlete Marc Esposito

Name: Marc Esposito

Hometown: Boardman, Ohio

Rank: Staff Sergeant, Active Duty

AFSCs:
1C251 (Combat Controller)

Unit:
21st Special Tactics Squadron, Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

Injury Type:
Two crushed legs below knees, broken back, burns, moderate traumatic brain injury

Date of Injury:
May 26, 2009

Current Occupation: Air Force combat controller

Goals: Succeed in riding across the country this summer with World Team Sports, finish my degree, get back in the fight, and help motivate other wounded warriors.

"We are not crazy risk takers; we just love our country!"

Staff Sgt. Marc Esposito, 21st Special Tactics Squadron combat controller, poses for a photo with his military working dog during a deployment to Afghanistan in 2009.

Staff Sgt. Marc Esposito, 21st Special Tactics Squadron combat controller, was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart from his efforts during a deployment to Afghanistan in 2009. He conducted 12 combat reconnaissance patrols, fought Taliban forces during four troops-in-contact engagements, and coordinated airpower support of the team's maneuver. Throughout the engagement, he fired at enemy forces with an M-240B machine gun while simultaneously controlling aircraft in support of his team.

Sergeant Esposito was severely injured during an improvised explosive device attack left him with both legs crushed below the knees, small burns, and moderate traumatic training injury because of the amount of time he was unconscious.

Some of his current goals include successfully riding his bike across the country this summer with World Team Sports. He also wants to complete his college degree, finish his rehabilitation program and "get back in the fight" as well as help motivate other wounded warriors through their own challenges.