



WARRIOR PROFILE



NAME CHUCK SKETCH

Rank E-4/Corporal

Status Veteran

Service Branch and MOS USMC/2600 Basic Signals Intelligence

Hometown Detroit, Michigan

Current Location South Lion, Michigan

Injury or Illness Blind, Bilateral Above Knee Amputee

Event(s) Cycling, Field, Shooting, and Swimming

PERSONAL PROFILE

Cpl. Sketch was in his fourth year of college when he decided to enlist in the Marine Corps with a guaranteed slot within the infantry MOS. It was February 1991 and he wanted to join the fight, but Desert Storm ended while he was in boot camp. Since he tested well in language, he was offered the MOS 2600 to become a linguist in Arabic. When he arrived at the Defense Language Institute, his specialty was changed to Russian because the gulf war was over.

In the latter half of 1993, he was medically retired because of a benign brain tumor. In July 1997, just after graduating from college, the tumor turned cancerous. By mid-August, all of his vision was gone as well as 1/3 of the right hemisphere of my brain. In January 1998, he had to have both of his legs amputated at the hips because of severe blood clotting. In March 1999, his oncologist told him chemo would not work and that even with it, he would only live another 3- 6 months. Against his doctor's advice, Cpl. sketch started the first of many rounds of chemotherapy. Finally, the cancer went into remission in the fall of 2002.

In 2009, Cpl. Sketch participated in his first adaptive sports event during the VA Winter Sports Clinic in Snowmass, Colo. In 2010, he participated in the first ever Warrior Games in Colorado Springs and was part of the team in 2011 and 2012. What he likes best about the Warrior Games is that the athletes are honored again with phenomenal coaches who are Olympians or have been involved in adaptive sports for many years. The Warrior Games show that even with missing limbs and decades later, you can still be incredibly active.

