The 2019 Department of Defense (DoD) Warrior Games will be hosted by U.S. Special Operations Command and held for the first time June 21-30 in Tampa Bay, Florida. Over 300 wounded, ill and injured service members and veterans are expected to participate in the Paralympic-style competition. The athletes will represent the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Special Operations Command. Historically, the Warrior Games has also invited international partner nations, and this year, athletes from the United Kingdom Armed Forces, Australian Defence Force, the Canadian Armed Forces, the Netherlands Defence Force and the Denmark Defence Force will compete.

The 2019 Warrior Games will feature 14 adaptive sports: archery, cycling, track, field, air pistol and rifle shooting, sitting volleyball, swimming, wheelchair basketball, rowing, powerlifting, wheelchair tennis, wheelchair rugby and, for the first time in Warrior Games history, golf. In addition, there will be a mountain biking expo. To qualify for the 2019 Warrior Games teams, athletes participate in camps, clinics, trials or similar means for their respective service teams.

The Warrior Games were established to enhance the recovery and rehabilitation of wounded, ill and injured service members and to expose them to adaptive sports. Visitors and participants will walk away with a better understanding of adaptive sports through an exciting and entertaining atmosphere, and gain with additional understanding of how to support these military athletes, and the tens of thousands of others they represent.

The 2019 Warrior Games competitions are free and open to the public. All are invited to attend, support and honor U.S. and international wounded warriors as they overcome adversity through sports.

The 2019 Games promise to live up to the success of previous games and will be memorable for the athletes, enjoyable for their caregivers and family members, and inspirational and educational for spectators and other supporters.

**Background:** The 2019 DoD Warrior Games is scheduled for June 21-30, 2019 in Tampa Bay. Opening and closing ceremonies and athletic competition will take place at venues inside the greater Tampa Bay area. All events are scheduled to take place outside of MacDill Air Force Base to allow the greater Tampa Bay community to show their support for our nation’s wounded.

The DoD Warrior Games introduces wounded, ill and injured active duty service members and veterans to Paralympic-style sports. Warrior Games showcases the resilient spirit of today’s wounded, ill or injured service members from all branches of the military. These athletes have overcome significant physical and behavioral injuries and prove that life can continue after becoming wounded, ill or injured.
WARRIOR GAMES FACT SHEET

- Participation in adaptive sports programs transforms lives. The DoD Warrior Games and other rehabilitation and recovery programs offered by each service provide opportunities for athletes to heal and to regain confidence and purpose.

- The 2019 DoD Warrior Games athletic competitions are free and open to the public. All are invited to attend, support and honor U.S. and international wounded warriors as they overcome adversity through sports. The best volunteers are the spectators that cheer on the competitors.

- The Tampa Bay community has shown an outpouring of support as the host city for the 2019 DoD Warrior Games. The 2019 Games marks the first time that the U.S. Special Operations Command will serve as the host for the DoD Warrior Games.

- It is an honor to work alongside the City of Tampa Bay and supporters from the greater Tampa Bay community to make the 2019 Warrior Games truly unforgettable for our wounded, ill and injured athletes and those who support them.

- More than 300 athletes – active duty service members and veterans – are expected to participate in the 2019 DoD Warrior Games. The athletes represent the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Special Operations Command, and several international partner nations.

- The United Kingdom Armed Forces, Australian Defence Force, New Zealand Defence Force, Canadian Armed Forces, Danish Defence Force, and the Netherlands Defence Force will also compete. This will be the seventh time the UK will compete, third time for Australia and New Zealand, second time for Canada, and first time for Denmark and the Netherlands.

- Athletes will compete in 14 events, including archery, wheelchair basketball, road cycling, time-trial cycling, field golf, powerlifting, indoor rowing, wheelchair rugby, shooting, sitting volleyball, swimming, track, and wheelchair tennis.

- Three new sports will debut at the 2019 Warrior Games. Athletes will compete in golf, wheelchair rugby, and wheelchair tennis for the first time in DoD Warrior Games history.

- While the Games are primarily focused on the athletes and their incredible experiences and accomplishments, we must acknowledge and recognize the tremendous dedication and support of hidden heroes: athletes’ family members and/or close friends who have made their own sacrifices to help our warrior athletes with their recovery efforts and athletic achievements.

- Injuries and illnesses are not always visible (i.e., Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), cancer, post-traumatic stress), and not all are sustained in combat. The Games provide an opportunity for athletes to showcase their healing and recovery through adaptive sports, providing opportunities for athletes to heal and to regain confidence and purpose. The DoD Warrior Games offers a way to celebrate their efforts and commitment to healing.

#WARRIORGAMES