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## Show goes on for WTB Soldier

By Jeff Troth, MEDDAC PAO



“The show must go on” is an old 19<sup>th</sup> century circus saying for when an animal got loose, or a performer was injured. The ringmaster would quickly start up his banter about the next act, so that the audience wouldn’t panic and to divert their attention.

For one Warrior Transition Battalion Soldier this saying strikes close to home.

When Spc. Daniel Davis joined the Army eight years ago his plans were to make it a career. But his path changed after a few deployments.

“I had messed up my foot a couple times while on deployment to Iraq, but I never saw a doctor because of the ‘drive on’ mentality,” said Davis. “Once I got back to the states I went to a doctor. I needed surgery and then I needed physical therapy.”

From there things only got worse in Davis’ life. He was diagnosed with cancer, he separated from his wife, and then last December his child passed away.

“There was a bunch of stuff hitting me all at once,” he said. “It seemed like everything was piling up on and that there was no hope.”

Davis said he became severely depressed and is not sure where he would have wound up if an officer in his unit hadn’t intervened and referred him to the the Fort Carson Warrior Transition Battalion.

"I came to the WTB and they gave me a new outlook on things," Davis said. "They have given me help with my medical issues, plus my physical and emotional issues. There is always someone to talk to, plus I have met other Soldiers who are in a relatively similar situation."

Warrior Transition Battalions were created to help wounded, ill and injured Soldiers with their medical care, as well as prepare them for transition back to military duty, or civilian life.

Davis' plans for spending 20 years in the Army are ending because of his medical conditions, but "life must go on" and with the help of the WTB he has new plans for his future.

"I actually wanted to be in the broadcasting field, but I didn't have the money to go to school – so I joined the Army," Davis said. "But since I can't continue in the Army I figured I would go back to Plan A and continue with my broadcasting dream. I talked with my transition counselor at the WTB."

His counselor worked with Operation Warfighter, a Department of Defense program that matches qualified wounded, ill and injured Service members with internships, to get Davis an internship with Cadet Media at the United States Air Force Academy. He is being trained at the radio station and will soon have his own radio show. He is also working on the cadet yearbook and paper taking photos. This gave him the opportunity to be on the sidelines taking pictures during the Nov. 7 Army versus Air Force football game.

"Internships are good because they can get you real experience to go along with your degree," Davis said, who is also taking broadcasting classes at Pikes Peak Community College.

But Davis wasn't satisfied with just interning with the Academy. When he found out that ESPN was doing a Veterans Day broadcast from the Academy

and they needed runners and production assistants he quickly filled out the application.

"I pretty much jumped at the opportunity to get in on this," said Davis. "The job was nothing glamorous, but it was with ESPN."

During his three-day internship with them he drove people to and from the airport, ran errands and helped set up the stage areas. He even spent time in their satellite truck watching them uplink to the ESPN headquarters in Bristol, Conn.

"I spent that time shadowing people and asking them a ton of questions," said Davis. "My only broadcast exposure had been radio up until then, but this was live television and I just wanted to soak up everything possible."

On the Veterans Day, the final day of his internship Davis found out his biggest lesson "the show must go on" no matter what happens.

"Wednesday was the final day of shooting and we had a snowstorm, I couldn't even drive up to the ESPN Sports Center set," said Davis. "I had to park my car and walk through the snow up the hill and through the cadet area just to get to the set.

"It was freezing outside, the wind was blowing and these guys were just going on and doing their jobs. The talent was standing there interviewing a general and they just sucked it up. It was crazy."

The snow didn't dampen Davis' plans to become a broadcaster and his time with ESPN has already lined up a job opportunity for him when he gets out of the Army and moves to Baltimore with his wife.

"One of my ESPN contacts gave my name to a guy in Baltimore that works with the Baltimore Ravens and Orioles and the Washington Wizards," Davis said. "So I will be going to school full time during the week and covering

games on the weekends. This will give me the experience I need to fulfill my dream.”



CUTLINE: Spc. Daniel Davis works the sidelines of the Nov. 7, 2015, Army-Air Force football game for Cadet Media. Photo by Melissa Kreitzer