



SSG GORDON

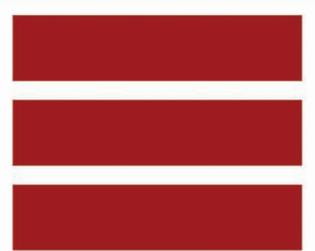


Staff Sgt. Christopher Gordon was born April 5, 1975, and grew up in Brooklyn and Queens, N.Y.

On a sunny Sunday morning in March 2005, Chris's A- Company of the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment completed a successful assignment in the small Northern Iraqi town of Tal-Afar. As his Stryker unit attempted to regroup for a routine convoy back to the base, there was a loud explosion. An improvised explosive device (IED) directly hit the last Stryker in the group, and Chris was ejected from his vehicle. He landed on the rear hatch of the Stryker and not on the ground below, a lucky stroke in the midst of chaos since the initial attack was followed by an ambush of machine gun fire from surrounding insurgents. While he lay on the vehicle writhing in pain, he was surrounded by the sounds of his friends and comrades on the radio calling for reinforcements as they returned fire in the direction of the enemy and made their way to his aide. A tunicate was wrapped around his right leg as he was injected with morphine. He was placed on a stretcher, transported to a nearby Stryker vehicle and rushed to the combat Army support hospital, at which time he was put in an induced coma.

Chris awoke days later at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Not sure of the extent of his injuries or what they would mean for his future, he was just thankful and relieved to see another day. Though the following days, months and years would be like learning how to live life all over again, the struggle did not change the happiness and joy he felt when he was able to spend time with family and friends who flocked to his side. Most of all, Chris was elated and felt a sense of renewal once reunited with his six-year-old son whom he'd been away from for six months. To make the situation even better Chris was relieved to find that his son took the news of his father losing his right leg above the knee very well and even thought there was something "cool" about his father having a "robot leg."

Today, after a year of recovery at Walter Reed, Chris and his family live in Clermont, Fla., and he is working to provide the best life possible for his family. Since this move in March 2006, Chris has participated in numerous events with various organizations such as the Wounded Warrior Project®, Operation Giveback and Building Homes for Heroes. The organizations play an important, stabilizing role in his life and provide a means by which he is able to take part in various volunteer roles. They have given him a way to build new friendships, learn about important rights to which wounded veterans are entitled and provide him with a sense of purpose. Chris is currently attending classes at the University of Phoenix in Orlando and is working toward earning his bachelor's degree in Information Technology.



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