



AW2 Speakers Bureau

Name: MSG Jarrett Jongema
Hometown: Corpus Christi, TX
Rank: Master Sergeant
MOS: 14Z- Air Defense Artillery
Senior Sergeant

Units:
4-3 ADA, Kitzingen, Germany
4-5 ADA Fort Hood, TX
5-5 ADA, Camps Hovey & Sears, Korea
1-44 ADA, Fort Hood, TX
4-5 ADA, Fort Hood, TX
4-5 ADA, Washington, D.C.
(Operations Clear Skies and Noble Eagle)
4-5 ADA, Camp Victory, Baghdad, Iraq (Operation Iraqi Freedom II)
Air Defense Enlisted Branch, HRC, Alexandria, VA
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Legislative Affairs
Adaptive Sports and Reconditioning Branch NCOIC, WTC, Alexandria, VA

Injury type:

Shrapnel – Back, Face, and Extremities
Gunshot wounds – Extremities
Lacerations – Back, Face, and Extremities
30% loss of right pectoral muscle
Traumatic Brain Injury
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
Nerve Damage – Face, Left Leg, and Right Arm
Hearing Loss

Date of injury:

September 18, 2004

“There are those who rise to the occasion as well as those who die in place. The latter has never been an option.”

MSG Jarrett Jongema was injured while serving in Iraq in 2004.



If you see MSG Jarrett Jongema, you probably wouldn't know you're looking at a Soldier who was brought back to life multiple times. In his uniform, it's hard to detect the extent of MSG Jongema's injuries. He prefers it that way. MSG Jongema joined the Army from Corpus Christi, TX in 1993. He has served around the world as an Air Defense Artilleryman, including service as a member of former President Bush's personal Air Defense in Washington, D.C. after 9/11. In 2004 he deployed to Baghdad, Iraq. Just as he had trained his own Soldiers to lead, he trained Iraqi Soldiers to take key leadership positions within their ranks. On September 18, 2004, MSG Jongema was severely wounded when a suicide car bomber detonated more than 500 pounds of explosives next to his vehicle while his team was securing an overpass on the infamous "Route Irish." MSG Jongema was blown 50 feet from his gun turret and impaled atop a concertina wire fence. Team members assessed the blast had killed MSG Jongema and moved to provide medical assistance to other Soldiers and continue the battle. Erratic gun fire then erupted in MSG Jongema's direction as insurgents opened fire upon him while suspended in the concertina wire. MSG Jongema was continually resuscitated on the battlefield and in the Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad over the next few days. Once stabilized, he was medically evacuated to Walter Reed Army Medical Center. MSG Jongema sustained multiple injuries to his face, back, and extremities, including lacerations, shrapnel, and gunshot wounds. He also sustained 30% loss of his right pectoral muscle, traumatic brain injury, nerve damage to his face, left leg and right arm, and hearing loss, among other injuries. He carries with him more than 400 pieces of shrapnel and debris in his body to this day. Despite catastrophic injuries, MSG Jongema chose to remain in the Army. He now serves as the Adaptive Sports and Reconditioning Branch noncommissioned officer in charge at the Warrior Transition Command in Alexandria, VA. MSG Jongema resides with his wife Kristy, and their son, Tristan, at Fort Belvoir, VA.