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West Point Band composes inspiring theme music for 2016 DoD Warrior Games



Sgt. Maj. Douglas A. Richard and Staff Sgt. Noah D. Taylor of the West Point Band, composed the theme music for the 2016 DoD Warrior Games. The games will be held June 15-22 at West Point, bringing together wounded warriors from all U.S. and U.K. Armed Forces to compete in athletic competitions, from track and field to basketball and volleyball. The composers want to convey the spirit and courage of these wounded warrior athletes.

WEST POINT, N.Y. – The Department of Defense (DoD) Warrior Games will highlight the resiliency and warrior spirit of service members, veterans and their families and caregivers at this year’s games, June 15-21, at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Such a powerful and inspiring competition deserves a theme that is equal to the grit and determination of the athletes. A theme that will carry on, year after year, so that everyone listening will recognize and understand the courage and conviction of the athletes competing in the DoD Warrior Games.

Such was the task given to Sgt. Maj. Douglas A. Richard, Chief Music Arranger, and Staff Sgt. Noah D. Taylor, Staff Arranger, with the West Point Band. They were given the responsibility to create a theme that was powerful and moving yet commercial and

versatile for this year’s games as well as future games. According to Taylor, who actually composed the music, it was a completely collaborative effort with Richard.

“It seemed natural to provide them a very engaging theme, to brand the Warrior Games, making it very Hollywood, very commercial in extent that it doesn’t sound like traditional military band music,” Richard explained.

The goal was to make a Hollywood-type theme music that can be used in the opening/closing and medal ceremonies, as well as for trailers, commercials and other promotional products for the DoD Warrior Games. The [“Road to the Warrior Games”](#) promotional video is a prime example.

“We started off by talking about what the theme should sound like, bouncing ideas off each other,” Taylor said. “As a composer, I draw on a lot of influences when going for a very cinematic sound,



whether its epic war or athletic event movie. In this case, I was going for the movie ‘Rudy’ and how the music has an emotional effect on the audience.”

“We wanted to capture the drama of these games,” Richard added. “That’s part of the challenge we have in a job like this.”

Besides composing the core theme for the DoD Warrior Games, the score had to be arranged for multiple band performances, including the marching band, orchestra, concert band and brass quintet. They even arranged a rock band version of the theme.

“Every time we write music, it’s a form of advertising, portraying the Army’s mission to the public,” Richard said. “Every time someone hears that theme song, it tells them it’s the Warrior Games.”

The DoD Warrior Games is an adaptive sports competition for wounded, ill and injured service members and veterans. Approximately 250 athletes will participate in eight sporting events, representing teams from the U.S. and United Kingdom Armed Forces. The DoD Warrior Games is free and open to the public and spectators are encouraged to attend and cheer on the athletes as they compete. For more information on attending, volunteering, covering or participating, please visit <http://warriorgames.dodlive.mil> or follow the games on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/warriorgames>.