



Master Sergeant Gil Magallanes Jr is a retired 46 year old with 21 years of active duty service as a Green Beret in the United States Army. Gil served in both the Gulf War and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. On December 5, 2001 Gil was injured by friendly fire when a 2000 pound bomb was mistakenly dropped on the position of his team while they were guarding the President of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai.

Gil had sustained multiple injuries to include an open traumatic brain injury with partial loss of his skull and brain matter leaving him with permanent brain damage, cognitive, seizure and migraine disorders; vision impairment with left field blindness; closed C1/C2 & L5 fractures (neck & back), multiple organ trauma and the loss of 2 fingers and part of his left hand with nerve damage.

After a lot of therapy & hard work Gil was able to overcome significant hurdles related to the severity of his injuries to find himself back in competition. In June 2008, Gil began once again to pursue his passion for archery and also started to take up other sports such as javelin and triathlon. He won a gold medal in javelin at the State Games of the West in Colorado and completed his first sprint triathlon and has not looked back! Since then he has completed the 1.2 mile swim legs of the 2008, 2009 & 2010 San Diego Triathlon challenge relay, the 2008, 2009 & 2010 Silverman Half-Distance Triathlon relay and the 2009 Augusta, GA Ironman relay. And he didn't stop there... Gil finished his first 70.3 distance triathlon in 2010, participated in the 620 mile Million Dollar Challenge for CAF & was named Tennessee State Champion for traditional archery!!

Although Gil is currently in Stage 3 Chronic Kidney Failure (eventually requiring a kidney transplant) & is currently in the hospital for therapy for his traumatic brain injury he hasn't stopped training!! His current hospitalization will cover January 2011 to an estimated discharge date of August 2011 (6 months) he makes his cycling a part of his therapy and finds time to participate in weekly tandem rides. He has several events planned for this year including climbing Mt. Rainer with Camp Patriot in July.