

An Army World Class Athlete



First Lieutenant Jennifer Wygant is an Army Nurse who has just finished a two-year assignment in the Army's World Class Athlete Program (WCAP) where her mission was to train for the Olympics in the sport of biathlon – cross country skiing and rifle shooting. She earned her Bachelor's degree in nursing and her commission into the U.S. Army through ROTC at Northern Michigan University in 2007 where she also competed in collegiate cross-country skiing.

After graduation her first duty assignment was Evan's Army Community Hospital at Fort Carson, CO. While working as a nurse she was an assistant coach for the Air Force Academy's cross-country ski team and she began competing in biathlon. By the spring of 2008 she was named to the U.S. Biathlon development team and the Army's WCAP. The WCAP falls under the Family Morale Welfare and Recreation Command and its mission is to get Soldiers named to the U.S. Olympic Team and on the podium, but even more importantly, the WCAP is a recruiting tool for the Army. In addition to sport training and competing, the WCAP Soldiers also spend time going to high schools and community events to further the Army's recruiting mission. This year 1LT Wygant did not qualify for the Olympics. It was her second year competing in Biathlon, and during the first round of Olympic Trials she had one 1st place finish, but selection was based on the results of several races, and some of the more veteran racers had more consistent results edging her out in the final standings.

1LT Wygant will be returning to Army Nursing this spring at Fort Campbell, KY. As per WCAP policy, the Soldiers must return to their Army duties for at least one year following the Olympic Games. While her biathlon career is on hold in the snowless land of Fort Campbell, KY, she is looking forward to returning to nursing, attending the Army Air Assault training, and hopefully a deployment in the near future.