

## Mayo Clinic News Network

### Wounded Warrior

Intro: According to the Congressional Research Service, more than 1600 United States soldiers have lost limbs on the battlefield since 2001. The wounded warrior you're about to meet says he was one of the lucky ones. After being gravely wounded and then suffering an above-knee amputation, he returned to active duty. Now retired, he says a positive outlook and an expansive team led by experts at Mayo Clinic helped him succeed.

<b>Video</b>	<b>Audio</b>
<b>Daniel Metzdorf Ret. Army Sgt. 1st Class</b>	"January 27, 2004. We were on routine night patrol, and we were about 55 miles south of Bagdad. A roadside bomb went off. Killed three of my men, and injured three of us. I had about a brick-sized hole in my right knee."
<b>Voice of Vivien Williams</b>	That event changed retired Army Sergeant First Class Daniel Metzdorf's life. Doctors amputated his leg. But Daniel refused to let this loss define him.
<b>Sgt. Daniel Metzdorf</b>	"That was the day I got injured. The day I had to, I had to say, hey, this is what I got right now. This is my life from here on out. I have to cherish this day and I have to cherish how much strength it took for everyone to put me back together."
<b>Voice of Vivien Williams</b>	After much determination and hard work, Daniel adjusted to a prosthetic leg.
<b>Sgt. Daniel Metzdorf</b>	"I was the first above-knee amputation to stay on active duty with an airborne unit ever."
<b>Voice of Vivien Williams</b>	Wearing a device like this one, Daniel graduated from the elite parachute team, the Golden Knights.
<b>Sgt. Daniel Metzdorf</b>	"This is vacuumed and suctioned on to my limb."

	Today...
<b>Sgt. Daniel Metzdorf</b>	"My knee is a microprocessor."
<b>Voice of Vivien Williams</b>	Experts from Mayo Clinic work with the Limb Lab to fit Daniel with a state of the art prosthetic leg.
<b>Sgt. Daniel Metzdorf</b>	"Yeah, I think that's better."
<b>Voice of Vivien Williams</b>	Mayo Clinic Dr. Kenton Kaufman heads the team that designs and tests prosthetics for people with amputations.
<b>Kenton Kaufman, Ph.D. Biomechanics expert Mayo Clinic</b>	"Our goal is to have them learn how to use their prosthesis in a more effective manner and hopefully increase function and their quality of life."
<b>Voice of Vivien Williams</b>	The Department of Defense awarded Dr. Kaufman and his team a grant to study ways to prevent falls in people with amputations. He says soldiers like Daniel inspire him to help make prosthetic limbs better and better for all amputees, including those who serve our country.
<b>Kenton Kaufman, Ph.D.</b>	"The soldiers salute the flag, they serve under the flag, their coffin is covered in a flag. The least we can do is salute them for what they've done for us."
<b>Voice of Vivien Williams</b>	Now that Daniel is retired, he looks forward to marriage. And he continues to inspire other soldiers who've lost limbs – helping them to survive and thrive.
	For the May Clinic News Network, I'm Vivien Williams.

Anchor tag:

Dr. Kaufman says prosthetics continue to improve. Researchers now are developing ways to make artificial limbs respond to signals from the brain. All in hopes of making the lives of people who've lost limbs better.

For more information, visit our website at ... [\[STATIONS: Per the licensing agreement, please provide a link from your station's website to http://www.MayoClinic.org or voice tag "MayoClinic.org" for more information.\]](#)

