

WYOMING OUTFITTERS &amp; GUIDES ASSOCIATION

# 2020 HUNTER OF THE YEAR

## ZACHARY STINSON USMC Sgt (ret.)

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FIRST FOR HUNTERS

**I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN PENNSYLVANIA.** I joined the Marine Corps in 2007, after I graduated high school. July 2010, I deployed to Afghanistan. After four months in Afghanistan I stepped on an IED (improvised explosive device). The helicopter flew me from the field where I sustained the injury to multiple hospitals in Afghanistan and eventually Landstuhl in Germany. I was injured on a Tuesday and arrived in Bethesda Maryland on the following Sunday. The injuries I sustained in Afghanistan left me a double amputee above the knees, the loss of several fingers, and countless internal injuries.

I spent two months inpatient at what is now Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) in Bethesda, MD. I was then transferred to the VA hospital in Richmond VA. After two months in Richmond I was transferred to Walter Reed in Washington, DC. During this time I was doing rehab and strengthening my core to prepare myself to one day walk again.

During the two years we spent in the hospitals I began to try new activities to get involved with. Often nonprofits would invite the wounded warriors on activities such as bike rides, horseback riding, water sports, skiing, and hunting. After participating in more of these Wounded Warrior hunting opportunities I started seeking hunting challenges outside of just organized veteran hunts.

I have hunted the great state of WY twice. Harvesting an antelope, mule deer and a cow elk. Currently, I have been purchasing preference points the past few years to hunt antelope, elk, moose and bighorn sheep. I look forward to when I can actually draw the tags and return to the state.

Currently my family and I live in Pennsylvania where I spend the majority of my time training for triathlons and various other Para athletic events. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13. I am reminded about this promise on a daily basis through the talents and people that God has graciously blessed me with. 🙏

