

[Michael Rushton, age 41](#)

 April 28th, 2010 |  Author: [S2SS Admin](#)



Currently Resides: Cameron, North Carolina

Hometown: Swartswood, NJ.

Birthplace: Syracuse, NY

Service: Active Duty Air Force 1992-1996; Air Force Reserve 1996-2000, 2006-2009. Stationed at Andrews AFB, Whiteman, AFB, Luke, AFB, Balad, Iraq

*“I’m dedicating this ride to the men and women that I took care of as a medic in Iraq, and also those that gave their lives – **Michael (Mike) Rushton**”*

Michael Rushton is an Emergency Medical Technician and Practical Nurse with a background in Intensive Care and Surgical Orthopedics. In 2008, he was serving in an Aero-medical Evacuation unit in Iraq, caring for injured troops, when he suddenly found himself a patient instead of a caregiver.

Mike was the victim of a mortar attack and his spine was damaged, leaving him with pain and neurological problems as well as severe migraines. He was medically separated from the U.S. Air Force in October of 2009 and is now a full-time student.

For Mike, the Sea to Shining Sea ride is an opportunity to prove to himself that, despite his injuries, he can accomplish anything to which he sets his mind.

He is excited by the challenge of a 4,000-mile ride, as well as the opportunity for fellowship with other injured veterans. The ride “will provide an incredible opportunity to bond, reflect, and grow together as a team, yet also allow us to grow and change as individuals.”

Mike has enjoyed biking for years, and was an avid mountain biker when he lived in Colorado. Since his injury, however, he has been forced to shift to road biking because it is not as jarring on his spine. His regular cycling partner is his wife of five years, who is an active duty Army nurse. Michael's wife Jackie will also be joining him on the last 2 weeks of the ride from Pittsburgh, PA to Virginia Beach, VA

For Mike, the highlight of the ride – other than finishing it — will be when he crosses the continental Divide. “I have driven through many times in a car; never did I think that I'd be riding a bike over it! ... I think I can, I think I can...”