

**Athlete:** CARLOS LEON

**Birthday:** November 1, 1984

**Hometown:** North Lauderdale, Florida, USA

**Sport:** Paralympic Track & Field (Discus and Shot Put)

**Bio:** Paralympic discus world record holder and Hilton Family of Hotels be hospitable Athlete Ambassador, Carlos Leon, strives to make his Paralympic Games debut this summer in Beijing.

Leon recently moved to the Lakeshore Foundation, an official training site of U.S. Paralympics, to participate in the U.S. Olympic Committee's Veterans Paralympic Performance Program (VP3). The VP3 is the newest component of the US Paralympic Military Program, supporting talented, committed, severely injured veterans in their effort to represent the United States at the Paralympic Games. As part of its initiatives to support U.S. Paralympics, the Hilton Family of Hotels is contributing to a renovation of the Lakehore Foundation facilities in Birmingham, Ala. that Leon and other U.S. Paralympic hopefuls call home.

Leon was injured in 2005 while serving in the U.S. Marine Corps. After meeting five-time Paralympian Gabe Diaz de Leon at a Paralympic Military Sports Camp, Leon was encouraged to get involved in field events within the Paralympic movement.

He won the gold medal and broke the world record in the discus at the 2007 U.S. Track and Field National Championships in Marietta, Ga. At the 2007 Parapan American Games in Rio, Leon took home two medals (Silver-discus; Bronze-shot put). Following the Parapan American Games, Leon was selected as a member of the 2007 U.S. Paralympic Track & Field Elite Team. In addition to these outstanding wins, Leon has also been playing wheelchair basketball for the Miami Heat Wheels since 2005.

Leon is currently training full-time for the field events of shot put and discus as part of the VP3 program. He graduated from Coconut Creek High School in 2002 and enjoys sports, training and reading.