



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

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Ohio Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition determines top Soldier, Noncommissioned Officer of Year

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Ohio Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition, conducted March 2-3 at Camp Sherman Joint Training Center in Chillicothe, Ohio, provided a challenging, multi-event environment to determine the best, most competent, well-rounded Soldier and noncommissioned officer in the state.

After two days of grueling scenarios that pushed participants, both mentally and physically, the winners were announced:

- Noncommissioned Officer of the Year: **Sgt. Whitney Schalk**, a heavy vehicle driver with the 1483rd Transportation Company out of **Walbridge, Ohio**. Schalk, of **Defiance, Ohio**, has been in the military for six years.
- Soldier of the Year: **Spc. Adam Pinkerton**, an infantryman with Company D, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment out of **Sandusky, Ohio**. Pinkerton, of **Tallmadge, Ohio**, has been in the military for nearly six years.

The competition featured the following events: weapons stress shoot, land navigation course, personal appearance interview board, physical fitness test and various Army warrior tasks, which are common skills that all Soldiers train on like first aid, voice and radio communications, and individual movement techniques during combat scenarios.

Schalk and Pinkerton competed against about 20 other Soldiers representing various commands across the state. The next step for the BWC winners is the Army National Guard Region IV Best Warrior Competition May 7-10 at Fort Custer Training Center near Augusta, Michigan. There, state winners (or alternates/runners-up, if winners cannot compete for whatever reason) from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin will vie for recognition as the best in the Midwest.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Stephanie Beougher, public information officer, at 614-336-7369 or stephanie.k.beougher.nfg@mail.mil.

EDITOR'S NOTE: High-resolution photos to support this story are available on the [Defense Video Imagery Distribution Site \(DVIDS\)](#). Click on photos under the "Connected Media" section, located on the right-hand side of the page.

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