



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

Mike DeWine, Governor

Major General John C. Harris Jr., Adjutant General

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For Immediate Release

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

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Ohio Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition, conducted July 11 at the Defense Supply Center Columbus, provided a challenging, multi-event environment to determine the organization's best Soldier and noncommissioned officer.

The event was modified this year to account for health and safety considerations with regard to COVID-19, and the participating Soldiers had the unique experience of competing while wearing personal protective equipment.

For this year's competition, the Soldiers were challenged with the new, six-event Army Combat Fitness Test (repetition strength deadlift; standing power throw; hand-release, arm extension pushup; 250-meter sprint, drag, carry; leg tuck; and the 2-mile run), a written essay, and a battery of Army warrior tasks, which are common skills that all Soldiers train on including first aid, voice and radio communications, and weapons assembly and functions checks.

This year's winners are:

- Noncommissioned Officer of the Year: **Sgt. Benjamin Noble**, an infantry assistant team leader with Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry Regiment, based in **Xenia**, Ohio. Noble is a resident of **Beavercreek**, Ohio.
- Soldier of the Year: **Cpl. Dauren Mason**, a team leader with the 323rd Military Police Company, based in **Toledo**, Ohio. Mason is a **Columbus** resident.

Noble and Mason competed against 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, to be conducted at a date to be determined in Marseilles, Illinois. There, state winners 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) 506-3490 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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