

The Army's Top Firefighter



By Ms. Cheryl Green

Sergeant First Class (SFC) Wayne J. Reinhardt was recently chosen as the Military Fire Officer of the Year by the Department of the Army. SFC Reinhardt, recognized for his dedication to mission accomplishment, was nominated by his supervisor. He first won the Northwest Region Military Fire Officer title, then was nominated for and won the Army Military Fire Officer title, and finally was nominated for the Department of Defense Military Fire Officer of the Year award.

SFC Reinhardt was officially presented the Northwest Region Military Fire Officer of the Year award at the Department of Defense Fire and Emergency Services Training Conference held from 11-16 August 2005.

As a senior training developer and writer for the Army's firefighters at the United States Army Engineer School, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, SFC Reinhart ensures that all firefighting equipment and training manuals are first-rate for Army firefighters. He has managed and developed multiple training products to support the Army's training efforts for both individual firefighters and firefighting units, to include producing two manuals six months ahead of schedule without compromising quality. He serves as the voice for Active Army military firefighters, bringing current firefighting issues to the International Association of Fire Chiefs working group sessions. Selected to review new equipment training for future firefighters on the newly developed Tactical Fire Fighting Truck (TFFT) and verify the training materials, SFC Reinhardt provided significant input during this process.

SFC Reinhardt was recognized for many outstanding achievements in several of the positions he has held, including United States Army Engineer School Liaison for all Active Army, United States Army Reserve, and Army



Photo by Cheryl Green

Sergeant First Class Wayne J. Reinhardt, Army Military Fire Officer of the Year

National Guard firefighters; shift supervisor at the Louis F. Garland Fire Academy, Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas; Active Duty Unit Advisor to 15 Ohio Army National Guard and Reserve units activated during Operation Iraqi Freedom; Chief Fire Inspector at Camp Doha, Kuwait; and Senior Firefighter on the Flatiron Air Ambulance teams at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

SFC Reinhardt has served more than 18 years as an Army firefighter and has volunteered at local fire departments. He currently volunteers at the Duke Fire Protection District, where he trains local volunteer fire district members to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and Missouri standards. In addition, he volunteered as a firefighter for five years at the Barker Volunteer Fire Department, Barker, New York.

SFC Reinhardt has also volunteered for the *Christmas in April* program in

San Angelo, Texas, and has rebuilt and repaired homes for the *Habitat for Humanity* program, where he helped organize two teams to repair two homes in two days.

SFC Reinhardt is a certified Master Army Instructor and Master Air Force Instructor, who has shared valuable knowledge with his students over the years. He is a highly skilled and competent fire officer who continuously pursues knowledge in the firefighting field. 

Ms. Green is a contributing editor for Engineer. She also edits training and doctrine publications for the Directorate of Training and Leader Development, United States Army Engineer School, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. She holds a bachelor's in computer information systems from Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, Louisiana.