

14th Military Police Brigade Sergeant is Best in Command

Compiled by Captain Dionne Hannah

Staff Sergeant Leon Presley, a unit supply sergeant assigned to the 14th Military Police Brigade, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, was selected on 28 July as Training and Doctrine Command's (TRADOC's) noncommissioned officer (NCO) of the year for 2006. Competitors were evaluated on their overall fitness, their knowledge of urban orienteering, warrior tasks and battle drills, marksmanship, general military subjects, and oral and written communications. The competition took place over a four-day period in July at Forts Monroe and Eustis, Virginia.

"I was definitely surprised when they called my name. During the competition, we were completely in the dark about the scores. I don't think any of us came [to the awards ceremony] thinking, 'I've won this thing,'" Staff Sergeant Presley said. He added that one of the most challenging events of the competition was the field exercise conducted on 25 July at Fort Eustis, when he was paired with Accession Command's Specialist April Johnigan, who was later chosen as TRADOC's Soldier of the year. The training began at 0500 with "urban orienteering." Teams hiked an average of seven miles to find various specific points on Fort Eustis and dealt with obstacles such as simulated improvised explosive devices and weapons searches along the way.

Other events during the TRADOC NCO and Soldier of the year competitions included the Army physical fitness test, a 50-question written exam, an essay, and a surprise task (a media interview). Each member appeared before a board of command sergeants major on 26 July and participated with Soldiers from the Fort Monroe community in a run led by TRADOC Command Sergeant Major John D. Sparks.

Staff Sergeant Presley said that hard work, dedication, and support from his wife, Kim, and their three children contributed greatly to his success. He also gives credit to the example of strong and competent leaders and said their support has played a significant part in his ability to successfully compete at every level.

Staff Sergeant Presley will compete against candidates from other major commands at the Department of the Army NCO of the year competition from 1 to 6 October at Fort Lee, Virginia, and Washington, DC.



Staff Sergeant Presley displays his trophy.

Captain Hannah is assigned to the 14th Military Police Brigade and serves as the executive officer at the U.S. Army Military Police School, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.