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May 2, 2011

For immediate release

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WyMD-11-33

Wyo. Army National Guard selects Best Warrior, NCO By Spc. Dusty J. Chamberlain

CAMP GUERNSEY – The Best Warrior Competition, held April 22-23, tested the best Soldiers from each battalion in the Wyoming Army National Guard on the fundamentals of common warrior tasks and battle drills, coupled with strenuous physical endurance and designed to push each Soldier to their limits and beyond.

During the award ceremony following the competition, Command Sgt. Maj. Tom Allan, state command sergeant major for the Wyoming Army National Guard, along with Brig. Gen. Kathy Wright, assistant adjutant general, Wyoming Army National Guard, awarded this year's NCO of the Year, Sgt. Todd A. Crawford. Crawford, of Cheyenne, is a member of the 67th Army Band, under the 94th Troop Command, and Soldier of the Year Sgt. Tanner L. Wichern, of Cody, from Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery.

Allan explained the Best Warrior Competition is an Army wide-event, starting with testing and filtering from the battalion level. The best Soldier and noncommissioned officer from each battalion then competed at the state level. Crawford and Wichern will compete in regionals in Bismarck, N.D., June 4 – 10.

"This is a great honor to have the opportunity to represent my battery, the 2-300th, and the Wyoming Army National Guard," said Wichern.

Crawford said he felt the same way, and added he hopes to prove the band, which he feels is often severely under rated, has as good of quality Soldiers as any other unit.

The competition tested the Soldiers' skills and abilities in the areas of physical fitness, rifle marksmanship, warrior skills, land navigation and their overall military bearing and appearance.

The regional winners will compete at a national competition later this year.