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### **Paratroopers compete for top honors**

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82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Public Affairs

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – Paratroopers have a long and proud history. On a daily basis they follow in the footsteps Medal of Honor recipients like Sgt. Alvin C. York, Pfc. Charles N. Deglopper, 1st Sgt. Leonard Funk, and thousands more, living up to the legacy of the 82nd Airborne Division.

Every year the 82nd Abn. Div. selects one Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year and one Trooper of the Year. This year ten Paratroopers, five NCOs and five Troopers, competed for the title.

To compete for the division; top NCO and Trooper honor, they must first be selected through their companies, battalions and brigades winning NCO and Trooper of the month and quarter boards.

“Each Paratrooper went through a selection process at their brigade levels,” said Master Sgt. Edmund C. Scarborough, the operations Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge for the competition. “These are the best of the best within each brigade.”

Standards are high for the Paratroopers to become the division's NCO and Trooper of the Year.

"The overall scope and evaluation of the NCO and Trooper of the Year is a multi-faceted evaluation," said Scarborough. "The Paratroopers must complete a physical fitness test, rifle marksmanship, land navigation course, a written exam, individual skills tasks and a road march."

Each Paratrooper joined the competition to be known as the best. Competitors equally met personal challenges and areas they excelled in along the way.

"My favorite events were the rifle range and road march," said Sgt. 1st Class William P. Clancy, Company B, 1st Battalion 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, "I'm infantry and I enjoy shooting and the weather was really good for the road march."

The competitors sacrificed much of their personal time to get to division level competition.

"I work hard every day at my job," said Spc. Ryan C. Peters, Company G, 782nd Forward Support Company, 2nd Battalion 321 Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team. "On top of working hard, studying every night, working out every day, on top of work it's hard, but in the end it's worth it."

The competitors found the events tasks harder due to the healthy competition between them.

"During the marksmanship challenge we went back to shooting M16s with iron sites, that's really going back to the basics," said Sgt. Maximo G. Mirando, Company D, 2nd Battalion 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team. "The warrior tasks are exactly by the book, straight to the basics."

"It's a big deal following in the footsteps of those before us and continue on with tradition," said Clancy. "It's a huge honor to represent the 82nd Airborne Division."

Paratroopers live and carry on the 82nd legacy of the former hero's on a daily basis by living the core values and maintaining high standards.

“The overall competition and tasks weren't difficult, but the competitors made it difficult,” Miranda said.

The competition allowed everyone to learn something and to prove themselves by going the extra mile. The only female competitor found herself having to push and train harder to compete with other paratroopers who had greater infantry experience.

“I felt honored to be among all the other Troopers and NCO's who were competing,” said, Spc. Danielle N. Welsh, Battery G, 2nd Battalion 319th Airborne Field Artillery Unit, 2nd Brigade Combat Team. “I felt as if I had to work a little bit harder to earn their respect, I trained pretty hard,” said Welsh. “It felt good to finish the road march knowing there were six other competitors still behind me.”

Living the legacy, back to basics and NCO led division are the areas the All American Division is focusing on right now. These core values develop strong Paratroopers and better leaders.

“It takes a different breed of soldier to bring himself to willingly exit an aircraft while in flight,” said Scarborough. “That training and that mentality transfers over into their daily lives and duty, they are willing to go the extra mile to complete the mission and task.”

The winners of the NCO and Trooper of the Year competition will be formally announced at the All American picnic during All American Week, May 16-20.

## CUTLINES:



**110330-A-8893S-014(enhanced):** Paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division start off on the six mile ruck march event, which was part of the Non-Commissioned Officer and Trooper of the Year competition. Ten paratroopers competed for this year's title. Paratroopers had to compete against one another in events such as, physical fitness test, rifle marksmanship with iron sights, land navigation, warrior skills tasks, written exam, road march and the NCO and Trooper boards. The winner will go on to compete at the Corps level. The Paratroopers competed March 28-31. (Photo by: Staff Sgt. Shelman Spencer, 82nd Airborne Division Public Affairs Office)



**110330-A-8893S-008 (enhanced):** Spc. Danielle N. Welsh, Battery G, 2nd Battalion 319th Airborne Field Artillery Unit, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, prepares a 9 line medeva during the Warrior Skills tasks portion of the Non-Commissioned Officer and Trooper of the Year competition. Spc. Welsh was the only female out of 10 competitors. Spc. Welsh also finished fourth in the road march portion. The Paratroopers competed March 28-31. (Photo by: Staff Sgt. Shelman Spencer, 82nd Airborne Division Public Affairs Office)



**110329-A-8893S-030:** Sgt. Maximo G. Mirando, Company D, 2nd Battalion 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, navigates to his points during the land navigation portion of the Non-Commissioned Officer and Trooper of the Year competition. Ten paratroopers competed for this year's title. The Paratroopers competed March 28-31. (Photo by: Staff Sgt. Shelman Spencer, 82nd Airborne Division Public Affairs Office)

**EDITOR'S NOTES:**

1. For more information contact the 82nd Airborne Division Public Affairs Office at 910-432-0661 or 910-813-3891.