



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

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Ohio National Guard earns honors in national media contests

COLUMBUS, Ohio—The Ohio National Guard recently garnered four first-place finishes in the 2009 National Guard Bureau media contest.

This year's competition included more than 700 print stories and about 140 broadcast packages. Judges were picked for their experience in military and civilian journalism, public affairs and military history.

"The overall quality of entries was the best that I have seen in some time," said Air Force Master Sgt. Greg Rudl, the contest administrator.

Ohio winners included the Buckeye Guard magazine, published by the state public affairs office and edited by Mr. Steve Toth, which earned first place honors in the print magazine category for the second year in a row. This marks the 16th time since 1992 that the Buckeye Guard has been judged among the top three state magazines in the National Guard, including 12 first place finishes. Ohio competed against 16 other National Guard magazine publications this year, including Kentucky's Bluegrass Guard, which took second place and Michigan's Wolverine Guard, which took third.

The state's Office of Community Outreach won first place in Community Relations Category B, with Minnesota's Red Bull Nation earning second place honors.

Sgt. Joel Gottke of the 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, which recently mobilized for its second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, took an individual first place award in the television sports report category.

The 196th was another repeat winner, earning consecutive first place finishes in the local television newscast category, with "Eye on Ohio," which this year also took first place honors in the Department of Army's Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware public affairs competition. The DA-level competition is judged by the U.S. Army's Office of the Chief of Public Affairs and sponsored by the Secretary of the Army. The package will now go on to compete in the military's most prestigious media competition – the Defense Department's Thomas Jefferson Awards.

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For more information: Call the Ohio National Guard Public Affairs Office at (614) 336-7126. Please visit the Ohio National Guard public website at <http://ong.ohio.gov>