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# The Gem State Guardian

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## 2015 Idaho Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition

Story and photos by Spc. Christian Duplessie

A long day of challenging feats has revealed Idaho's best warriors for 2015.

In total, five junior enlisted soldiers and seven NCO's traveled to Gowen Field to compete and represent their Battalions at the annual Best Warrior Competition.



Sgt. Chrystina M. Vinson from the 116<sup>th</sup> BSTB, was named winner of the NCO Division.

Spc. Joaquin E. Calderon-Cetina representing the 145<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion was named the winner of the junior-enlisted division and Sgt. Chrystina M. Vinson representing the 116<sup>th</sup> Brigade Special Troops Battalion was the winner of the NCO division.

Spc. Calderon and Sgt. Vinson will advance and represent the State of Idaho at the National Guard Region VI competition in Wyoming next summer in hopes to win a slot at the national competition later next year.

Region VI consists of competitors from Wyoming, Montana, Oregon, Idaho, Washington, Alaska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

Calderon said he needed to "hit the books and really study up for the regional competition" while thanking his fellow soldiers for aiding in his preparation. "I got a lot of help from my NCO's and buddies in my company when I was getting ready for state," said Calderon.

The State competition consisted of a series of demanding events including the Army Physical Fitness Test, a swimming event, Combat Life Saver Warrior tasks, as well as uniform inspections, general knowledge questions and a



Spc. Joaquin E. Calderon Cetina from the 126<sup>th</sup> Engineer Co. of the 145<sup>th</sup> BSB was named winner of the Junior-Enlisted Division Winner.

board before a panel consisting of a few of the state's Command Sergeants Major.

"My perfect APFT score definitely gave me the boost I needed to win," Vinson said at the awards ceremony after complimenting her fellow competitors. "They really pushed me and came prepared, so I have a lot of studying to do before Region," Vinson said.

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