



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Hometown News Release

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## **Gallatin Guardsman won brigade Noncommissioned Officer of the Year**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** – A Gallatin National Guardsman placed first during the 30th Troop Command’s Best Warrior Competition held at Tullahoma’s Volunteer Training Site, Oct. 22-24.

Sgt. Gerardo Navarro, a combat medic assigned to the Tennessee Army National Guard’s Medical Detachment in Smyrna, competed in his brigade’s Best Warrior Competition against eight other top candidates. Soldiers were pushed mentally and physically as they competed in events such as the stress shooting course, an 8-mile ruck march, weapons qualification, a combat run, land navigation course, the Army Combat Fitness Test, and an inspection board.

To prepare for the competition Navarro trained with last year’s NCO of the Year, Staff Sgt. James Baggett, and used his mentorship throughout the stress-inducing, three-day competition.

“The toughest event had to be the combat run,” said Navarro. “Specifically, the third event within the run, where you had to hit a railroad tie with a sledgehammer as hard as you could for three minutes.”

Early next year, Navarro will compete against National Guardsmen from across the state to earn the title of Tennessee’s NCO of the Year. If he wins, he will advance to the regional competition in Spring 2022.

“I expect the next phase of the competition to be twice as hard,” said Navarro. “Which is exciting and it means I have to train harder.”

Navarro graduated from Gallatin Senior High School and is currently taking online classes from Purdue Global University and American Military University. He is using the Montgomery GI Bill to help pay school tuition costs.

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Sgt. Gerardo Navarro engages a target while competing in the Tennessee Army National Guard's 30th Troop Command Best Warrior Competition held Oct. 22-24. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Brown)

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