



## Media Release

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### CRDAMC recognizes Soldier, NCO of the Year

By Brandy Gill, CRDAMC Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas – Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center named their Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year during a ceremony on Friday, Jan. 17 at the hospital.

This year's Soldier of the Year is Spc. Jesse O'Donnell, a preventive medicine specialist, and the NCO of the Year is Sgt. David White, a chaplain's assistant.



**Figure 1: Sgt. David White, a CRDAMC chaplain's assistant, and Spc. Jesse O'Donnell, a CRDAMC preventive medicine specialist, were named Noncommissioned Officer of the Year and Soldier of the Year respectively in a ceremony held at the hospital Jan. 17.**

A total of six Soldiers completed this year's rigorous competition which included many difficult events like combatives, an eight-mile foot march within a 2-hour time limit, weapons qualification, land navigation, an essay and 100-question test, and a board.

O'Donnell, who is from Chesaning, Mich., has been assigned to CRDAMC for 14 months. He said the most difficult part of the competition was the board, but with the help of his mentor he was prepared.

“SGT(P) Timothy Hanson is my mentor. He helped me study to improve my knowledge and also carry myself as a Soldier,” O'Donnell said. “His mentorship and motivation gave me the determination and willpower to achieve the upmost

excellence that you would expect as a Soldier.”

White, who is from Forrest City, Ark., has been in the Army almost 6 years. He said this year's competition was tough, but he's proud to have competed and won.

“It was tough, starting with day one, combatives,” he said. “The most difficult (for me) was the 8 mile foot-march within 2 hours, I finished 8 minutes early; however, it was one of my weakest events. It feels great, especially after working as hard as I did to prepare myself. I found myself doing a foot-march every other week starting at the beginning of December. It was well worth it!”

Both Soldiers will go on to compete at the Southern Regional Medical Command Soldier and NCO of the Year event later this spring.