



G-5's "Eye on AMC" U.S. Army Materiel Command

Essential in Peace, Indispensable in War

July 2, 2004

AMC names Soldier, NCO of the Year

Soldiers from the Aviation and Missile Command were selected as the U.S. Army Materiel Command Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year and Soldier of the Year at an awards dinner June 25 in Arlington, Va. The banquet marked an end to a week-long series of events.

Sgt. Brandon Parrett and Spc. Christopher Fischer, both of the 95th Maintenance Company in Schofield, Hawaii, competed against two Soldiers and five NCOs to win the 2004-2005 title. The Soldiers went through three rigorous days of testing to include a physical training test, common task testing and a written examination. In addition, they also went before a formal board for uniform review and to answer questions on current events, training and basic Soldiering.

Gen. Paul Kern and Command Sgt. Maj. Ty Walker presented the winners with an Army medallion, a \$1000 savings bond, choice of his next duty assignment, and a free trip to Orlando, Fla. Fischer and Parrett also received the Army Commendation Medal and the Meritorious Service Award, respectively.

The runners-up in the NCOY/SOY competition were Sgt. Juan Ortiz and Spec. Jeremy Lenon of the Research, Development and Engineering Command. Fischer and Staff Sgt. Andre Morgan, headquarters, AMC, were recipients of the PT award, which is given to the highest scoring Soldier and NCO.

The remaining candidates were: Sgt. Lanelle Lewis, Communications-Electronics Command; Sgt. Richard Forbyn and Spec. Darnelle Medley of the Tank-Automotive Command; and Staff Sgt. Phillip Burkhardt, Army Field Support Command.

Raven flies into action

Ground troops in company size or smaller units are getting new help from above with an emerging class of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles that are compact enough to be carried in rucksacks. The stealthy Raven, developed by the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass., U.S. Special Operations Command Special Operations Acquisition Logistics-Technology, and AeroVironment, Inc. in Monrovia, Calif., is among the latest in small UAVs that give Soldiers a bird's-eye view of the battlefield for beyond line-of-sight reconnaissance and surveillance.

The Raven, which was introduced last year, resulted from the Military Operations in Urban Terrain Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration intelligence gathering and dissemination requirement. The demonstration sought to improve operational effectiveness of Soldiers and Marines operating in urban and built-up areas through integration of advanced technologies and associated tactics, techniques and procedures.

"Up until (MOUT ACTD), UAVs were used as a strategic asset at higher echelons," said Andy Mawn, ACTD and Urban Technology program manager. "The breakthroughs were that we could make them for light infantrymen, and the technology became viable to operate it in that size."

The Raven uses the same basic design and function of the Pointer but in a smaller package Soldiers wanted, shrinking the aircraft's wingspan from nine to four and one-half feet and weight from nine to four pounds. It is designed for two operators, a pilot and mission controller, although one operator is possible. The rucksack-sized UAV is deployed with four to six troops who can share the equipment load and secure the perimeter, according to Mawn.

Did you know...

Earlier this spring, the first class of a new workforce development initiative graduated at Rock Island Arsenal when nine welders completed 120 hours of training. Training the welders receive assists in the development of vital technical skills that are essential for the future of regional industries and the arsenal. The class is part of a collaboration between the Black Hawk College, the Rock Island Arsenal Development Group and the Rock Island Arsenal.