



## NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD

# NEWS RELEASE

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NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS  
WIN PRESTIGIOUS U.S. ARMY NATIONAL  
CULINARY ARTS CHAMPIONSHIP

Released by  
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LINCOLN, Neb. – For the second time in three years, a team of culinary specialists from the Nebraska Army National Guard’s Lincoln-based 110th Multifunctional Medical Battalion headquarters are national champions.

The championship comes in the form of the U.S. Army’s 50th annual prestigious Philip A. Connelly Awards Competition for Excellence in Army Food Service. This marks the second time in three years the unit has won the Army National Guard division of the competition.

“Congratulations to this amazingly talented team of Soldiers on this great achievement,” said Gov. Pete Ricketts. “To win two national championships in three years is something that our entire state can be proud of and I join all Nebraskans in commending them for a job extremely well done.”

The Connelly Competition – named after a Massachusetts native who spent his life promoting professionalism in food service in both the civilian industry and military services – is designed to recognize excellence in the preparation and serving of food in Army dining facilities and field kitchen operations. The competition is aligned with the National Restaurant Association (NRA) and the Department of the Army (DA), Deputy Chief of Staff, G4. The NRA participates in the evaluation of finalists, the presentation of awards and offer culinary training opportunities as recognition that supports the program’s objectives.

The 110th MMB culinary team, which competed in the Army National Guard’s Field Kitchen category, earned the award after garnering top scores during inspections at the state, regional and finally national level.

During the national competition, which took place on a soggy St. Patrick’s Day weekend at the Mead Training Site, the team of Soldiers prepared a multicourse meal in their mobile kitchen trailer under the ever watchful eyes of a team of national inspectors. Competing for the 110th MMD were Chief Warrant Officer 3 KC Sohl (Lincoln), Sgt. 1st Class Katherine Struck (Lincoln), Staff Sgt. David Cook (Greenwood), Sgt. Erica Sanchez (Sioux City), Sgt. Thomas Deall (Omaha), Spc. Jason Cole (Omaha), Spc. Kevin Boyle (Plattsmouth) and Pvt. Austin Janakoski (Morrill).

Representatives of that team were recognized on Friday evening during the 2018 Armed Forces Food Service Awards banquet in Chicago.

“This is a phenomenal accomplishment,” said Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac, Nebraska adjutant general who was able to eat the meal prepared during the national inspection. “Everyone who had the opportunity to watch this team prepare that meal and then taste the quality of their work knew that they were going to be extremely hard to beat.”

“I am extremely proud of this exceptional team of extremely talented Soldiers for coming together with an ultimate goal in mind and then seeing it through to completion,” Bohac said. “They definitely knocked it out of the park.”