



**JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER
AND FORT POLK
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
*Press Release***



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**Fort Polk Specialist become Headquarters Installation Management Agency
Soldier of the Year runner up**

Fort Polk, La. – What began as a competition to determine who was the best garrison Soldier for 2003 turned into far more than the Installation Management Agency (IMA) Southwest Region Soldier (SWR) thought it might be.

Last spring, Army Specialist (then Private First Class) Justin Moon from Fort Polk, Louisiana, was nominated and then won the garrison's Soldier of the Year Award. This put him in the running for the IMA SWR competition held on May 27, 2004 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. While, Moon didn't win that competition, he did finish second in his category.

As fate would have it, the selected IMA SWR Soldier of the Year had to withdraw from competition making Moon the Region's winner. With that title, Moon continued his climb to the top by competing in the Headquarters IMA competition held July 11-15, 2004 in Washington, D.C. At this level, Moon competed with the six other IMA region winners throughout the world. The winner then competed at the National Capitol Region Contest.

Much the same as the IMA SWR competition, Moon was deeply involved in four-day's worth of challenging events. These included: a physical fitness test, day and night land navigation, weapons qualification, Common Task Training, a written exam and essay and a stressful oral board.

"The experience of the SWR and Headquarters IMA boards have helped me be a more professional and knowledgeable Soldier and person," Moon said. "When I become a noncommissioned officer one day, I will be better able to train and lead Soldiers with these experiences."

IMA SWR Command Sergeant Major Kenneth Fyffe said, "Army Specialist Moon is a tremendous American Soldier. As an example, Moon was notified that he would represent SWR as our Soldier of the Year at the next higher level only one week prior to the start of the HQ IMA competition. His professionalism and desire that he demonstrated during that time and throughout IMA's competition make even this old Soldier envious. Moon is the role model for what our next greatest generation represents: America at its best. Congratulations to Specialist Moon and the Fort Polk U.S. Army Garrison team."

Moon, who is a Fund Clerk for the Fort Polk Chaplaincy, is from Conyers, Georgia and has been in the Army since January 2003.

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