

South Dakota National Guard

Public Affairs Office

Phone: 605-737-6721 Email: ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil Web: sd.ng.mil



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 27, 2022

SD Army National Guard names Warrant Officer of the Year

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The South Dakota Army National Guard selected Chief Warrant Officer 4 Kaylan Harrington as its Warrant Officer of the Year and recipient of the Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael F. O’Connor Award.

Harrington, who serves as the senior trainer for Company B, 1-196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) in Sturgis, received the award as the most exceptional warrant officer after competing against warrant officers from several of the SDARNG’s major commands.

The CW4 Michael F. O’Connor Award was established in 2000 to recognize the most outstanding SDARNG Warrant Officer of the past year. Criterion for the award is based on exceptional qualities of technical knowledge, leadership, dedication and initiative.

“CW4 Harrington’s impact to the SDARNG in the past year has been significant,” said Col. Deb Bartunek, commander of the 196th Regiment. “She facilitated the Warrant Officer Candidate School Open House at Fort Meade in May of 2021, leading to one the bigger classes in recent history. She went on to serve as the primary trainer for the current WOC class of ten candidates ensuring the SDARNG warrant officer pipeline is full of well-trained candidates for future positions.”

Bartunek added that Harrington’s years of operational assignments, to include five tours to Southwest Asia within military intelligence and the special operations community, make her an outstanding trainer and coach to warrant officer candidates. “She is an extremely valuable asset to not only the regiment, but the entire SDARNG,” Bartunek said.

In her civilian career, Harrington works as an emergency nurse technician for Monument Health in Rapid City. Her skills as an emergency health nurse come in valuable as a volunteer member of the Pennington County Search and Rescue Team. Harrington has continued her education in the medical field this past year as a full-time student at South Dakota State University pursuing a dual Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Biology.

Other warrant officers representing their major command for this year’s award were CW4 Patrick Hiles with the 109th Regional Support Group, WO1 Joseph Dressler with Joint Force Headquarters and CW2 Marty Nygren with the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

###



220423-Z-A3566-0002: South Dakota Army National Guard Warrant Officer of the Year, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Kaylan Harrington, is presented the CW4 Michael F. O’Connor Award by Maj. Gen. Jeff Marlette, (right) adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard, and Maj. Cody Becker, president of the National Guard Association of South Dakota, at the NGASD annual conference, April 23, 2022, in Rapid City, S.D.