

**South Dakota National Guard
Public Affairs Office
2823 West Main St.
Rapid City, S.D. 57702**

**Phone 605-737-6721
E-mail PAO@sd.ngb.army.mil**

**October 1, 2007
PAO 10-01A-07**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Charlie Battery selects top Soldiers

YANKTON, S.D. – South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers, Spc. John Himes, Lennox, and Sgt. George Strable, Sioux Falls, have been named the Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, Soldier and Sergeant of the Year, respectively, this past weekend at the local armory. Staff Sgt. Brooks Schild, Yankton, was named Artilleryman of the Year.

These Soldiers will compete against other 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery Soldiers early in November to be selected as the top Soldiers within the battalion. The winners from the battalion competition will then move on to the next level, which is within the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Sioux Falls.

All three South Dakota Army National Guardsmen were activated for 16 months and served in Iraq, returning one year ago. Strable is a reconnaissance sergeant for Charlie Battery and works for the National Guard full time. Himes is a Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) driver and is a welder in Sioux Falls. Schild is a section chief for the Yankton unit and teaches at Yankton Middle School.