



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
April 2, 2008

Contact: Sheriece Matias, 240-662-2377  
Sheriece\_Matias@discovery.com

**T.O.P. ARMY FIGHTER BATTLES IT OUT ON THE MILITARY CHANNEL  
FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE NIGHTS STARTING MONDAY, APRIL 14**

***– Featuring the 2007 Army Combatives Invitational Tournament, T.O.P. ARMY FIGHTER  
Showcases the Army’s Best Hand-To-Hand Combat Fighters –***

(Silver Spring, Md.) – The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Army Combatives Invitational Tournament is featured on the Military Channel in **T.O.P. ARMY FIGHTER**, a three-part special chronicling the tournament’s championship and third place matches from seven weight classes. Held at Ft. Benning, Ga., the competition attracts soldiers from all over the country who are determined to be named the U.S. Army’s top hand-to-hand fighters. These highly-skilled soldiers have trained for years and in this tournament the field of 200 competitors is narrowed down to the absolute best. **T.O.P. ARMY FIGHTER** premieres on the Military Channel starting Monday, April 14 through Wednesday, April 16 from 10-11 PM ET.

**T.O.P. ARMY FIGHTER** features mixed martial arts mastered in the Modern Army Combatives Program, the Army’s version of “ultimate fighting” designed to help in real life or death battlefield situations. The Modern Army Combatives Program is derived from the mixed-martial arts’ techniques of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, judo, wrestling, boxing and Muay Thai kickboxing, which are integrated into a system of close quarters combat.

The competitors showcased in **T.O.P. ARMY FIGHTER** have reached the finals after testing their skills against some of the best trained fighters in the world in both regional qualifying events and their weight classes’ entire field of participants at the 2007 Army Combatives Invitational Tournament.

**Episode One: Monday, April 14 from 10-11 PM ET**

**Cruiserweight (185 lbs)**

Championship Match: SSG Jacob South, Ft. Knox, KY vs. PFC Gary Tate, Ft. Campbell, KY

Third Place Match: SPC Guillermo Villa, Tripler Medical Center, HI vs. PFC Michael Goede, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Div

**Welterweight (155 lbs)**

Championship Match: SGT Jason Kwast, Ft. Bragg, NC vs. SPC Nathaniel Nelson, Ft. Sill, OK

Third Place Match: SSG Marcos Gutierrez, Ft. Benning, GA vs. SGT Robert Piniero, OK Ntl Guard

**Light Heavyweight (205 lbs)**

Championship Match: SSG Tim Kennedy, Ft. Bragg, NC vs. 1LT Carpaccio Owens, Ft. Bragg, NC

Third Place Match: SSG Benjamin Bradley, Ft. Gordon, GA vs. SPC Derrick Lehman, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne

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**Episode Two: Tuesday, April 15 from 10-11 PM ET**

**Flyweight (125 lbs)**

Championship Match: SGT James Tomko, Ft. Bragg, NC vs. Guam National Guard's PFC Joshua Poblete

Third Place Match: SSG Rudy Romero, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Div vs. SSG Nicholas Bihl, Ft. Benning, GA

**Lightweight (140 lbs)**

Championship Match: PFC Matthew Bray, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Div. vs. SGT Dustin Portillo, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne

Third Place Match: PFC Brandon Sandefur, Ft. Hood, TX vs. PFC Grover Gebhart, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne

**Episode Three: Wednesday, April 16 from 10-11 PM ET**

**Middleweight (170 lbs)**

Championship Match: SGT Yuriy Fomin, Illinois Ntl. Guard vs. SGT Aaron Cooper, Ft. Benning, GA

Third Place Match: SO1 Dale Wooden, Ft. Bragg, NC vs. PFC Marquez Staton, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Div

**Heavyweight (205 lbs)**

Championship Match: SGT Jeff Yurk, Ft. Bragg, NC vs. MSG John Long, Ft. Bragg, NC

Third Place Match: SPC Darril Schoonover, Ft. Hood, TX vs. SGT Julian Wiggins, Ft. Jackson, SC

In addition, **T.O.P ARMY FIGHTER** incorporates play-by-play commentary by Tim Hughes, a prominent announcer of mixed martial arts whose credits include the 2002 Winter Olympics Games, International Fight League events and the upcoming 2008 Summer Olympics Games in Beijing. Matt Larsen, founder of the Modern Army Combatives Program and expert fighter, co-hosts with color commentary that provides viewers with incredible insight into the fighting techniques employed during each match.

**T.O.P. ARMY FIGHTER** is produced for Military Channel by Creative Street Entertainment. Dave H. Smith & Steven N. Katzenberger are Executive Producers, Mark Douglas Fry is Managing Producer/Director and Mark Nisenbaum is the Supervising Producer for Creative Street Entertainment. For the Military Channel, Brian Kelly is the executive producer and Clark Bunting is the executive-in-charge of production.

**About Military Channel**

As the only network devoted exclusively to military subjects, Military Channel takes viewers "behind the lines" and presents compelling, real-world stories of human drama, heroism and innovation from the men and women who fill the ranks of the armed forces. In addition to showcasing soldiers' stories, Military Channel profiles the technology, tactics and strategies which are responsible for vital turning points in history. For more information, please visit [www.military.discovery.com](http://www.military.discovery.com).

**About Discovery Communications**

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