

INFORMATION RELEASE



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ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE CORPORAL NAMED GRAND CHAMPION IN NORTH AMERICA

LITTLE ROCK (8-26) – A corporal with the Arkansas Highway Police has been named North American Grand Champion at an international safety inspector competition, according to the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) officials.

Corporal Derek Canard of the Arkansas Highway Police District 2, which encompasses north-central Arkansas, was given the honor after his remarkable performance at the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) Championship. The event was held August 19th – 23rd in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Roadside inspectors save lives every single day by keeping unsafe commercial vehicles and drivers off the roads. The North American Inspector Competition is the only international event dedicated to recognizing and rewarding commercial vehicle inspector excellence.

“Corporal Canard is to be commended for this accomplishment and the commitment he has made to commercial motor vehicle safety and security in Arkansas,” says Chief of Arkansas Highway Police, Ronnie Burks.

Corporal Canard competed among 52 of the best roadside inspectors from across North America. His award was based on his combined performances in six competition elements.

In addition to the Grand Champion award, the following awards were presented:

- **High Points United States:** Derek Canard, Arkansas
- **High Points Canada:** Darren Kennedy, British Columbia
- **North American Standard Level I Inspection:** First Place—Derek Canard, Arkansas; Second place—Joshua Anderson, North Dakota; Third Place—J.W. Watlington, Arizona



- **North American Standard Level V Passenger Vehicle (Motorcoach) Inspection:** First Place—Derek Canard, Arkansas; Second Place—Brad Yates, Louisiana; Third Place—Michael Robson, Alberta
- **North American Standard Hazardous Materials/Transportation of Dangerous Goods and Cargo Tank/Bulk Packaging Inspection:** First Place—Derek Canard, Arkansas; Second Place—Joshua Anderson, North Dakota; Third Place—J.W. Watlington, Arizona.
- **John Youngblood Award of Excellence** is a special award NAIC contestants bestow on a fellow NAIC inspector who exemplifies the high standards and unwavering dedication to the profession. The award this year goes to William Keane of the New York State Police.
- **Team Award:** Yellow Team: Team Leader—Lane Murphy, Utah; Jorge Antenucci—New Jersey; Lance Bonney—Illinois; Derek Canard—Arkansas; Tom Forbes—Ohio; Scott Hill—Lewisville, Texas; Darren Kennedy—British Columbia; Richard Moore—Vermont; Charles Shaver—Tennessee; Brad Yates—Louisiana

CVSA is an international non-profit organization comprised of local, state, provincial, territorial, and federal motor carrier safety officials and industry representatives from the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Its mission is to promote commercial motor vehicle safety and security by providing leadership to enforcement, industry and policy-makers.

"The contestants' enthusiasm and passion goes a long way in advancing commercial vehicle safety and saving lives. What's more, the information, techniques and experiences they will share with others help improve uniformity in the enforcement of highway safety standards throughout North America," says Stephen A. Keppler, CVSA's Executive Director.

Just a reminder, Arkansas travel information can be found at ArkansasHighways.com. You can also follow us on [Twitter @AHTD](https://twitter.com/AHTD).

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