The NCOA Army Vanguard Award is presented in honor and memory of Medal of Honor recipient Corporal Alvin C. York.

The NCOA Military Vanguard recipient for the U.S. Army is Staff Sergeant Benjamin J. Roberts.

On the morning of 6 November 2019, SSG Roberts and his Patriot launcher platoon were conducting training at the Multi-Purpose Training Range (MPTR) on Camp Humphreys. As he and his platoon trained on their launcher crew drills, SSG Roberts noticed a Bradley crew training in the same vicinity. Shortly after seeing the Bradley crew beginning their berm drill training, he noticed the vehicle rolled over, prompting him to take immediate action.

SSG Roberts called on his Soldiers to move toward the location of the accident and led them to the scene. SSG Roberts responded quickly and decisively not hesitating to evaluate and extricate the Soldiers trapped inside the vehicle. SSG Roberts did this without regard for his own safety. His selfless and heroic actions resulted in the timely evacuation of all Soldiers involved. SSG Roberts and his Soldiers saved the lives of three members of the Bradley crew. Without the actions of SSG Roberts, the outcome of that day may have been dramatically different.

Without question, Staff Sergeant Roberts’ prompt and decisive action is consistent with the greatest traditions of our uniformed services and is in keeping with the finest traditions of military service, and reflect distinct credit upon himself, his command, and the United States Army.