HEIDELBERG, Germany -- Sgt. James Byrnes, from the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, and Pfc. Travis Williams, from the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, were named the 2011 U.S. Army Europe NCO and Soldier of the Year respectively in a ceremony here, Aug. 11.

Byrnes, a 23-year old Green Bay, Wis., native, and Williams, a 19-year-old a Philomath, Ore., native, earned their titles after competing with 16 other NCOs and Soldiers at the 2011 USAREUR Best Warrior Competition July 24-28 at the Grafenwoehr Training Area. The competition challenged their military knowledge, warrior skills, and endurance during four days of nearly non-stop action.

The two winners will represent USAREUR at the Department of the Army-level Best Warrior Competition, where they will compete with NCOs and Soldiers from Army commands around the globe Oct. 2-8 at Fort Lee, Va.

There, Byrnes, a military policeman, and Williams, an infantryman, will face tough competition as they strive to uphold USAREUR's "Best Warrior" winning reputation.

Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Capel, USAREUR's senior enlisted leader, expressed great confidence in the two competitors winning the DA-level Best Warrior Competition.
“They are going to bring those trophies back to U.S. Army Europe and make everybody proud, just like they did today,” said Capel.

If you missed this year’s action, visit the 2011 USAREUR Best Warrior Competition homepage at http://www.eur.army.mil/BestWarrior for pictures and videos.

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