U.S. Army Europe names 2012 Best Warriors and Junior Officer

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HEIDELBERG, Germany -- The winners for the Best Warrior and Junior Officer Competition were announced during an award luncheon, Aug. 16.

Staff Sgt. Mathew Senna, an instructor at the 7th Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy, and Pvt. 1st Class Richard Shepard, an intelligence analyst for 21st Theater Sustainment Command, earned their titles after competing against 16 other noncommissioned officers and Soldiers at the 2012 USAREUR BWC hosted at the Grafenwoehr Training Area, July 30 through Aug. 3.

"To find yourself working and competing with and alongside those individuals and being named above them is staggering," said Senna, a Sacramento, Calif., native. "[Winning Best NCO for USAREUR] feels good."

"I don’t think of myself as better than anybody else," said Shepard, a San Diego native. "Everybody strives to be the best and it’s how you push yourself to get there."

First Lt. Jeremy Gilbert, 2nd Cavalry Regiment and a Jackson, N.J. native, earned his title after competing with 11 other junior officers, July 23 through 27.
The two winners of the BWC will represent USAREUR at the Department of the Army-level competition, where they will compete at Fort Lee, Va. with NCOs and Soldiers from Army commands from around the globe.

“I hope our leaders see that the biggest take away is that our Soldiers are physically fit,” said USAREUR Senior Enlisted Advisor Command Sgt. Maj. David Davenport. “I think the USAREUR Soldiers will win the Department of the Army competition because our competition stressed them mentally and physically, and it reinforced the warrior tasks and battle drills.

About us: U.S. Army Europe is uniquely positioned to advance American strategic interests across Eurasia and has unparalleled capability to prevent conflict, shape the environment and, if necessary, win decisively. The relationships we build during more than 1000 theater security cooperation events in more than 40 countries each year lead directly to support for multinational contingency operations around the world, strengthen regional partnerships, and enhance global security.