

Legions of Merit presented by U.S. Army Europe to Commanders in Sweden

Sept. 7, 2012

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U.S. Army Europe Commanding General Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling presented Legions of Merit to Maj. Gen. Berndt Grundevik, the Chief of Staff of the Swedish Army, and Maj. Gen. Bengt Svensson, Swedish Chief of Training, at two ceremonies during a visit to Stockholm Sept. 6-7.

"This is such a great honor for me," said Grundevik at a ceremony held at the Swedish Military Academy. "This Academy is where I was commissioned over 30 years ago, so it is quite fitting that we did this here, in front of the cadets who represent our future. And I can say the future for the Swedish and US military will remain strong."

Grundevik was honored for his contributions as the Chief of Staff where he has expanded the Swedish Army's responsibility in several NATO-led operations. He introduced dynamic, structural and institutional changes that helped create a more deployable and interoperable force with critical capabilities to modernize operations. The Swedish Chief of Staff also championed military cooperation between both the United States and Swedish Armed Forces with the mission prepare forces for coalition operations.

"The Legion of Merit is presented in the order of commander to the chiefs of the various services who've contributed significantly to coalition operations. General Grundevik has not only expanded his Army's mission, but also developed a professional fighting force while leading them through a significant transition in their military," said Hertling.

Svensson was honored for his earlier work as a Swedish Military Attache and Assistant Defense Attache to the United States of America, from July 2006 to August 2009. He planned, coordinated, and executed key visits that had a direct impact on Sweden's role in the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. As the senior military

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representative from Sweden, Svensson demonstrated his desire to achieve and maintain a close working relationship with the United States and Sweden.

Also during the visit, Hertling and Grundevik traveled to the Swedish Urban Warfare Center, participating in a squad level tactical demonstration with Swedish cadets. The USAREUR Commander suggested sending a small element from USAREUR to take advantage of the great facilities and the professional training of the cadets. The two generals discussed several additional exchange and partnering options in order to continually prepare for future coalition operations.

US Army Europe has presented LOMs to deserving leaders across its area of responsibility to salute their dedication to creating bonds between the European countries and the United States that further multinational engagement, theater security cooperation strategy, and force interoperability.

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.