

Army names U.S. Army Europe captain as one of its best leaders

By U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs

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HEIDELBERG, Germany -- A U.S. Army Europe junior officer has been selected from among thousands of his peers to receive a 2009 Army-level Gen. Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award.

Capt. Timothy Palmer of the 172nd Infantry Brigade, based in Schweinfurt, Germany, was one of three U.S. Army Europe officers selected for USAREUR-level recognition last month, making him eligible for competition at Army level. At the time of his selection

Palmer was commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry.



Capt. Timothy Palmer (center) talks with Soldiers of the 172nd Infantry Brigade during the unit's deployment in Iraq last year. Palmer was named March 9 as one of 25 junior commissioned officers in the Army to receive the 2009 Gen. Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Lonnie Colbert)

Earning a MacArthur Award places Palmer in a select group of Army leaders. About 2,500 commissioned and warrant officers across Europe were potential candidates for this year's USAREUR level awards, explained Steve Cormier, the project officer for the USAREUR competition. Fourteen were ultimately selected, and two commissioned officers from that group were chosen to go on to competition at the Army level. Of the approximately 30,000 officers from across the Army eligible to compete, Cormier added, 40 advanced to Armywide competition and 25 were ultimately chosen as MacArthur recipients.

Palmer said he's a bit overwhelmed by the honor, and gave credit for the award to the members of his company.

"I consider myself fortunate to be counted among such fine leaders, although if not for the Soldiers, this recognition would not be happening," he said.

The captain, who calls northeast Georgia home, expanded on that theme at the time of his USAREUR award last month.

"Motivation is really the key of all leadership, because if you have a motivated force they can accomplish anything," he said. "You tell (your Soldiers) to follow you to the gates of hell and they'll beat you to the top of the hill. So it just depends if your guys want to be there or not. If you take care of them, they'll want to be there and you'll want to be there, because it's just fun."

The MacArthur Award was introduced in 1987 and is presented annually to company-grade and junior warrant officers who demonstrate MacArthur's ideals of "duty, honor and country" and have proven records of performance, leadership and achievement.