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# NewsRelease

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## **Food service specialists return with Bronze medal awards from the annual U.S. Army culinary arts competition**

**By Pfc. Sonya McNair**

12th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs Office

**ANSBACH, Germany --** Three 12<sup>th</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade Soldiers and one U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach civilian employee competed in the 34<sup>th</sup> annual U.S. Army Culinary Arts Competition as part of a 15-member team representing U.S. Army Europe and the Installation Management Command-Europe.

Sgt. John E. Lloyd of 12<sup>th</sup> CAB's 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 158<sup>th</sup> Aviation, won two Bronze medals in the Plated Desserts and Centerpiece categories. Spc. Julio Garcia, also from 5-158 won two Bronze medals in the Field Kitchen event and the Senior Chef of the Year. Spc. Jaime Medina from 412<sup>th</sup> Aviation Support Battalion won a Bronze medal in Student Skills and civilian Julian Gude, who brought home a Bronze medal in the Wild Game Platter event, also competed in the event that took place Feb. 28 to March 13 at Fort Lee, Va.

The team members were originally selected at Spinelli Barracks in Mannheim, Germany, where the group trained for the competition.

Lloyd said he hopes junior food service specialists will participate in the culinary competitions because it provides good experience.

"Like many other military occupational specialties, we have Cook of the Quarter, Cook of the Year and culinary competitions," said Lloyd. "We encourage junior service-members to get involved."

Medina agreed, and said that as a newcomer, he hopes to bring home new skills from the event that will serve him well in his food service career.

"It is hard work, but for me it's fun," said Medina. "Since I was a child I have wanted to follow in the footsteps of my father and grandfather who are culinary chefs."

Garcia said he learned from the competition and looked forward to next year's event, "I didn't know what to expect at the competition. I feel that next year I will do even better because I learned how to cope at a higher competition level."

"It was a very good culinary arts experience," said Mr. Gude, who resides the Ansbach community. "It was interesting and I learned from many of the culinary chefs at the competition."

Competition officials say the event, which includes food service specialists from the active Army, Army Reserve and National Guard, is the largest culinary competition in the United States.

“It was a very good culinary arts experience,” said Mr. Gude. “It was interesting and I learned from many of the culinary chefs at the competition.”



**Sgt. John E. Lloyd (right) and Spc. Julio Garcia (left) of Ansbach, Germany, 12<sup>th</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, competed in the 34th annual U.S. Army Culinary Arts Competition as part of the team representing U.S. Army Europe and the Installation Management Command-Europe. Both Lloyd and Garcia won two Bronze medals. (U. S. Army photo by Pfc. Sonya McNair, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade PAO)**



**Spc. Jaime A. Medina from Ansbach, Germany's 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, won a Bronze medal in Student Skills at the 34th annual U.S. Army Culinary Arts Competition as part of the team representing U.S. Army Europe and the Installation Management, Command-Europe. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Sonya McNair)**



**Julian Gude of U.S Army Garrison Ansbach, Germany, trained at Spinelli Barracks in Mannheim for this year's U.S. Army Culinary Arts Competition at Ft. Lee, Va. Gude and three Soldiers from the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade were joined the team representing U.S. Army Europe and the Installation Management Command-Europe at the competition. Gude brought home a Bronze medal in the Wild Game Platter event. (Photo by Kristen Marquez, Staff Writer, Heidelberg Herald-Post)**