

# U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army

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**2009: THE YEAR OF THE NCO**

August 27,

## U.S. Army Europe names top Soldier, noncommissioned officer for 2009



**SGT DANIEL J. NICHOLS**

Spc. Daniel Micek of the 18th Military Police Brigade (right) was named the 2009 USAREUR and Seventh Army Soldier of the Year and Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Beckman of the 7th Army NCO Academy (left) was named the 2009 USAREUR and Seventh Army NCO of the Year in a ceremony in Heidelberg, Germany, Aug. 27. Beckman and Micek will go on to represent USAREUR in the Army's Best Warrior Competition at Fort Lee, Va., in September.

**By Sgt. Daniel J. Nichols**  
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**HEIDELBERG, Germany --** A military police Soldier from U.S. Army Europe's 21st Theater Sustainment Command and a senior noncommissioned officer from the Joint Multinational Training Command were named as the 2009 USAREUR and Seventh Army Soldier of the Year and NCO of the Year in a ceremony here, Aug. 27.

Spc. Daniel Micek of the 18th Military Police Brigade is the 2009 USAREUR Soldier of the Year and Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Beckman of the 7th Army NCO Academy is the 2009 USAREUR NCO of the Year.

“I told them (the competitors) when this thing started that you’re going to be tried, and you’re going to be

tested, and it will probably be one of the hardest things you ever do at this point in your military career,” said USAREUR Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Beam during the ceremony.

Beckman and Micek will go on to represent USAREUR in the Army's Best Warrior Competition at Fort Lee, Va., in September, where they will compete with winners from the Army's major commands.

Beam said a few months ago Gen. Carter Ham, USAREUR’s commanding general, told him to spare no effort or expense in finding USAREUR’s top warriors.

“Sergeant major, we’re going to pick our warrior. We’re going to pick our champion that is going to go forth and represent us at DA,” Beam said the general told him.

The result was the competition at the Grafenwoehr (Germany) Training Area in which the Micek and Beckman earned their titles earlier this month. The competition put 11 USAREUR Soldiers' physical, mental and warrior skills to the test over four grueling days of nearly non-stop challenges.

A full story about the competition is available from the USAREUR home page by clicking [here](#).

The Aug. 9-13 competition was designed to tax each contender's stamina and capabilities, as well as prepare the winners for the Army-level competition, said Sgt. Maj. Michael Kennedy of JMTC's operations division, who designed many of the tasks for event.

"The competitor that we're looking for to send to the Army level is the one that is very good at dealing with fatigue, physical and mental," Kennedy said during the competition. "The Soldier that can operate on minimum amounts of rest and information for long periods of time and still remember to do the little things even when they're tired, sore, and not real happy about the situation they're in."

While at times they might have found it hard to work up some enthusiasm during the competition, the winners said they're honored to earn their titles and excited to move on to the next level.

"This is a tremendous honor right now," Micek said. "Not many people dream of it. Some people think they can do it, but like the sergeant major told us, we actually did it. And this is a huge honor, meeting everybody that competed ... and an honor to represent USAREUR."

"I'm really excited to represent all the fine NCOs and Soldiers from the JMTC and from USAREUR," Beckman added. "I'm just hoping I can continue to drive forward and represent well when I get to Fort Lee."

He said his plans are to "train, train, train" between now and then, including preparing with Micek, a fellow Grafenwoehr resident.

"I'll give all I've got for that one," Micek said. "There's nothing after that, so there's nothing to hold back."



**SGT DANIEL J. NICHOLS**

Spc. Daniel Micek of the 18th Military Police Brigade (left) and Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Beckman of the Joint Multinational Training Command stand at attention shortly after Micek was named U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army 2009 Soldier of the Year and Beckman was named 2009 USAREUR and Seventh Army NCO of the Year, at an awards ceremony in Heidelberg Germany, Aug. 27.



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