



# STORY RELEASE



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## **Best Junior Officer Competition**

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**2nd Cavalry Regiment Public Affairs**

**ROSE BARRACKS, Germany** – The U.S. Army Europe’s Best Junior Officer Competition started July 23 in Grafenwoehr training area where junior officers competed in various events to be named Best Junior Officer of 2012.

Among officers competing for the prestigious title is 1st Lt. Jeremy Gilbert of 1st Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, a native of Jackson, New Jersey. He has won multiple competitions to earn the right to represent 2nd CR and hopes to win the competition.

“I went to a competition about three weeks ago with all the best officers in our regiment and there were a lot of very good officers there and I happened to come out on top,” Gilbert said. “I’m coming here and representing my regiment and I don’t want to let them down, I really want to come out on top so the we can hold out as the reigning champions two years in a row.”

The winner of the Best Junior Officer Competition in 2011 was also from 2nd CR claiming the title among U.S. Army Europe’s best.

On the second day of the event officers competed in a Stress-Fire event. Sgt. 1st Class Earl Echohawk of Delta Company 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 172nd Infantry Brigade, Stress Fire Range Officer, explained the different scenarios involved in the event and how they tie into a combat situation.

In a stress-fire event officers have to complete a 400-meter run and a 250-meter obstacle course that contains obstacles including casualty drag, ammo-can carry, water-can carry and shuttle sprints. The officers will have to engage targets after each event. The nature of the stress shoot is to test the competitor's stamina and their ability to engage targets accurately downrange under stress while being physically exhausted, said Echohawk.

Gilbert was optimistic throughout the competition completing various events that tested the officer's ability to remain vigilant and combat effective with minimal rest.

"The event itself is a very physically demanding adventure so far," Gilbert said. "Yesterday we had a PT test, obstacle course, two road marches with one in full kit, shooting, land navigation that pretty much went the whole night and here we are on this field doing some stress shoot. I did get about 45 minutes of sleep on the bus last night and about an hour after the land navigation course so I'm not doing too bad."

Gilbert looks forward to the future and knows it takes hard work and dedication as he aspires to be a leader at a company commander level.

"Three or four years from now, I would like to be at the 75th ranger regiment as a company commander," Gilbert said. "It takes a lot of work to get there so we will see how it goes, but that is where I would like to be."



1st Lt. Jeremy Gilbert, an officer with 1st Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, runs with two full ammo cans during a shuttle sprint on 23 July, 2012. Gilbert competed in the U.S. Army Europe's Best Junior Officer competition at Grafenwoehr training grounds. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Joshua Edwards/released)



1st Lt. Jeremy Gilbert, an officer with 1st Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, fires his M16A2 rifle on 23 July, 2012. Gilbert competed in the U.S. Army Europe's Best Junior Officer competition at Grafenwoehr training grounds. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Joshua Edwards/released)



1st Lt. Jeremy Gilbert, an officer with 1st Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, performs shuttle sprints on 23 July, 2012. Gilbert competed in the U.S. Army Europe's Best Junior Officer competition at Grafenwoehr training grounds. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Joshua Edwards/released)