



# STORY RELEASE



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## **Warriors compete for title of USAREUR's best**

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**ROSE BARRACKS, Germany** – Grafenwoehr physical fitness center hosted the combatives portion of the United States Army Europe's 2012 Best Warrior competition 2 August. The event brought together soldiers and non-commissioned officers from units across USAREUR who competed in various events testing their physical and mental strength.

Staff Sgt. Elliott Robbins and Pfc. Alex Vanroekel, both of 2nd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, are among the soldiers and NCO's who competed for the title of best warrior.

Robbins, a native of San Diego, Calif., described some of the training he went through to compete and strive to be the best in each event. The journey for him was exhausting but along the way he had a bit of fun with the other competitors.

"We did all sorts of things from weapons to marches, anything we thought was going to be in this competition and we just came here with a good mentality." Robbins said. "It's been a rough past couple of days, we've gotten limited sleep and meals haven't been exactly planned. We have been on our feet moving long distances but overall it's been fun, the morale has been high between competitors and we're all joking around with each other trying to win and it's been fun."

Vanroekel, a native of Waterloo, Iowa, feels he put forth his best effort. He believes the competition has made him a better soldier and is pleased to have been given the chance to compete in this year's events.

"Every aspect of this whole competition, I put a hundred percent into it and honestly think it made me a better soldier," Vanroekel said. "I came out with a lot of knowledge and I know I distinguished myself above the others. It's a very prestigious honor to the one who was chosen to come to this competition."

Robbins believes that it is in his nature as an infantryman to want the title of Best Warrior. He gives credit to his chain of command and the soldiers at his side for helping him with training to compete for such a notable title.

"Wherever I am competing there's something inside me, and I'm sure it's the same with every eleven bravo that we can't lose." Robbins said. "I think in the infantry everyone has that mentality where you want to strive be the best, so when you label it the Best Warrior competition I think in their heart every infantryman wants to go out and compete in it. I've had help from my chain of command up to regimental sergeant major down to my subordinates and leaders helping me to prepare for this competition."

Robbins considered it an honor to compete and to have represented 2nd Cavalry Regiment in this event.

"It's a great honor to represent the 2nd Cavalry Regiment," Robbins said. "The Dragoons are a very prestigious cavalry unit, the longest continuous serving regiment in the United States Army and I'm just proud to be out here and able to represent them"



Pfc. Alex Vanroekel (right), an infantryman with 2nd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, takes his apponent to the mat during the combatives portion of the Best Warrior competition at Grafenwoehr, Germany 2 August 2012. Non-commissioned officers and soldiers from units in Europe came to participate in the event to compete for the title. (Photo by Spc. Joshua Edwards/released)



Staff Sgt. Elliott Robbins, an infantryman with 2nd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, demonstrates passing the guard during the combatives portion of the Best Warrior competition at Grafenwoehr, Germany 2 August 2012. Non-commissioned officers and soldiers from units in Europe came to participate in the event to compete for the title. (Photo by Spc. Joshua Edwards/released)



Staff Sgt. Elliott Robbins, an infantryman with 2nd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, demonstrates passing the guard during the combatives portion of the Best Warrior competition at Grafenwoehr, Germany 2 August 2012. Non-commissioned officers and soldiers from units in Europe came to participate in the event to compete for the title. (Photo by Spc. Joshua Edwards/released)