

U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army

contact: paoci@eur.army.mil
phone: 49-6221-57-5815 / DSN 370-5815
fax: 49-6221-57-6376 / DSN 370-6376



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U.S. Army Europe presents Legion of Merit to distinguished German army officer

HEIDELBERG, Germany -- A distinguished German officer was presented the U.S. Legion of Merit in a ceremony here May 15.

Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Bernd Diepenhorst, former commander of the German Military District Command II (Wehrbereich II), was awarded the Legion of Merit (Degree of Officer) by U.S. Army Europe deputy commander Lt. Gen. Gary D. Speer.

The award recognizes the general's contributions to the global war on terror and sustaining and furthering good relations between Germany and the U.S. and their military forces during his tenure at WBK II from March 2004 to December 2008, according to the citation for the award.

The citation honors Diepenhorst's personal support and

commitment as he managed the German military program that provided security for U.S. Army and Air Force installations and housing areas in Hessen and Rheinland-Pfalz.

“His diligent efforts to resolve any impediments and political barriers which would have hampered our mission requirements allowed us to successfully train, deploy and operate within his area of responsibility,” Speer added. “He served as an excellent ambassador



STAFF SGT PATRICIA DEAL

U.S. Army Europe deputy commander Lt. Gen. Gary D. Speer awards Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Bernd Diepenhorst, former commander of the German Military District Command II, with the U.S. Army Legion of Merit (Degree of Officer) at a ceremony in Heidelberg, Germany, May 15.

for the U.S. military in Germany, doing so much more to improve the German-American friendship.”

“I am so proud and honored to have worked with so many great Soldiers. Without the willingness of everyone to work together, we would not have been able to accomplish such a cooperative friendship,” Diepenhorst said of the achievements for which he earned the award.

The Degree of Officer, one of four degrees of the Legion of Merit, is awarded to general of flag officers below the rank of Army chief of staff who are in service assignments equivalent to those normally held by U.S. general officers, as well as military attaches. The other degrees are chief commander, awarded to chiefs of state and heads of government; commander, awarded to those holding a rank equivalent to a U.S. military chief of staff, but not heads of state; and legionnaire, awarded to all other recipients.

Diepenhorst retired from the Bundeswehr in December after 42 years of service.



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