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2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment Soldiers partner with German colleagues for training and opportunity to earn shooting badge

By Spc. Gerald Wilson

2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment Public Affairs Office

REGEN, Germany -- The German Army's 112th Panzergrenadier Battalion welcomed their partners from U.S. Army Europe's 1st Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, here July 21 for the first Schutzenschnur event conducted under the partnership program that brings U.S. and German units together to enhance cooperation through training and social events.

The Schutzenschnur -- the German Armed Forces Badge for Weapons Proficiency -- is one of several foreign awards U.S. military personnel are authorized to wear on their dress uniforms. To earn the badge, Soldiers must successfully qualify with the Bundeswehr's G36 German service rifle, P8 pistol and M3 machine gun. The award is earned in gold, silver and bronze grades, determined by how well each Soldier scores firing the weapons.

Capt. Bernard A. Geist, the officer-in-charge of the event, oversaw the firing, with his Soldiers coaching and training their American colleagues at each station.

The battalion also displayed their equipment and weapons for their visitors, including tanks, sniper rifles and other gear. Soldiers of the 112th were on hand to brief their U.S.

allies on each item on display.

During a closing ceremony, Lt. Col. Bernd E. Prill, the 112th commander, and 1st Squadron commander Lt. Col. D.A. Sims



MASTER SGT EDWARD ANDERSON

A German Soldier shows Soldiers of U.S. Army Europe's 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment how to load the MG3 machine gun during training in Vilseck, Germany, July 21. Troops from the 112th Panzergrenadier Battalion -- the 2nd SCR's German partnership unit -- spent the day teaching their American colleagues and helping them earn the Schutzenschnur, the German Armed Forces Badge for Weapons Proficiency.

saluted and thanked the Soldiers for their efforts during the event, as well as for their participation in a partnership squad competition conducted by the 1st Squadron in June.



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