



# **News Release**

## **HQ U.S. ARMY EUROPE**

**Office of the Chief of Public Affairs**  
**Unit 29351 APO AE 09014**  
**Postfach 10 43 21 69033 Heidelberg**  
**Tel.: 06221-57-8694/5816/6647**

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### **U.S. Army Europe's Deputy Commanding General honored for 37 years of service**

HEIDELBERG, Germany (Aug. 3, 2009) —Lt. Gen. Gary D. Speer, U.S. Army Europe Deputy Commanding General, a native of Gadsden, Ala., was presented the Distinguished Service Medal by Gen. Carter F. Ham, USAREUR's commanding general, during a military tattoo and retreat ceremony in Speer's honor at Campbell Barracks here Thursday.

Speer was honored for his 37-year Army career, which began when he was commissioned in 1972 as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Infantry upon graduation from the United States Military Academy, commonly known as West Point. Speer has been USAREUR's second-in-command since April 2006.

He was presented a Certificate of Retirement from the Armed Forces of the United States of America, and a Certificate of Appreciation from the President of the United States, for his honorable service to the country. Speer also received an American flag that was flown in his honor over 14 military installations in Germany, Italy, Romania, and Kosovo.

Mrs. Catherine M. Speer was presented the Distinguished Civilian Service Medal for her exceptional service as a volunteer in numerous capacities for the Soldiers, civilian employees and Family members of the United States Army, other United States military services and NATO. Mrs. Speer was also presented a Department of the Army Certificate of Appreciation for her support to her husband during his military career.

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The U.S. Army in Europe trains for, conducts, and supports training and contingency operations with NATO and other coalition partners across its 51-country area of responsibility. The U.S. Army in Europe is headquartered in Heidelberg, Germany, is also stationed in Belgium, Italy, and the Netherlands, and is currently training in Bulgaria and Romania. U.S. Army units based in Europe are serving in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.