

GERMANY PROFICIENCY FOR CHARLIE COMPANY SOLDIERS

Charlie Company,
53rd Signal Battalion

LANDSTUHL, Germany — On Sept. 10, three Control Warriors from Charlie Company, 53rd Signal Battalion tested their skills on several German weapon systems. CPT Pedro Sanabria, Charlie Company Commander, SSG Corey Wilson and SGT Guy Jackson were invited along with several Soldiers from the 21st Theater Support Command to compete for the prestigious German Schützenschnur on a German rifle range just outside the city of Kastellaun, Germany. The Control Warriors were tested on their marksmanship skills on the German P8 9mm pistol, the MG 3v 7.62mm machine gun, and the German service rifle (G36 / G3). The Schützenschnur is the German weapons qualification badge which is close to the U.S. Army weapons qualifications badge. The training event, which is an important partnership program, provides the Soldiers the opportunity to earn a foreign award such as the German's Marksmanship Badge and create a greater bond with their German Military partners.

The Schützenschnur is a silver colored rope with a round metal badge on a flat end near the top of the rope. The center of the badge displays the German eagle surrounded by a wreath of oak leaves, which is a symbol of the Bundeswehr, the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Germany.

"The history of the qualification badge is more than 150 years old," said Lt. Col. Michael Dörr, a German liaison officer with the 21st Theater Support Command. "Even though the name has changed several times, the importance of having a weapons qualification to test the proficiency of your Soldiers weaponry skills is very important." Wilson and Jackson earned a Bronze badge while Sanabria earned Gold.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: CPT Pedro Sanabria, Charlie Company, 53rd Signal Battalion commander, SSG Corey Wilson and SGT Guy Jackson proudly display their Schützenschnur awards, the German Marksmanship Badge which is similar to the U.S. Army weapons qualifications badge. Photo by SSG Brandon Hayman



NO STRANGER TO COMMAND

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By MAJ Laura Kenney, 100th MDB PAO