



NEWS RELEASE
EUROPE REGIONAL MEDICAL COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

CMR 442 APO AE 09042
U.S. ARMY HOSPITAL – NACHRICHTEN KASERNE
POSTFACH 103180 69021 HEIDELBERG, GERMANY
CONTACT PHIL TEGTMEIER AT 371-3049 TEL. 06221-17-3049

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ERMC salutes some of its finest
Three awards announced for outstanding NCOs

HEIDELBERG, Germany – The winners of three awards presented annually to Europe Regional Medical Command Non-Commissioned Officers received word of their selections at a ceremony Oct. 4, 2007 in the post theater at Nachrichten Kaserne here.

The ceremony honored the command's Equal Opportunity Leader, Career Counselor and Reenlistment NCOs, who were chosen after being nominated by their commander and surviving a panel of experts who grilled the candidates on a variety of topics and issues.

The winners were: Staff Sgt. Kimberly Murphy, Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Landstuhl, Equal Opportunity Leader of the Year; Sgt. 1st Class Juan Padilla, 30th Medical Brigade, Heidelberg, Career Counselor of the Year; and, Staff Sgt. Latisha Watson, Heidelberg Medical Department Activity, Heidelberg.

"It is because of this program (the Army's Equal Opportunity Program) that I stand here today," Murphy said in her acceptance speech. She explained that with out such a program, someone like her - an African American woman – would never have been able to learn and grow.

"If we continue to pass on the importance of this program to the Soldiers we lead, we can pass on the success we've already achieved," she added.

All of the winners listed those who had contributed to their success, but Watson perhaps summed it up best.

"Most of all, I thank my Soldiers. They're the reason I choose to do my job," she said.

The winners and participants all received leadership coins, and the winners took home a variety of gift coupons and savings bonds donated by corporate sponsors. All will move forward to compete at Army Medical Department competitions to be held at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.