



**21<sup>st</sup> Theater Sustainment Command**  
**16<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade**  
**Public Affairs Office**

Warner Barracks,  
Bamberg, Germany  
DSN 469-7117  
Commercial 0951-300-7117  
Edward.Perrin2@us.army.mil

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## 21st Commanding General recognizes Saber Strike 2011 Soldiers

By 1st Lt. Edward Perrin  
16th Sust. Bde. Public Affairs

ADAZI TRAINING AREA, Latvia - Recognizing Soldiers who excel above their peers with a coin is one way commanders reward the extraordinary efforts of Soldiers, but it's not every day that the commander awarding the coin is a general.

Recently Maj. Gen. Patricia E. McQuiston, the commanding general of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, took time to recognize Soldiers from each of the participating units with a commander's coin for their hard work during Saber Strike 2011.

Saber Strike 2011 is a multinational exercise taking place at the Adazi Training Area, Latvia involving units from Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland, the 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, the 172nd Infantry Brigade and the 16th Sustainment Brigade.

"It was an honor getting the coin. It was just a nice way to recognize all the hard work that we do," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Ernst, a native of Cincinnati, and a visual information operator and maintainer for Armed Forces Network Europe.

Although honored, Ernst also realized that the coin was a symbol of teamwork. "Being a [noncommissioned officer], it wasn't just me, it was also my guys working their butts off too."

Soldiers from the 172nd Infantry Brigade echoed Staff Sgt. Ernst's sentiments and added that they felt especially honored receiving the coin from a command different than their own.

"It was an honor to get this coin from someone not in my task force," said Private Arthur Mills, a native of Petaluma, Calif. and a forward observer for Alpha Company, 1-2 Infantry, Task Force 3-66 Armor, 172nd Infantry Brigade.

For the foreign Soldiers receiving coins, the feeling of honor that came from receiving a coin from someone of a different command was even greater. This is a great honor to stand here as the best Estonian Soldier, together with our outstanding Soldiers from our allies, stated Sgt. Rivo Tamm, a Soldier with the Estonian Scouts Battalion.

Even though commanders and command sergeant majors are known for handing out coins during visits to troops, its value is not something lost on McQuiston. "It's just one little sign of our appreciation for how much Soldiers do."



Private 1st Class Rachel Roberts, a native of Chico, Calif., and a signal support systems specialist with the 106th Finance Company, receives a commander's coin from Maj. Gen. Patricia E. McQuiston, the commanding general of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, Oct. 25 during the Saber Strike 2011 exercise at the Adazi Training Area, Latvia.



Spc. Alan Gebhardt, a native of St. Louis, and an infantryman for Alpha Company, 1-2 Infantry, Task Force 3-66 Armor, 172nd Infantry Brigade, receives a commander's coin from Maj. Gen. Patricia E. McQuiston, the commanding general of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, Oct. 25 during the Saber Strike 2011 exercise at the Adazi Training Area, Latvia.