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NEWS RELEASE

DEOMI Commandant awarded ‘Bundeswehr Silver Cross of Honor’

Col. Mary L. Martin: It’s all about ‘partnerships and people’

By Christopher Calkins

DEOMI PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PATRICK AFB, Fla. – Just prior to Army Col. Mary L. Martin assuming the reins of Commandant, Defense Equal Opportunity Institute here on June 17, 2016, she served as Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden from July 2014 to April 2016.



Wiesbaden is among the largest military communities of the U.S. Armed Forces outside the United States, with roughly 20,000 members.

She obviously made a favorable impression, because just eight months removed from saying “Auf Wiedersehen” to her Germany-based command, Col. Martin was awarded the “Bundeswehr Silver Cross of Honor.”

The medal was awarded by Colonel Michael Trautermann, Air and Assistant Defense Attaché, German Embassy, (in Washington, D.C.) in a ceremony here Feb. 28.

The Decorations of Honor of the Bundeswehr are a series of military decorations of the Bundeswehr, the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Germany.

In late 2014, Col. Martin said she and her team worked to propose a formal partnership between the Landeskommando Hessen and U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden.

Although structured differently and having different missions, both units play crucial roles in civil-military cooperation, Martin said.

“We were already doing a number of things together in the planning and training realm, as well as team-building events, so we welcomed the proposal,” said Col. Martin.

“We pledge . . . that this relationship will not be merely symbolized by today’s exchange of paper certificates, but by a meaningful association characterized by real exchanges in ideas and experiences, and above all, in true camaraderie and soldierly friendship,” Martin said in a Dec. 3, 2014 article written by Mr. Karl Weisel (IMCOM).

Fast-forward to Feb. 28, 2017, when Col. Trautermann discussed her – and her teams – accomplishments by reading from her citation.

“In her function,” he read, “Colonel Martin simultaneously served as “mayor” of the American military community, and supervisor of some 400 civilian German staff members. As Garrison Commander, she provided significant means of support in disaster events, under the Host Nation Support agreement. In this respect, she was always the most important and most reliable point of contact for the Landeskommando Hessen.”



He ended his reading with this.

“In addition, she forcefully pursued the intensive cooperation between the U.S. Garrison and the Landeskommando begun under her two predecessors, which formally culminated in the establishment of an official affiliation, made public on November 25, 2014.

“U.S. participation in the advanced military training programs offered by the

Landeskommando consequently grew from year to year. She has thus made an outstanding contribution to deeper mutual understanding between the German and American people,” he said to applause from the DEOMI staff attending the ceremony.

The newly-decorated DEOMI Commandant then provided her closing remarks.

“When I think back on my time in Germany, I’m always reminded that it’s all about ‘partnerships and people’. If you’ve felt building alliances doesn’t matter ... well I’m here to tell you that you’re wrong. It’s a must,” she said.

“And I want to thank Colonel Trautermann, the entire Wiesbaden community, and the Landeskommando Hessen for honoring me with this award.

“It would not have been possible without the tremendous teamwork and support of the entire U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden team,” she said.



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