



(U.S. Army Photo by Maj. Brian McSpadden, 278th ACR Public Affairs)

Sgt. Joshua E. Evans assumes the “front leaning rest” position as he is being inducted into the Order of the Silver Spur. 278th ACR Commander, Col. Frank McCauley, left, and Command Sgt. Maj. Vincent Roach look on.

Sgt. Joshua Evans receives Cavalry’s Silver Spurs

By STAFF SGT. THOMAS GREENE
278TH ACR Public Affairs

Sgt. Joshua G. Evans from Jacksboro received his Silver Cavalry Spurs during a ceremony held Aug. 24 at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center.

The Order of the Spur recognizes individual qualifications for those in a Cavalry unit. In order to qualify and compete for the honor, the Cavalry Soldier must meet or exceed established standards of performance. He must also display good conduct and be in good standing within his formation.

Evans is a member of Troop H, located in Rockwood, of the 2nd

Squadron of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Evans became a Non-Commissioned Officer when he was promoted to sergeant in October 2011. He was selected to compete and later won the NCO of the Year award in his regiment. By January, 2012 he was in competition for the state-level NCO of the Year. He faced tough competition from older, more experienced NCOs.

“It (the competition), was a multi-day event. At VTS (Volunteer Training Site, Smyrna), and our first task was to write an essay on what “guarding your buddy means to you,” said Evans.

“The following day we took the

Army’s Physical Fitness Test and I remember it being about 20 degrees that morning. This was followed by a 10-mile march wearing a loaded ruck (pack). We spent that evening taking a written test on a vast amount of army material.”

Evans said the next day he was competing in a combatives tournament. He lost in the finals and finished runner-up in the event.

“This event drained us physically and we were allowed to rest the remainder of the day.”

On the final day, the competitors flew by helicopter to a firing range in Tullahoma. Evans said, “I qualified with my weapon and then pro-

ceeded to the longest land navigation course on the planet. I was one of three who found all the navigation points.”

The event concluded back in Smyrna where the participants, wearing their dress uniforms, went before a board consisting of several sergeants major. Evans finished second in the contest, losing by a fraction of a point.

Evans credited two Soldiers from Troop H for helping him achieve the spurs award. “Sgt. 1st Class Chris Keith of Soddy Daisy mentored me and taught me what the U.S. Army is all about. Staff Sgt. Daniel Newberry of Knoxville sponsored me and was with me all

the way. He even ran with me in the ruck march.”

He finished as runner-up in the state competition and accomplished the same task as required in the Cavalry traditional “spur ride” competition.

Evans is married to his high school sweetheart, the former Morgan Johnson of Jacksboro. Their identical twin girls, Kenzie Analaine and Danica Rae were born one week after the regimental competition.

The tradition of awarding spurs has its roots in knighthood. It is not known when the ceremony for awarding spurs began in the U.S. Cavalry.



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