

Rick Scavetta**U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern****Biography**

Rick Scavetta is a U.S. Army public affairs specialist serving currently as the command information officer at U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern in Kaiserslautern, Germany. He's covered Soldiers in the Kaiserslautern Military Community since August 2010. In May 2011, he completed the Public Affairs Qualification Course at Defense Information School.

Scavetta joined U.S. Army Africa in 2008 and spent nearly two years reporting on Soldiers' missions in a dozen countries on the African continent. His work was featured in the Feb. 2010 issue of Soldiers Magazine on Africa. While on the continent, Scavetta mentored several African public affairs officers and Soldiers on journalism, photography and public affairs practices.

From 2006 to 2008, Scavetta attended Southern Connecticut State University as a graduate student in the political science department, while working full-time as the spokesman for the Hospital of Saint Raphael in New Haven, Conn.

Activated from the Army Reserve in 2005, Scavetta served as chief of media relations for Combined Joint Task Force 76, during a yearlong tour in Afghanistan. He was responsible for embedding more than 200 civilian journalists with combat troops and advising senior leaders on media strategies. He was a sergeant first class, honorably discharged in 2006.

From 2001 to 2004, Scavetta served as a civilian reporter and photographer for the Stars and Stripes, covering combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. In garrison, Scavetta covered U.S. Army Europe and V Corps in Heidelberg, Germany.

Prior to that, Scavetta was a staff reporter at the New Haven Register and the Norwich Bulletin, both city newspapers in Connecticut. He also worked in radio news at WDRC in Hartford, Conn. and WHYN in Springfield, Mass.

He also served as an enlisted Army journalist with overseas deployments to Bosnia, Guatemala, Kosovo and Latvia. Other Army public affairs assignments included military operations in Germany, Italy, New England, Texas and North Carolina. During the early 1990's, Scavetta served as an M1A1 Abrams tank gunner in Germany with the 1st Armored Division.

He went to Central Connecticut State University on the GI Bill and in 2000 received a bachelor's degree in Communication. He completed several graduate-level political science courses at Southern Connecticut State University and is now pursuing a master's in International Relations with the University of Oklahoma.

A Connecticut native, Scavetta lives with his wife and daughter in Landstuhl, Germany. He volunteers with the American Red Cross and the USO at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, supporting wounded warriors. During his free time, Scavetta enjoys playing guitar, hiking and reading books by his favorite author, Mark Twain.