

Staff Sgt. Jacob A. Kasarda

Installation Management Command (IMCOM)

Assigned Unit: U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Headquarters and Headquarters Company

Military Occupational Specialty: Military Police (31B)

Hometown: Brandon, Fla.

Year of Enlistment: 2006



What military awards and achievements have you received or accomplished?

I was awarded Army Commendation Medals for service at Fort Drum, N.Y., and winning the consecutive competitions of USAG Benelux, IMCOM-Europe, and IMCOM. Additionally, I received Army Accomplishment Medals for service to Fort Myer, Va.; USAG Humphreys, Korea; primary instructor for deployment readiness training; saving the life of a dependent intent on self-harm; merit while attending the Advanced Leader's Course; and winning USAG Benelux NCO of the Quarter (2014).

Why did you join the Army?

As I was growing up, I recognized there was a need for those willing to sacrifice in order to serve those who are in need, or defend themselves from those who would take from them.

What motivated you to compete in the DA level Best Warrior Competition?

My fellow competitor, Spc. Shane Sital and the small garrison at Site Schinnen has been with me every step of the way. The initial competition was a nomination from my superior, who put trust in me to succeed. The personnel assigned to Site Schinnen have motivated me to continue pushing myself, and as time went on, I was receiving support from my hometown and family.

Who is your professional mentor?

1st Sgt. Romar has given much professional guidance and leadership advice that I have taken to heart.

How did your mentor help you in your professional career?

1st Sgt. Romar counseled me on how having a focus on those who have a desire and will to succeed will reflect on the leader, as accomplishments are made. It's an NCO's pride to see Soldiers achieve great things.

Who or what inspires you?

The accomplishments of my Soldiers, and seeing others (such as my colleague Spc. Shane Sital) achieve so much. They inspire me to try harder and work harder for them. It inspires me when they rely on me as a leader to mentor and train.

What are your military career goals for the future?

While it is more of a responsibility than a goal, enjoy having the time to develop myself professionally, to train my Soldiers in doing the same; and to pass on my knowledge and experiences to advance others in reaching their goals.

What was the biggest challenge along the way to get to this level of competition?

I have been told I have had a great amount of humility. I don't believe I could have gotten this far without the support from my unit and fellow Soldiers. The challenge I face is to trust what I am capable of achieving.

Who is your Sponsor? How did they help prepare you for this level of competition?

1st Sgt. Alejandro Romar has been with me from the very beginning, giving me guidance at times when I needed it, motivation when I had doubt, and encouragement to strive to succeed.

What will be the most challenging event for you? Why?

The road march is often the most challenging to me for the toll it places upon the body. No amount of training makes it easy, and I find my mind likes to wander and distract me while moving.

What do you think will be your best/favorite event? Why?

Obstacle/leader courses I enjoy a great deal. It challenges the mind, spirit, and body to complete them without falling off many of the individual obstacles and the adrenaline gets me pumped up and motivated.

What are some significant facts about you that are not known by others; i.e. interesting stories, unique hobbies or accomplishments?

I never lie, except to save life or health of others. This has very often led me into trouble, when tact fails me.

What are your hobbies/special interests?

I enjoy the opportunity to learn the history of the places I visit, which normally results in the Army's history. Knowing for generations, troops before me have been where I am, and discovering what they did fascinates me. I enjoy reading, and traveling.