



Air Force Master Sergeant Jeff Noxon, left, and Marine Staff Sgt. Stacey-Ann Viner were recognized as the U.S. Special Operations Command Europe Senior NCO and NCO of the Quarter for their outstanding devotion to duty and commitment to excellence.

SOCEUR NCOs recognized for quarterly excellence

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In traditional service units, monthly and quarterly competitions select the most outstanding Soldier, Sailor, Airmen and Marine representing the command as the best of the best. However in the U.S. Special Operations Command – Europe, selecting the best noncommissioned officer and senior NCO is a bit more challenging as the joint unit is comprised of Servicemembers representing all of the Armed Forces.

Recently Marine Staff Sgt. Stacey-Ann Viner and Air Force Master Sergeant Jeff Noxon garnered the unit's NCO and Senior NCO of the Quarter for their outstanding devotion to duty and commitment to excellence.

"It's a big deal for anyone in the Marine Corps, especially in a joint environment," said Viner, an operations NCO. "I was very surprised when I found out – to be recognized is a great honor."

Having served for 21 years in the Air Force, Noxon who currently serves as a superintendent of personnel services and support at SOCEUR; said he was extremely excited about his accomplishment.

"Serving alongside Special Operations Forces, who in my opinion are the top people in uniform, I am proud of this recognition," said the Champaign, Ill. native.

The quarterly program is a new program by the SOCEUR senior enlisted leadership to enhance the esprit-de-corps and camaraderie of Joint enlisted personnel by recognizing and rewarding outstanding initiative and accomplishments according to Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Therron L. Burns, superintendent, Headquarters SOCEUR Joint Operations Center.

“So often in fast-paced environments, the primary focus is achieving mission goals and we forget to recognize the outstanding men and women that make our military the best in the world,” Burns said. “Our military leaders also realize that nothing is possible without competent personnel going above and beyond the call of duty every day.”

Burns added, “They work very hard and work many hours and an awards program is just another way of saying, ‘thanks for your contributions and we recognize your outstanding performance.’”

Although it is considered a huge achievement in the Air Force to be selected as the top senior NCO, Noxon said he will remain humble amongst his fellow Servicemember counterparts.

For Viner, from Mount Vernon, N.Y., the recognition gives her more reason to be proud of wearing the Marine uniform and to be more competitive against her peers in the other sister services.

“You’re in the Special Operations community and they’re the elite fighters, so to be recognized in front of them, is gratifying,” she said. “I walk around with a sense of pride every day, but now I’m more proud especially because not every one in the Marine Corps gets afforded this opportunity.”