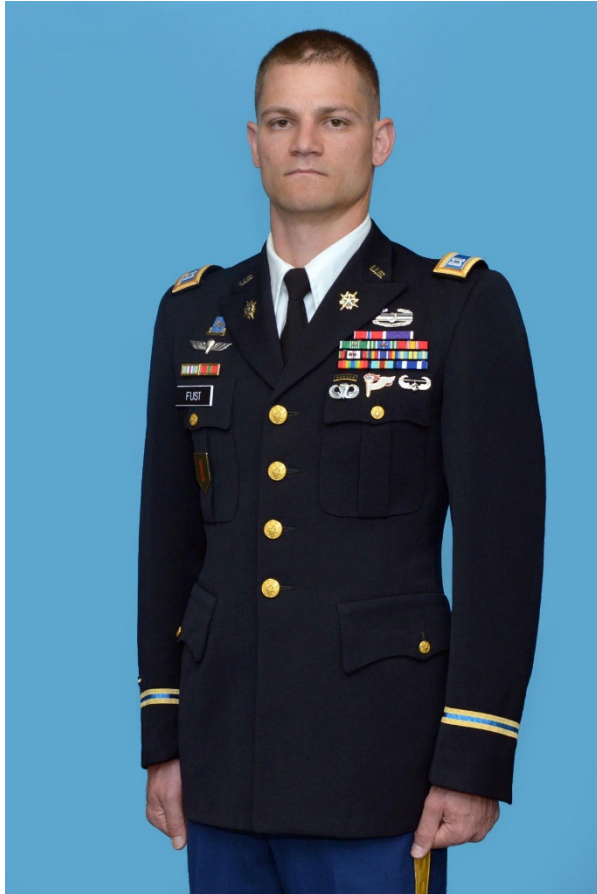


**CAPTAIN GEORGE J. FUST**  
**2015 Recipient**

**LTG Sidney T. Weinstein Award for Excellence in Military Intelligence**



CPT George Fust was born in Texas on 3 February 1986. He graduated from McKendree University's ROTC program as a Distinguished Military Graduate with a degree in Political Science in 2008. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as an Armor officer. CPT Fust's first assignment was as a training committee member at the National Leader Development Assessment Course, Fort Lewis, Washington. After completing the Armor Officer Basic Course, CPT Fust was assigned Platoon Leader for 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 34<sup>th</sup> Armor Regiment, Fort Riley, Kansas. After the unit was deactivated, he served as Scout Platoon Leader and Troop Executive Officer for 4<sup>th</sup> Squadron, 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment. Following a deployment to the highly volatile Kandahar Province, Zhari District, Afghanistan, CPT Fust served briefly as the Squadron Operations Officer.

CPT Fust attended the Officer Transition Course and the MI Captains Career Course in 2012, graduating in the top three of his class. He then served as the Battalion Intelligence Officer for 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 503<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment, 173<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) (Airborne).

In 2014 CPT George Fust was selected to serve as the Military Intelligence Company Commander for the 173<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) (Airborne) in Vicenza, Italy. During an extremely complex and evolving period in Europe and the greater Middle East, he developed a culture of readiness and resiliency for his unit. He was able to simultaneously execute decentralized, multinational operations in support of five named operations in six countries with great success. In one year he led elements in 13 different countries in support of allied and partnered nations.

His direct support of European Command, NATO, and SOCEUR increased their overall effectiveness. By setting the standard of excellence for an intelligence organization and demonstrating the capabilities it possessed to a variety of audiences, multiple nations requested his Company to support the development of their intelligence assets. He was able to navigate the logistical and diplomatic hurdles associated with MI and Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) operations in both Europe and West Africa. His UAS element became the first ever to fly in Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, and Slovenia. His efforts have directly contributed to strengthening the alliance at a critical time.

In order to increase the lethality and effectiveness of the strategically postured 173rd IBCT(A) serving as a contingency response force, CPT Fust developed an air-land concept for the deployment of his Company's organic systems. He designed and validated expedient packages in support of Joint Forcible Entry and Airfield Seizure Operations. He also developed a training methodology utilizing vignettes, field products, and a database of over eighty country studies designed for austere environments. These methods were adopted by the Joint Military Readiness Center and used to influence numerous training rotations. They also laid the foundation for the successful deployment of enabler teams to four allied countries during Operation ATLANTIC RESOLVE that provided valuable force protection and real-world collection efforts.

Despite the demanding OPTEMPO, CPT Fust found time to publicly represent the Army values by organizing numerous community events. One such event received praise from the US Ambassador to Italy and another generated recognition from local Italian officials.

During 2014, CPT Fust proved himself to be a consummate professional who exemplifies the Army values. His tactical and technical competence provided credibility for the MI Corps across the European Command Area of Operations and greatly contributed to strengthening the alliance. LTC Michael Ripley, Commander of the 173rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, cited CPT Fust's tactical and technical abilities as well as his charismatic leadership style as instrumental in building rapport with numerous NATO partners. He stated, "George is a rare leader with a remarkable aptitude for understanding how to take an organization to the next level. He is a valuable member of the intelligence community and one of its finest young leaders." CPT Fust's dedication to both the MI Corps and the Army values make him a fitting recipient of the LTG Sidney T. Weinstein Award for Excellence in Military Intelligence.