

Year of the Noncommissioned Officer



Loyalty
Duty
Respect
Selfless Service
Honor
Integrity

Heidelberg



Name: Sgt. Juan Carreon
 Age: 36
 Position: Human Resources Specialist
 Unit: Headquarters and Headquarters Company, V Corps
 Hometown: San Antonio, Texas
 Years of Service: 3

Sgt. Juan Carreon believes living by the Army's values and maintaining personal integrity are two hallmarks of a good noncommissioned officer. "As an NCO, one of the things I will not give up are my personal values," said Carreon, a human resources specialist with V Corps' Headquarters and Headquarters Company. "We all have family values, but each individual has personal values that we have to stand by and stick by," he said. Carreon enlisted in 2006 in San Antonio, Texas, and has been with HHC V Corps since March 2008. He has been an NCO since April. During the V Corps Special Troops Battalion NCO Induction ceremony in Heidelberg Feb. 27, Carreon said his primary goal as an NCO is to mentor other Soldiers. Caring is the first step in that process, he said. "I mentor Soldiers by showing them I care," he explained. "I show them everything I have learned, and encourage them to come to me for anything. I always ask how they are doing." Those conversations can take place on the personal and professional level, he said. Carreon said HHC, V Corps 1st Sgt. Renee Baldwin is his mentor and the example he

follows in establishing his own leadership style as an NCO. "She carries herself with the utmost professionalism," he said. "She cares about Soldiers and their families. She has helped me become an NCO by motivating me and being a mentor." For her part, Baldwin called Carreon a true professional. "He is mature and you can see that in his customer service skills," the first sergeant said. "He treats everybody with dignity and respect." The HHC orderly room staff is constantly busy helping Soldiers take care of personnel matters, and Carreon gives those Soldiers service that is above and beyond, she added. "He treats every action like the Soldier is standing in front of him," Baldwin said. "He follows up on every action, making sure it is complete." Carreon has set a high mark for his ultimate career goal. He says he hopes to earn the Army's top enlisted rank – command sergeant major – while continuing to be "a mentor that has a positive effect on peoples' lives." However, the foundation of any NCO's career is the Army's values, he said.

"We have integrity," he said, "and always doing (even) when no one is around." (Story by Dave Melancon, Army Affairs)



Year of the Norm

Mannheim



Name: Sgt. Brandon Spragins
 Age: 29
 Position: Multi-Channel Transmission System Maintainer Operator/Maintainer

The Year of the NCO theme for April is diversity. One 5th Signal Command noncommissioned officer fits that title well. Sgt. Brandon A. Spragins is an award-winning graphics professional, yet holds the military occupational specialty of 25Q, Multi-channel Transmission System Maintainer Operator/Maintainer. "Always strive for a goal that is unreachable," responded Spragins when asked how he was a graphics award winner and NCO-in-charge over a graphics shop while holding a non-graphic MOS. Spragins has won awards in graphics from the U.S. Army Europe-level to Department of Defense level, with his most recent first place mark in the 2008 Keith L. Ware USAREUR Journalism Competition for art/graphics in support of a publication. This same graphic also placed him as second runner up for the 2008 Military Graphic Artist of the Year.

Battalion, when Sgt. Maj. Thomas J. Clark was looking for someone to do graphics on the command group hallway. "The next thing you know he pulled me up to the command group and it was only supposed to be temporary at the time," said Spragins. "I did close to 20 to 22 murals on the hallway from crests to actual scenario-type murals." Spragins' inspiration continued with Sgt. Maj. Clark during two deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom '05 and '07. "Spragins set the standard in world class programs and displays," said Clark, currently the regimental command sergeant major for U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon, Ga. "He always amazed me with his creativity." Spragins feels his greatest work occurred during his deployment with the now inactivated 22nd Signal Brigade where he painted the crests of the 22nd Signal Brigade.

above the norm from what we see in military graphics today. "When we heard that we had a Soldier from the 22nd, we knew that guy," said Joseph. For two consecutive years at 5th Signal, Spragins has won second in different graphic categories. Keith L. Ware USAREUR and the Army-level Journalism Competition has voluntarily contributed graphics to publications and the Post. Spragins says to accomplish a goal, "Break the (graphic) trend. You're either the rule setter or a follower design." Not knowing that Spragins is a renaissance man, LeAnne M. Spragins, the 22nd Signal's director of strategy, said Spragins "is a renaissance man."

1775

1775-1840 - Revolutionary War

1775 - Birth of the U.S. Army

1778 - Inspector General Friedrich von Steuben standardized NCO duties and responsibilities

1821 - first reference to NCO chevrons made by War Department

1825 - first attempt at establishing a systematic method for NCO selection

1840 - NCO Corps adopted a distinctive sword

1861-1885 - Civil and Indian Wars

1885 - First retirement system established for enlisted men

1902-1909 - Early 20th Century

1902 - the chevron was turned to point up as it does today

1908 - Congress approved a pay bill to reward those in technical fields

1909 - the Noncommissioned Officers Manual was written

1916-1948 - Post WWI & the Interwar Years

*After WWI, Congress reorganized the NCO ranks

*During the late 1930s, technicians were created in grades three four

1949-1959 - WWII

*Women's Army Corps creation led to women in the NCO ranks for the first time

1945 - Congress passed legislation entitling enlisted men with at least 20 years of service to be placed on the retired list

1949 - First class enrolled in the 2nd Constabulary Brigade's NCO school, which became the Seventh Army NCO Academy two years later

1952 - Army Education Program developed

1959 - HQDA established first Army-wide standards for NCO academies

1951-1970 - Korean War and Pre-Vietnam Era

1951 - Many NCO positions filled by enlisted men with less than 2 years of service

1953 - Draftees involuntarily ordered to leadership courses

1958 - Two grades, master sergeant and sergeant major, were added to the NCO ranks

1960 - Elvis Presley promoted to sergeant while serving with the 3rd Armored Division in Germany

1963 - Study showed that the quality of NCO instructors at Army training centers was far below that in other services; In response a pilot drill sergeant course was established

1966 - The position of sergeant major of the Army was established

1970-2000 - Vietnam, Post-Vietnam and Desert Storm

*The NCO Candidate Course was created to train promising recruits for leadership positions

1971 - Noncommissioned Officers Education System was implemented

1972 - Six NCOs from the Women's Army Corps became the first female NCOs

1973 - U.S. Army Europe established the Sergeant Morales Club

1986 - First Sgt. Audi Murphy Club started at Fort Hood, Texas

1989 - Army theme "The Year of the NCO"

1990 - Operation Desert Storm demonstrated that the training and preparation of troops by NCOs was essential in the Army's success

2001- Present

2001 - Special Forces teams inserted into Afghanistan

2003 - U.S. plunged into war against Iraq

2005 - Primary Leader Development Course renamed the Warrior Leader Course

*Today, NCOs lead their troops in combat in both Iraq and Afghanistan. These NCOs continue the historical traditions of those who went before them. They retain the duties and responsibilities given to them during the American Revolution and the Western Plains. They are leaders who train and prepare their Soldiers for combat as they did in World War