

Dedication is a quality Brooks and Rosas both cite as being important qualities for noncommissioned officers.

“The NCO Corps is a whole, not an individual,” said Brooks. “You have to be dedicated to yourself and to other soldiers to be a good NCO.”

“Show dedication through counseling. Counseling is very

“If you aren’t motivating your soldiers, you aren’t doing your job.”

Staff Sgt. Milton H. Brooks

important. Without it, soldiers are going to the board—ready or not,” said Rosas. “Taking the time to counsel soldiers improves performance and prevents us from weeding them out here.”

Dedication to the soldiers is a quality that both Brooks and Rosas live by.

“If it means staying late or coming in early, we give that extra bit to the soldier,” said Rosas.

“The SGLs were there at 5 a.m. when they didn’t have to be there until 9 a.m.,” said Spc. Karie K. Branum, Division Treatment Team NCOIC, HHC, 1st Armored Division.

“They treat people the way they want to be treated and that’s the way you get respect.”

Respect is another quality that Brooks and Rosas instill in PLDC students.

“Working with females and different MOSs (military occupational skills) really opened my eyes. We had to work through personality conflicts. Skills from other jobs really came into play and we came together out here in the field,” explained Sgt. Christopher M. Miller, truck commander, 1st Brigade Recon Team, 1AD.

“Working with guys—well, they are so uptight at first, but they loosen up when they see how respect works both ways,” said Branum with a smile.

“When you are working with women a lot of things are different than in the Infantry, explained Spc. Donald K. Carrigan, finance clerk, 1-6 Infantry Battalion. “Working with women and other MOSs have taught me to be more considerate. We have also picked up technical things from each others’ jobs.”

“Women? We are all soldiers here,” explained Spc. Jose A.



Top left: Staff Sgt. Manuel E. Rosas leads PLDC students in an after action review. Middle left: Staff Sgt. Milton H. Brooks prepares to ignite a smoke grenade amidst PLDC students as they trudge toward an ambush set up by other PLDC students. Bottom left: Sgt. Andres Guarnizo leads his team on an assault through the forests of GTA. Top right: During a short halt, Spc. Jose A. Romero searches the woodline intently for signs of enemy PLDC students. Bottom right: Sgt. Andres Guarnizo sends a status report and requests further instructions during a movement-to-contact simulation.

Ambushing from the spring shadows of the alpine forests of Germany's Grafenwoehr Training Area, Spc. Karie K. Branum, Division Surgeon Treatment Team NCOIC, 1st Armored Division, showers simulated hot lead over approaching enemy forces during leadership evaluation at PLDC.