

# 2009 Military Police Warfighter Challenge

*By Ms. Kerstin Lopez*



Teams were focused, geared up, and ready for battle during the 13th Military Police Warfighter Challenge, which was conducted at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, in mid-September 2009. A total of 34 teams participated in 13 events (and covered 60 miles by foot) during the 4-day competition. “This has been the most teams we’ve seen in years,” said Regimental Command Sergeant Major Charles Kirkland.

The competition between Team 11 (Corporal Thomas Lemonds, Specialist Leonard Salazar, and Private First Class Sam Meroney) from the 759th Military Police Battalion, Fort Carson, Colorado, and Team 3 (Staff Sergeant John Atkins, Specialist Aaron Ebersole, and Private First Class Kevin Wallace) from the 92d Military Police Battalion, Fort Leonard Wood, was close; but in the end, the team from Fort Carson earned the title of 2009 Warfighter Champions. Team 21 (Corporal Gordon Simonis, Private First Class Matthew Wetzel, and Private First Class John Salinas) from the 289th Military Police Company, Fort Myer, Virginia, captured third place.

“The Warfighter Soldiers are highly motivated individuals—the best of the very best,” said Brigadier General David Phillips, chief of the U.S. Army Military Police Corps Regiment and commandant of the U.S. Army Military Police School.

In addition to bragging rights, each member of the first-place team received prizes totaling \$5,000. Prizes were also awarded to the second- and third-place teams. The three winning teams remained at Fort Leonard Wood to participate in Regimental Week, which followed the Warfighter Challenge. Team members were introduced at the culminating event of the week—the Military Police Regimental Ball—on 26 September.

---

*Ms. Lopez is a member of the Fort Leonard Wood Guidon staff.*