

Military Policemen Become Rangers

By Specialist Garrett Hernandez

Three members of the 21st Military Police Company, 503d Military Police Battalion (Airborne), 16th Military Police Brigade, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, have completed one of the Army's most physically and mentally challenging courses of instruction. Sergeant First Class Ricky Royals, Sergeant Marcus Emelio, and Sergeant Christopher McMurdy recently graduated from the U.S. Army Ranger School.

Ranger School, which is open to Soldiers of any Army career field, is a demanding, 3-phase, 61-day combat leadership course that tests the students' physical, mental, and tactical aptitudes.

According to Sergeant First Class Royals (an operations sergeant who coordinates training and allocates resources in preparation for deployment), "The hardest part was the sleep and food deprivation."

"You have to develop yourself as a new leader," said Sergeant McMurdy. "In Ranger School, you develop the confidence and leadership style to lead others through chaotic and dangerous situations."

In addition to the regular coursework, the three Ranger School graduates were also required to attend a Pre-Ranger Course. Following the successful completion of that course, they had about a week before the start of Ranger School. In recalling the challenges faced during the preparation phase, Sergeant Emelio (who works as an operations sergeant alongside Sergeant First Class Royals) stated, "I think it was harder than Ranger School."

Royals, Emelio, and McMurdy are now authorized to wear the Ranger tab on their uniforms—a testament to their preparation for meeting the challenges they will face throughout their military careers. Each has also pledged to mentor other Soldiers who wish to attend Ranger School. Their hope is to increase the number of military policemen who volunteer for and graduate from the school.



Sergeant First Class Royals, left, Sergeant Emelio, center, and Sergeant McMurdy, right, proudly display their Ranger tabs.

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