

Second Front

WSMR celebrates American Education Week

Missile Ranger Report

WSMR celebrated American Education Week Nov. 12 by recognizing some of its top students at the Professional Development Center.

Staff Sgt. Brandon L. Paniagua, Linda Sherrill and Mayra Daniel were recognized during American Education Week for their educational accomplishments.

American Education Week is a worldwide annual event that highlights the importance of education to our nation.

Paniagua, who is assigned to the 734th Ordnance Company at WSMR, earned



Photo by Miriam U. Rodriguez

From left: Linda Sherrill, Grantham University's 2007 Outstanding Graduate, and Staff Sgt. Brandon L. Paniagua, DACC's 2007 Outstanding Graduate, were recognized as outstanding students during American Education Week.

his associates from Dona Ana Community College and was selected as DACC's Outstanding Graduate for 2007.

He is currently striving towards a Green to Gold scholarship with New Mexico State University.

He is also an honor graduate in his non commissioned officer course.

He joined the military on June 6, 2002. Throughout his career he has pursued opportunities for self development and has distinguished himself with numerous military awards. "The Education Division staff has wowed me with their knowledge, sincerity and commitment to help-

ing Soldiers like myself who continuously deploy. It is not easy pursuing a college degree. Being a Soldier and a student is a challenge. I am amazed by the opportunities provided by the Army Continuing Education Services to today's military members," Paniagua said.

Sherrill, an employee with WSMR Army Air, received her bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Grantham University in April and was chosen as Grantham's 2007 Outstanding Graduate. "I had always promised myself I would obtain my bachelor's

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degree. At the age of 48, I accomplished that goal. I would encourage everyone who has considered returning to school to do so. It is such an empowering experience. I never anticipated the sense of accomplishment I felt when I graduated. Grantham University has been very supportive in my pursuit to higher learning," Sherrill said.

Daniel was born and raised in Chihuahua, Mexico. She received her high school diploma in 2006. To better cope with her new culture and language barrier she enrolled in Kansas Community College and took an English as a Second Language course to improve her English.

Daniel is a student at DACC. Her short term goal is to earn her associates degree. Her long term goal is to become an interior designer.

"Being in the United States and being a part of the military community has offered me a lot of educational opportunities. I am determined to reach my goals and excel. I encourage any one who is considering making the step to higher learning to make it. The Educational Center Staff at WSMR is wonderful. They will go the extra mile to make you feel comfortable and help you accomplish your goals,"

Daniel said.

Dona Ann Community College honored two White Sands students at their fall 2007 Student Excellence Awards Ceremony on Dec. 3 at the NMSU Corbett Center.

Criteria for both the DACC White Sands Center Plus Award and the DACC White Sands Center Outstanding Graduate Award are high scholastic achievement, involvement in community activities and strong leadership and communication skills.

The Center Plus Award winner is FC2 Kenneth Kennard a student at DACC's on-post center.

Kennard is stationed at WSMR with the U.S. Navy and is a missile technician. He has been taking courses at the center since 2005 and has a 4.0 GPA. Kennard is working towards a bachelor degree in electrical engineering.

DACC's Outstanding Graduate Award winner from the White Sands Center is Staff Sgt. Brandon Paniagua. Paniagua works for the 734th Ordinance Company (EOD) as a supply sergeant and currently serves as a first sergeant.

Paniagua will receive associates in general studies and has a 4.0 GPA.

He will continue his studies towards a bachelor degree and his goal is to be selected to the Army's "green to gold" program.