

## PEOPLE

# A WHITE HOUSE "SPANISH" WELCOME

## HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

By Maj. Edward McCray  
Public Affairs Office  
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**F**ORT MEADE, WASHINGTON—  
"Hola! Siéntese. Bienvenidos a la Casa Blanca." President George W. Bush opened his address in Spanish during a White House celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month in Oct. 2008. During his address, President Bush recognized the patriotism and service of a deployed Warrior-Citizen, Lt. Col. Enrique Guerra.

"It was an honor to meet the President. I am humbled to be selected to be here," said Guerra about the invitation to the White House and recognition by the Commander-In-Chief.

"As you may be aware, I was born in Cuba. I came to this country with my parents and my sister when I was seven months old. I feel a strong sense of

American patriotism and commitment to my country," said Guerra.

"Enrique has always had a sense of patriotism. It's in his blood. As a child, he was always playing Army. He always wanted to be a Soldier. He loves doing what he does," said Karen Guerra, Lt. Col. Guerra's wife. Mrs. Guerra stood proudly

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—Lt. Col. Enrique Guerra**

by her husband as the President shook his hand, thanked him for his service and presented him with a Presidential coin.

Guerra is currently the commander of the 744th Military Police Battalion, from Bethlehem, Pa. He is also the Theater Interment Facility Commander of Remembrance II at Camp Cropper, Iraq.

In the President's Hispanic Heritage address on the South Lawn of the White House, he recognized Lt. Col. Guerra with these remarks, "I'm especially proud to be the Commander-In-Chief of a military in which there's 225,000 Hispanic men and women. One of these Hispanos is an Army Lieutenant Colonel named Enrique Guerra. Listen to his story."

President Bush briefly recounted the narrative of Lt. Col. Guerra's arrival to America and his current military service.

The President concluded his acknowledgments by saying, "And today I'm proud to honor his service, and the service of all Hispanic Americans, who ensure that freedom is available to all. Enrique, bienvenidos. Thank you for coming." ❏



President George W. Bush, Lt. Col. Enrique Guerra and his spouse Karen listen to the music of Andrés Cabas, from Colombia on the South Lawn of the White House with other guests.

Maj. Edward McCray

# MP CHOSEN FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD

By Capt. Michael Delborrell  
Public Affairs Office  
2nd Battalion, 383rd Regiment  
First Army Division West

**K**ANSAS CITY, Mo.—Maj. Scott McGaha, an Army Reserve Military Policeman and a U.S. Marshall in the Kansas City, Mo. metropolitan area, was honored with an award for his outstanding investigative work on a recent drug case here. Each year, the Kansas City Metropolitan Chiefs and Sheriffs Association and Kansas City television network, KMBC-TV 9, present the Silver Award for Valor to a distinguished law enforcement officer in the community. McGaha of the 2nd Battalion, 383rd Regiment at Fort

Leavenworth, Kan., was chosen to receive the illustrious award during a November 2008 ceremony.

McGaha was recognized for his exceptional investigative efforts on the Bryan Leonard case, a collective effort to bust one of the largest methamphetamine labs seen in the Kansas City area. Subsequent follow-up investigation led to the arrest and prosecution of nine suspects in a large-scale meth production conspiracy. All nine people have since entered guilty pleas for the charges. Bryan Leonard should be sentenced in early 2009 and is facing a possible sentence of 30 years to life.

McGaha has been an active member with the Army Reserve for 10 years, as a



Courtesy photo  
Maj. Scott McGaha, chosen for law enforcement award.

military police officer. While performing his duties as a Warrior-Citizen, McGaha diligently worked as a U.S. Marshall, where his efforts on the Bryan Leonard Case earned him the respect of his peers. ❏

# CIVIL AFFAIRS NCO AUTHORS DEPLOYMENT BOOK

By Master Sgt. Gary Younger  
Army Reserve Communications

**L**IKE MANY DEPLOYED SOLDIERS, Sgt. Melia Meichelbock kept a journal of her wartime experience. As one of a few females in her unit and as a woman mixing with Iraqi civilians, she had plenty of spice for her diary.

After returning home Meichelbock, of the 426th Civil Affairs Battalion, Upland, Calif., turned her journal into a book entitled, "In the Company of Soldiers." Because her book gives readers a candid you-are-there perspective on her experience, all told with a few healthy doses of humor, she was named as an award-winning finalist in the autobiography/memoir category of the National Best Books 2008 Awards, sponsored by USA Book News.

"I feel extremely honored to be an award-winning finalist in this national

book competition," Meichelbock said. "I hold nothing back in this tell-all book in the hope that readers will gain an honest insight on the war from a unique perspective."

Meichelbock describes a defining moment for her during her September 2004 to June 2005 deployment: "My task one day was to frisk the Iraqi women coming in to claim property or injury damage after the battle. Needless to say, I was feeling pretty down.

"An Iraqi woman I had to frisk must have seen some discomfort in my eyes because she looked my face up and down and then moved a wisp of hair that had inadvertently fallen down my face back up behind my ear. From that point on I felt a stronger conviction that what we were doing and why we were there in Iraq was good. The kindness the Iraqi woman

showed me that day led me to believe that the Iraqi people were good people and well worth helping," Meichelbock said.

"My vision in publishing this journal is to give Soldiers an idea of what to expect when deploying and to also give civilians insight to what life is really like over there. It's a viewpoint far different from anything a reporter could tell you—a very personal one," she said.

In the Company of Soldiers is available for sale online at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), [BookSurge.com](http://BookSurge.com), [Target.com](http://Target.com) and retail channels worldwide. Ten percent of book sale profits go to aid disabled veterans.

Meichelbock received an honorable discharge and gave birth to a baby girl, both in May 2008. ❏