



United States Noncommissioned Officer Academy Advance Leader Course

1st Sgt. Santiago Cendejas

Santiago Cendejas is a native of San Bernardino, Cali. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Sept. 28, 1999 and completed Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training as a 13B cannon crew member at Fort Sill, Okla.

His initial assignment was as the M109A6 howitzer driver in 6th Section, B Battery, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery (FA), 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division (ID), Bamberg, Germany. His subsequent assignments were as a number 1 cannoneer to chief of section in the 3rd Howitzer Battery, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Fort Carson, Colo., B Battery, 3-16th FA, 2nd Brigade, 4th ID in Fort Carson, where he served as a chief of section, gunnery sergeant, and chief of firing battery, observer controller/training mentor (OC/TM), and senior OC/TM in A Team, 2-410th FA in Camp Shelby, Miss. He then served as S2 noncommissioned officer in charge in Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1-4th FA, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, first sergeant of C Battery, 4-27th FA, 1st Armored Division Artillery, first sergeant of F Forward Support Company, 3-29th FA, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th ID Artillery. He is currently the first sergeant/school chief for the Advance Leaders Course with NCOA, Fort Sill. He has deployed to Kosovo, Iraq, Jordan, Romania, and Poland in support of multiple campaigns.

His military and civilian education includes an Associate Degree in multidisciplinary studies (Suma Cum Laude), Battery Commander/First Sergeant Course, Senior Leaders Course; Collateral Damage Estimation Course; Battle Staff; Advance Leaders Course; Primary Leaders Development Course; Combat Life Saver Course, Equal Opportunity, Observer Controller Course, Unit Prevention Leaders Course.

His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (with two oak leaf clusters (OLC)), Army Commendation Medal (with six OLC), Army Achievement Medal (with four OLC), Joint Meritorious Unit Award (with one OLC), Meritorious Unit Commendation, Valorous Unit Award (with one OLC), Army Superior Unit Award (with two OLC), Good Conduct Medal (6th award), National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal (1 silver service star and 1 bronze service star), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (numeral three); Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon (numeral 6), Kosovo NATO Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, the Combat Action Badge, Drivers Badge, and The Honorable Order of Saint Barbara.

Cendejas is married to Mrs. Martha Vivian Cendejas. They have two kids, son Julius Cendejas and daughter Carmen Cendejas.