



Anthony Cruz, Jr. Becomes MCICOM's Sergeant Major; Sgt Maj Ploskonka Retires

In a May 15 Relief and Command Ceremony at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Arlington, VA MajGen Juan G. Ayala, Commander, MCICOM, presided over the "transferring of the sword" as Sergeant Major Anthony Cruz, Jr. took command from MCICOM's retiring Sergeant Major John P. Ploskonka, Jr. The ceremony included remarks by both Sergeant Majors.

"I sincerely look forward to serving and learning from all throughout my tour as your Marine Corps Installations Command Sergeant Major," said Sergeant Major Cruz. "As I learn the MCICOM language, my goal is to become our number one advocate and resource in support of all who serve in this command."

Sergeant Major Cruz, began his Marine Corps career in 1988, enlisting in Bronx, NY and reporting to Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) Parris Island, SC. Upon graduation he was assigned the military occupation specialty of Combat Engineer, where he served in Wing, Division, Group and Base units.

In addition to numerous Marine Expeditionary Unit deployments, Joint Task Force operations and multiple combat deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Sergeant Major Cruz has also served as a Senior and Chief Drill Instructor, Academics Instructor, Drill Master of Drill Instruction School and Regimental Drill Master and MCRD Parris Island.

Sergeant Major John P. Ploskonka, Jr. is retiring from his MCICOM post, a position he has held since February 2012, and concluding his more than 30-year career in the Marine Corps. During that time Sergeant Major Ploskonka – following recruit training at MCRD Parris Island, SC – became an infantryman through training at Camp Geiger, NC and served 11 different units.

"As you all know, our command is far reaching both geographically and operationally across our Nation and her Corps of Marines and I could not have accomplished any of the things that I have during my tenure here without leaning on you or even at times, standing upon your shoulders. I only weigh 193 lbs so that shouldn't have hurt too much," said Sergeant Major Ploskonka. "During my time spent here, I have continued to grow and learn a lot both professionally and personally due to all of our conversations and interaction at some point or another. I leave knowing that much has been accomplished to excel MCICOM from its humble beginnings and that is a testament to your everyday hard work and dedication."



MajGen Juan G. Ayala, Commander, MCICOM, (left) with incoming MCICOM Sgt Maj Anthony Cruz (left) and outgoing MCICOM Sgt Maj Ploskonka during their Relief and Command ceremony on May 15.



Outgoing MCICOM Sgt Maj John Ploskonka addresses attendees at the Relief and Command ceremony held on May 15.