

History of the Drill Sergeant

By

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28 February 2005

I. Introduction

Good morning, SGM Murphy, and R-06. I am MSG Jackson and I will be giving you an unclassified information brief on the history of the Drill Sergeant. Drill Sergeants are responsible for training, mentoring and molding Soldiers that are capable of performing all assigned tasks and missions.

A. References for this brief are Army Regulation 614-200; Tradoc Regulation 350-16; the Army Study Guide; various internet sites.

B. In doing the research, I found that the new concept to recruit training in the Army was implemented in 1964 and females were allowed to become a part of it in late 1971. Drill Sergeants really do have a reputation of being the cream of the crop in the eyes of new recruits, Soldiers and society in general.

II. Body

A. History of the Drill Sergeant.

1. Survey conducted in 1962.
2. New training concept implemented.
3. Women included in 1971.

B. The uniform.

1. The male Drill Sergeant hat.
2. The female Drill Sergeant hat.
3. The Drill Sergeant Patch.

C. Drill Sergeant Program.

1. Scope of the program.
2. Drill Sergeant prerequisites.

3. Drill Sergeant tour of duty.

D. Drill Sergeant of the year program.

1. Eligibility criteria.

2. Selection process.

3. Duties of the Drill Sergeant of the year.

III. Closing.

A. A brief summary of what I discussed.

B. What are your questions?

C. Concluding Remarks: Drill Sergeants reflect the professionalism, commitment and dedication of the Army non commissioned officer corps. The quality of the new Soldiers coming in the Army today reflects the quality of the Drill Sergeants training them. Drill Sergeants instill the Army values, discipline and adherence to standards. It is not a simple task to get every Soldier to a common level of understanding. Our Army's future is in very capable hands of the Drill Sergeants out there. Do you remember your Drill Sergeant?

I. Introduction

Good morning, SGM Murphy, SGM Bridgman and R06. I will be giving an unclassified brief on the history of the Drill Sergeant. Drill Sergeants are responsible for training, mentoring and molding Soldiers that are capable of performing all assigned tasks and missions.

References for this brief are Army Regulation 614-200, Army Study Guide TRADOC Regulation 350-16 and various web sites.

In doing my research, I found that the way we conduct recruit training in the Army was not implemented until 1964. Drill Sergeants are the mom, dad, big brother or big sister to the new Soldier coming in today. They have a tough job ahead of them and I'm sure that the parents or guardians of these new Soldiers are confident that they will be taken care of.

II. Body

In 1962, a survey was conducted of recruit training in the Army by Assistant Secretary Stephen Ailes. The Secretary of the Army directed him to conduct this survey. Secretary Ailes used a wide variety of experienced personnel to do this survey. They compared the training techniques used by the Air Force, Navy, Marines and Army. Upon completion of their survey, they reported to the Department of the Army five principle findings. They included recommendations and suggestions for the problems they found. They found that the attitude of the NCOs in the Army was poor, compared to the other services. The reason for this was determined to be the long working hours, difficulty of the demanding nature of the work, and lack of free time for family concerns. They also found that the quality of NCOs being assigned to the training centers was far below those of the other services. Another problem they found

doing this survey was the negative attitude of the NCO, which formed a block between the recruit and the NCO. This caused a negative impact on the quality of training presented.

It wasn't until April through June 1964 that Pilot Trainer Courses were conducted at Ft Jackson, SC. They selected officers and NCOs to participate in testing the revised concept of recruit training. In July and August, this new training concept was tested with a training battalion at Ft Jackson, SC and a training company at Ft Gordon, GA. These tests showed to be successful and resulted in the adoption of the new concept. This included the creation of Drill Sergeant Schools. This was the beginning of the Drill Sergeant and the first Drill sergeant used to train recruits in the entire history of the recruit training programs throughout the Army.

The Chief of Staff of the Army gave permission to include women in the Drill Sergeant Program, in late 1971. Six Woman Army Corps (WAC) NCOs from Ft McClellan, AL were enrolled in the Drill Sergeant Program at Ft Jackson, in February 1972. They were authorized to wear the beige female drill sergeant hat, upon graduation. The green female drill sergeant hat was used in January 1983.

In accordance with AR 614-200, Soldiers either can volunteer for Drill Sergeant duty or be selected by Department of the Army. Soldiers come from all career fields. Upon orientation at the school, they must complete a background screening assignment eligibility questionnaire. The Soldier could be removed if they indicate possible misconduct that could be a disqualifier. They could also be removed if they refuse to complete DA Form 7424.

Soldiers being considered for Drill Sergeant duty must meet the following prerequisites as outlined in AR 614-200. They must be in the rank of SSG or SFC. Effective 29 September 2003, there was a one-year test to incorporate SGTs into the Drill Sergeant Program. Whether

this was a success is yet to be determined. Candidates must be physically fit, not over 40 years old, if so, they must get medical clearance for Drill Sergeant duty. They cannot have any record of emotional instability; no speech impediment; be a high school graduate or have a GED equivalent and have a minimum of 100 on their GT score. They must be a BNCOC graduate; have good military bearing and demonstrate the capability to perform in positions of increased responsibility. They cannot have any record of disciplinary action or time lost. They need to have qualified with the M16A2 within the last six months and have an evaluation from a commander in the rank of LTC. They cannot have any Type I or Type II reports. Type I reports, which are cause for automatic rejection into the program, include reports of unfavorable information such as sexual harassment, assault, spouse or child abuse, conduct in violation of participation in extremist organizations or activities, and court-martial convictions. Type II reports, which are unfavorable information committed within five years of Drill Sergeant consideration include DUI, assault and/or child abuse, any drug offense, larceny/theft, traffic violation with six or more points assessed or any other unfavorable information in the past three years. Human Resources Command has the final say in any potential disqualifying case.

When the Soldier successfully completes the Drill Sergeant school they will be awarded the Drill Sergeant badge, the Special qualification identifier of "X", receive Special Duty Pay (SDP) once they start their Drill Sergeant duty, and they incur a 24 month DS duty obligation. Drill Sergeants can be assigned to such places as DLI, Forts Huachuca, Fort Bliss, Fort Sill, Fort Sam Houston, Fort Rucker, Fort Benning, Fort Gordon, Fort Jackson, Redstone Arsenal, Fort Bragg, Fort Monroe, Fort Eustis, Fort Lee, Fort Belvoir, Fort Meade, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Fort Knox, Fort Leonard Wood, and Panama City. They also have the option of extending that

time but will normally not exceed 36 months. I'm sure this is to ensure that all eligible Soldiers are given a "fair" chance of being a Drill Sergeant.

The Drill Sergeant can be identified by the distinct headgear they wear, and the drill sergeant badge, which some refer to as the "pumpkin patch." The male drill sergeant hat has been a veteran of many campaigns and in different styles since 1850 through 1939 and was deemed the most suitable symbol for a Drill Sergeant. The campaign hat came back on the scene in early 1964. The current style of the campaign hat evolved from the straw or felt slough "Hardee Hat" of the 1850's through the center crease designs of the 1880's to the current modified "Montana Peak" which was adopted in 1911. And this is the hat we see today.

The female drill sergeant hat, which BG Mildred C. Bailey designed, was designed like the Australian bush hat. The first female drill sergeant hat was beige but was eventually phased out. The beige female drill sergeant hat was later replaced by a dark green female drill sergeant hat and was used in January 1983. A proposal was made, in 1984-85, for the female drill sergeant to switch to the male drill sergeant hat but female drill sergeants at TRADOC posts were opposed to the idea. In June 1985, General Wickham, Army Chief of Staff, stated the female drill sergeant would continue to wear the female drill sergeant hat.

The drill sergeant badge was adopted in 1958 and was designed by the Heraldic Division of the Quartermaster General's office. The 13 stars represent the 13 original colonies. The snake represents preparedness and is shown grasping the scroll on one end with his mouth and the other end with his tail. The motto "This we'll defend" is one of many mottos used in colonial days. The armored breast plate is a symbol of strength and the green background is a vestment worn

under the armored breastplate. It is called a Jupon, which represents the Army. The torch is the symbol of liberty that shines over all.

There is a Drill Sergeant of the Year Program in which both Active and Reserve Component Drill Sergeants compete for each year. The TRADOC Commander will select a Drill Sergeant of the Year (DSOY) for both the active and reserve components. The active component Drill Sergeant will receive the Stephen Ailes Award and the reserve component Drill Sergeant will receive the Ralph E. Haines Jr Award. A joint ceremony is conducted at HQDA by the Chief of Staff of the Army. To be eligible for the active component DSOY, one must be a graduate of a DSS, be either SSG or SFC; served one year on DS status and still be serving as a DS when nominated; have one year remaining on current DS duty; not previously received the Stephen Ailes Award and will be required to take an APFT as part of the competition..

To be nominated for DSOY each installation that is authorized DSs will submit the name to TRADOC after conducting a local board. The board that will select the DSOY will convene and be composed of members selected by the TRADOC CSM. They will select a winner based on the nominee's performance before the board, the board members evaluation of the nominee's packet, their performance on the APFT and their performance on performance-oriented tasks, learned in Drill Sergeant School.

The DSOY have unique duties, which they will fulfill for a minimum of one year. These include performing special assignments for the TRADOC CG, when appropriate; assist U.S. Army Accession Command as a Total Army Involvement in Recruiting program as requested; and conducts IET assessments/assistance visits. For the first time, two female drill sergeants had

the honor of being Drill Sergeant of the Year for both the active and reserve, in 2003. SFC Billie Jo Miranda was the active DSOY and SFC Corenna L. Rose was the reserve DSOY. The 2004 Drill Sergeant of the Year for 2004 was SFC Jennifer R. Fowler, reserve DSOY and SSG Jason W Maynard, active-duty DSOY. Both Soldiers are assigned to units in Oklahoma.

III. Closing.

In Summary, I have provided information on the history of the Drill Sergeant, the uniform, the Drill Sergeant Program, and the Drill Sergeant of the Year program.

What are your questions?

In conclusion, Drill Sergeants reflect the professionalism, commitment and dedication of the Army non commissioned officer corps. The quality of the new Soldiers coming in the Army today reflects the quality of the Drill Sergeants training them. Drill Sergeants instill the Army values, discipline and adherence to standards. It is not a simple task to get every Soldier to a common level of understanding. Our Army's future is in very capable hands of the Drill Sergeants out there. Do you remember your Drill Sergeant?

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