

Feedback

CSA, SMA Recognition

Contributors of articles and other items published in the Journal are being recognized by Army Chief of Staff GEN Gordon R. Sullivan and SMA Richard A. Kidd.

At Sullivan's suggestion, he and Kidd are signing certificates of appreciation for contributors of notable feature articles, artwork and similar contents. The Journal staff will nominate contributors to receive certificates.

Receiving such a high-level "attaboy" would warrant a bullet comment on an NCOER as well as call attention to NCO contributions beyond their normal duties.

Your chances of getting published in the Journal are greatest if you focus on upcoming issues, such as the summer issue devoted to The NCO 2000 theme, and if you contact the Journal staff to discuss your ideas.

'Trivial' Pursuits

Still scratching your head because you can't get the information you need to prepare for a centralized selection board? Has one CSM told you that correspondence to the board president should be in civilian letter format and another told you that it should be in military memorandum format?

Scratch no more. According to SGM David Kehm, sergeant major of the DA Secretariat for Enlisted Selection Boards at EREC, boards want such correspondence in official memorandum format.

What about qualification badges for weapons, grenade, etc.? You should wear what your records indicate was

your most recent qualification, even if it is several years old, Kehm advises.

Similarly, if you're confused because your unit said you are authorized to wear a combat stripe for service during Desert Storm, be sure that your official records clearly reflect your entitlement to this stripe, Kehm says.

The bottom line, he cautions, is that your records are complete and accurate and that you carefully review regulations to ensure you are complying with them.

If you're still stumped, give him a call at Fort Harrison, Ind. His DSN number is 699-3740. His commercial number is (317) 542-3740.

Medical Badge

Combat Medical Badge eligibility has expanded, according to the Total Army Personnel Center.

New criteria — retroactive to Operation Desert Storm — allows award of the badge to medics assigned or attached to armor and cavalry units. Previously, only medics with infantry ties qualified.

The Journal (Winter 1992) carried a letter to the editor by CSM Mark A. Barber that advocated expanding eligibility for the badge. Barber's letter might have been a factor in the decision to make the change. The fact is that the sergeant major of the Army received an advance copy of that issue in early December, and the chief of staff received one of the first copies that rolled off the presses.

NCOs who have suggestions should write to the Journal. Who knows what change you might influence?



EREC Initiatives

A series of initiatives began in January at the Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center at Fort Harrison, Ind., to help NCOs better manage their careers.

The initiatives include the creation of an NCOER data report to soldiers, the ability to request your official file by telephone, direct coordination between EREC and NCOs to resolve NCOER problems and a method for faster correction of NCOERs.

NCOER Data Report

This new report will be provided to each NCO annually. It will arrive before centralized selection boards meet so that NCOs will know in advance which NCOERs boards will see, and in

time to correct errors. The report will list the latest eight NCOERs on file, showing duty titles, duty MOS and physical fitness test information. The report is provided through unit commanders to facilitate counseling.

OMPF by phone

Your Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) is now available by phone, if you have a push-button, tone-generating phone. You can reach EREC on commercial lines by calling (317) 542-3714 or via DSN at 699-3714. A recording will instruct you to push certain numbers to request specific files or information, such as the date of your most recent official photo that is on file.

NCOER mail-grams

Mail-grams will be sent to NCOs when their NCOERs are received at EREC and have been returned to the chain of command for corrections. NCOs will also receive mail-grams when their files are missing reports.

Quick corrections

A new procedure of fixing errors in-house will reduce NCOER error rates an estimated 84 percent. EREC will communicate with personnel centers worldwide by electronic mail in order to expedite corrections so that reports can be filed sooner.

EREC provided information for this article.