

Ft. Jackson Selects Drill Instructor of the Year

SFC Anita D. Jordan from the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant School is Ft. Jackson's Drill Sergeant of the Year.

Jordan went up against the best drill sergeants on post from the 1st and 4th Training Brigades and the 120th Reception Bn.

The 13-year veteran said she lived and breathed study guides and studied regulations and made her own question and answer guides from them.

"Sometimes I got tired of all the studying, but I wasn't going to quit," she said.★

U.S. Army Training Center and Soldiers Support Institute, Ft. Jackson, SC.

1st U.S. Army NCOs and Soldiers of the Year Named

AC/AGR NCO of the Year is SFC Michael W. Stafford, Co C, 2d Bn, 152d Inf (MECH), Indiana National Guard.

AC/AGR Soldier of the year is SPC Jack D. Cooper, assigned to HQ Co, USAG, Ft. McCoy, WI.

ARNG NCO of the Year is SSG David M. Marshall, HHC, 1st Bn, 125th Inf, Michigan ARNG.

ARNG Soldier of the Year is SPC Paul J. Toolan, assigned to HHC, 43d MP Bde, Rhode Island ARNG.

USAR NCO of the Year is SSG Edward A. Ramsdell, assigned to 76th Div (Training), Ohio.

USAR Soldier of the Year is CPL Warren J. Porter, assigned to 2290th USAR Hospital, Rockville, MD, 79th USAR Command.★

HQ, First U.S. Army, Ft. Meade, MD

2nd U.S. Army Selects NCO of Year

SFC Pamela Ramble was recently selected 2nd Army NCO of the Year (AC).

Ramble worked as the senior enlisted finance assistant for the Readiness Group Jackson before being reassigned to Ft. Richardson, AK. ★

2nd U.S. Army, Readiness Group Jackson, Ft. Jackson, SC.

Professional Soldiers With Profiles

By MSG Edward W. Ganz Jr.

The Army has a system in place to assist soldiers with temporary or permanent physical limitations. However, it seems there are still those leaders who insist on labeling these soldiers as substandard performers.

Pay attention the next time you're standing in a PT formation. See how quickly the soldiers who can't run are singled out. Suddenly, this profile turns them into wimps, shamers and anything but professionals. For many leaders, soldiers with a profile have no place in the Army and are certainly not qualified to be leaders.

It's also true that there are soldiers who "ride a profile." I define a profile rider as a soldier who constantly uses either a temporary or permanent profile to avoid certain duties and activities. I also believe these soldiers are products of their unit's command climate. In most cases the profile rider can be stopped if leaders take the appropriate actions.

Most soldiers with a profile have a legitimate injury. There's the Airborne Ranger who took one jump too many; the aviator injured in an aircraft accident or the light infantryman with an injured ankle. And yes, maybe even a tank commander who lost a leg while in combat. My point is, these soldiers were and still are just as professional as they were before their injuries.

These professional soldiers still hold up their end of the bargain. Normally an alternate PT event is assigned. However, they still attend unit fitness training and

challenge themselves in every way possible. They don't make excuses or ask for sympathy.

Leaders should help these soldiers by reviewing all profiles and ensuring their soldiers participate within the physical limits of the profile. Unit master fitness trainers (MFTs) should also assist by designing special fitness programs for profile soldiers.

Some of the stigma attached to soldiers with profiles is enhanced in the scoring of alternate events listed in FM 21-20, **Physical Fitness Training**. I believe the GO or NO GO scoring is unjust to these soldiers.

Although they may excel in their assigned alternate event, they will never reach the status of receiving the Army Fitness Badge. It may be that the scoring of these events should be scaled in the same manner as the run event.

The message I'm sending is that many professional soldiers are on limiting physical profiles because they had a desire to stay in top physical condition. It's unfortunate, however, that the body must pay a demanding price in the name of fitness. Those soldiers still want to remain part of the military team.

As NCOs, we must lead from the front by taking the time to evaluate the soldier's disability and its cause. What fitness activities can they perform? What is their current level of fitness? (It might be higher than yours!) Does the profile prevent them from contributing to the unit's warfighting mission? In most cases, the answer to these questions is no.

Now, about the tank commander who lost his leg in combat. He led the largest Army corps in modern warfare to victory during Desert Storm. That commander was the former TRADOC commander, GEN Frederick Franks. Did his profile affect his leadership ability? I think not.■

Ganz was a student in the USASMA Sergeants Major Course, Class 42, Ft. Bliss, TX, when he wrote this article.