



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class (Ret.) Phil Tegtmeier

The video crew's lights shine on the 20 USASMA soldiers who became sergeants for a few hours in their acting debut.

Video captures NCO Corps history

By Sgt. 1st Class (Ret.) Phil Tegtmeier

An updated video history of the Army NCO will hit training support centers and NCO academies worldwide by the end of May, according to the video's producer at the U.S. Army Training Support Center, Fort Eustis, Va.

"Sergeant Maj. of the Army [Jack L.] Tilley saw a need for an updated historical video and tasked the Training and Doctrine Command to produce one," said Louise Buttermoore, the video's senior producer at ATSC.

The final product will be a video covering the history of the U.S. Army NCO Corps from the American Revolution until today. It will combine video footage of historical items and artifacts and an enactment of a modern-day NCO induction ceremony.

Because the job required high-end video capabilities that would result in a broadcast-quality product, Buttermoore's office contracted out the work through the Department of Defense's Joint Visual Information Activity – Washington, the only DoD office authorized to contract out video production to private firms.

The company selected, Devine Communications of Atlanta, sent a video crew in February to Fort Bliss, Texas, to shoot video footage of exhibits at the Army NCO Museum. They also filmed the staged NCO



Sgt. Maj. Alton Anderson, USASMA Operations NCO and narrator for the induction ceremony taping, goes over the dialogue timing with show director Cathy Durant.

induction ceremony using a civilian actor as narrator and soldiers assigned to the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy as stand-ins and in small speaking roles. Twenty USASMA soldiers donned makeup, some recited short lines from the NCO Creed and all got the opportunity to see just how many camera angles and shots go into a video production.

“The crew came here to film the bulk of the video footage because most of the source material resides in the NCO Museum,” said Dr. Robert Bouilly, USASMA historian. The auditorium stage provided a good setting for the NCO induction ceremony, and the Academy’s soldiers were willing to work as extras for the filming, he said.

After the one-week trip to USASMA, the crew flew on to College Park, Md., to shoot footage from the Army’s historical archives there. Then the director, Cathy Durant, returned to Atlanta to begin the editing work.

“We expect approval of the video by the end of April with distribution to begin by late May,” Buttermoore said. Her organization will distribute the film to installation training support centers for inclusion in training film libraries. They will also send it to NCO academies, where the video will be shown as part of instruction in the primary leadership development course.



Above: Carol Napier, an El Paso-based freelance makeup artist, applies powder to Spc. Correy Everett, HHC, USASMA, while other “cast members” look on. Left: Video director Cathy Durant auditions soldiers for the speaking roles in the production.

