

Letters

AGR soldiers could fill drill sergeant void

I just have one question: Do you think that the volunteer rate would increase if becoming a drill sergeant were open to [Active Guard and Reserve] soldiers?

I love the Army, but a lot of the things that I read about as far as what we need, like drill sergeants, warrant officers and CID special agents, is really an easy fix. We train soldiers all the time to fill what we need in time of conflict to bring units up to strength. I don't understand why we can't do the same for these [military occupational] skills. You have soldiers that would volunteer for these jobs. I know that they look for certain qualifications and you might have some soldier that may not have all the qualifications, but are really good soldiers. Everything is done within reason.

Now for most things in the Army we submit a packet and you have a board that reviews it and then decides who is selected. I understand that is the Army way, but most of the time the board doesn't even know the soldier, and it is very hard to determine what kind of soldier that person is unless you have worked with the soldier.

*Staff Sgt. Stephen Webley
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Fort McPherson, Ga.*

NCOER Web site should be a "dot.mil"

Although it is now the middle of September by the time the July issue [of the *NCO Journal*] comes in the mail, I read it from cover to cover. It has always contained articles that peaked my interest and contributed to my ability to be a good NCO. This issue was no different.

As the Operations NCO for the 98th Division (IT) Drill Sergeant School, I was immediately impressed by the cover. I only wonder why the pictures of Sgt. 1st Class Miranda and Sgt. 1st Class Rouse were not the cover photo. The subject article was to the point and informative. If it cannot help recruit drill sergeants, I fear nothing can. I only wish that some mention had been made about Reserve drill sergeants. The U.S. Army Reserve is also in need of good NCOs to become drill sergeants.

The issue contained a good variety of articles concerning the timely issues of the Army today. The only complaint I have is not so much a complaint, but a sad commentary about the Army's treatment of the NCO Corps in general. While I read, enjoyed and have visited the "ncoer.com" Web site highlighted in the *60 Second Review*, I am saddened that it is a "dot.com" and not a "dot.mil." This is information and resources that the

Army should be supplying its NCOs. In more than 16 years as an NCO, I have yet to receive and have yet to meet a fellow NCO who has received any real training on writing NCOERs. Considering the importance on NCOERs, that is really a shame.

*Sgt. 1st Class David Newport
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Mattydale, N.Y.*

Missing the *Journal*

I am a soldier currently serving in Iraq. I've been in country for five months and have another seven months remaining on my deployment. Being in country [has] made me appreciate many of the freedoms and blessings [I left behind] in the United States more. One particular piece of literature that I miss is the *NCO Journal*. My unit used to receive the magazine very often and I would try to be one of the first to read the articles in it. Is there a way that I could receive your magazine here? I would be more than happy to subscribe if need be. Would you please send me the information? Thank you for your time, effort and support.

*Staff Sgt. George Hutchinson
Company C, 1st Battalion*

Editor's note: Individual subscriptions to the NCO Journal will be available beginning with this issue through the Government Printing Office at the annual cost of \$16 for domestic and Army Post Office (APO) addresses or \$22.40 for delivery to foreign addresses. The subscription price covers four issues annually. The subscription program is open to all individuals and nongovernment organizations. Individual copies will also be available for \$5 domestic or \$7 foreign.

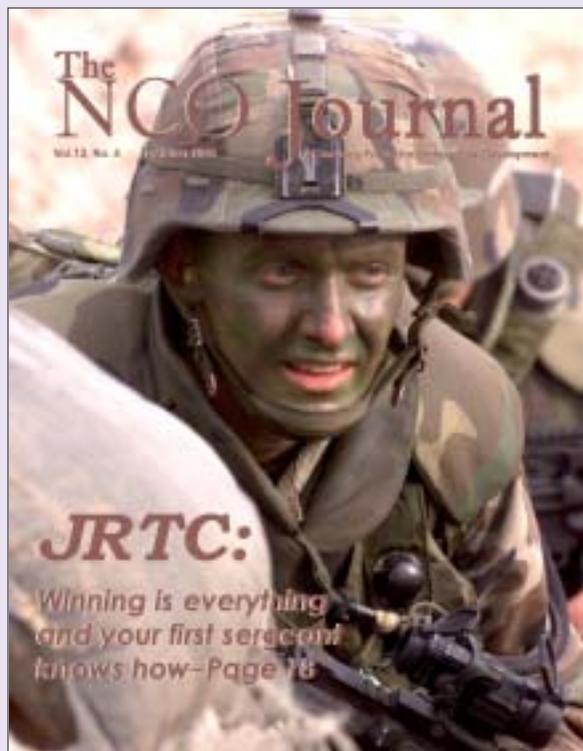
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Journal articles strive to help NCOs achieve success

With this issue of the *NCO Journal*, we present the results of our 2003 Readership Survey (pages 28-29). The response to our call for input was overwhelming. From the survey results, we learned more about some of our readers, what they look for and want to see more of in the *Journal*. Thanks again to all of you who took the time to complete the survey.

Also, this quarter, the *Journal* helps soldiers prepare for training. Whether you or one of your soldiers is preparing for the Primary Leadership Development Course, Sgt. Jimmy Norris's article, "What to know before you go," will certainly help in that preparation. Norris, a recent PLDC graduate, interviewed NCOs assigned to NCO academies across the Army and asked them for their best tips to set soldiers up for success. They all offered great guidance on how to set soldiers up for success.

Norris, who is also newly promoted, knows that every NCO serving in a leadership position needs a Leaders Book. After doing the basic research, Norris went to some of the most senior NCOs in the Army, including Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley, to get more indepth guidance on those little things that make a Leaders Book an invaluable reference. (See story, pages 10-11.)

While he was working on his article, the *Journal's* graphic artist, Spc. Michael Stone with guidance from Command Sgt. Maj. Kelvin Hughes decided to make building a Leaders Book even easier. They have put together a four-page pull out Leaders Book template to help young NCOs get started on building their books.

And, while we're on the subjects of training and leadership, 1st Sgt. Jason Silsby, an Infantry first sergeant, offered some sage advice for fellow first sergeants and other senior NCOs on preparing for training at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La. Silsby, who is currently assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, N. Y., is deployed in Afghani-

stan. In addition to being the veteran of several JRTC rotations, Silsby also served as a first sergeant in the JRTC Opposing Force. (See pages 18-19.)

We never lose sight of those who are currently deployed. So, for those who are making plans for when they redeploy, check out the feature on the Armed Forces Recreation Centers. The centers are located worldwide in Florida, Hawaii, Korea and Germany. These hotels and recreation facilities offer top-of-the-line accommodations at affordable prices. They accept reservations a year in advance, so you and your family can make your plans now.

And, in memory of those who have lost their lives in the Global War on Terrorism, the *NCO Journal* has put together a commemorative "Roll Call of the Fallen." The Roll Call is a lasting tribute to those who have fallen, but will not be forgotten.

With this issue, we also bid farewell to Hughes, our aforementioned Special Projects officer. After graduating from the Sergeants Major Course, Class 53, in May, Hughes has been a great help to the *NCO Journal* and a great mentor to me while he's awaited his assignment to a battalion. Hughes leaves the Academy to take the 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery at Fort Hood, Texas. We will all miss him.

We would also like to welcome our new managing editor, David Crozier. Crozier is a retired Air Force Public Affairs NCO. We're happy to have him on board.

In closing, thanks to all of our readers who show their support by sending letters and e-mails. We are always looking for story ideas and feedback, so keep them coming.

Master Sgt. Lisa Hunter
Editor in Chief