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*Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack L. Tilley visits the NCO and Soldier of the Year competitors at Fort A.P. Hill, Va., in October. The competition pitted the NCOs and soldiers of the year from each of the major commands in a head-to-head battle to be named the best. This was the first year a competition has been held at Department of the Army level. See pages 14-20 for the winners' views on leadership and information on all the competitors.*

**Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack L. Tilley**

## ***This is your 'Journal'***

As we bring in the New Year, we also welcome a new look and focus for our *NCO Journal*.

I am excited about all the changes that are in store for the Army's only publication dedicated to the professional development of our Noncommissioned Officers' Corps.

The publication has continued to improve since it was brought back in 1998. However, this year you will see the *Journal* transform even more.

We are not only changing the look, but more importantly enhancing the content. The *Journal* will now provide NCOs with an innovative tool to help them learn about their craft, enhance their skills, and educate themselves and their soldiers.

Expect to see more articles about deployment lessons learned, counseling, taking care of soldiers and leadership techniques. At the same time, the *NCO Journal* will still include news you can use. The Army NCO Corps is doing tremendous things and our *Journal* is one way to recognize some of those accomplishments.

This month the highlight is on our first Department of the Army Level NCO and Soldier of the Year Competition. Congratulations to Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery Stitzel and Spc. Justin Brown. They represent all of us.

We will also see more about our history. I am always troubled by the lack of knowledge people have about our

Corps. Our history is as old as the Army itself. We need to educate ourselves about where we came from to prepare us for where we are going.

Our veterans and retirees have had a tremendous impact on where we are today. They laid the foundation for our success. We cannot allow ourselves to forget their accomplishments.

The *NCO Journal* remains your publication. You, the reader, will make it a success. Your articles, letters and e-mails are what make it a living magazine. I ask that you share the *Journal* with your soldiers.

The articles and lessons on leadership are for all of us. Our young privates and specialists are the NCOs of tomorrow. They need to learn and grow now. Take advantage of this resource and prepare them to replace you. The *NCO Journal* is one way to do that.

Enjoy the latest issue and pass it around.

Good luck in 2003. Be safe and keep up your hard work and dedication. You make me proud every day to be called an NCO.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack L. Tilley  
12<sup>th</sup> Sergeant Major of the Army