

Behind the changes to your *NCO Journal*

With this issue, we welcome a new year and a new design for the *NCO Journal*. You will hopefully notice some changes. We've added more pages, gone to a full-color format and made a few adjustments to our editorial content.

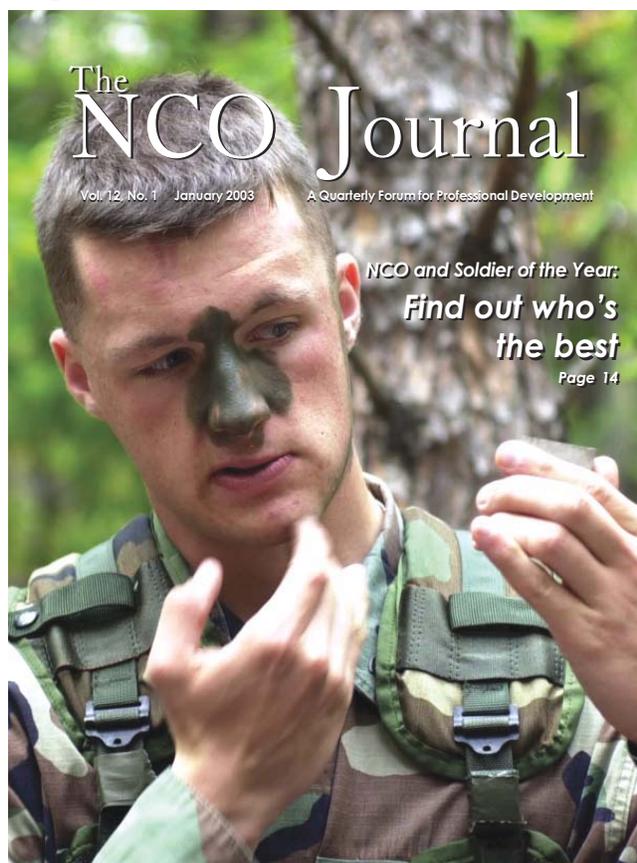
Some of the articles are shorter and more to the point. These changes are an attempt to accommodate NCOs who are incredibly busy and only have time to scan the pages of the *Journal*. Several of the articles offer some sort of guidance that NCOs can incorporate into their training or missions. We can always learn from other's experience. An example of this is Command Sgt. Major Frank Grippe's story of his soldiers – 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry of the 10th Mountain Division – and what they faced during their first firefight in Afghanistan and why they were ready for the challenge.

The *Journal* will continue to spotlight excellence in the NCO ranks, as we have in this issue with the story on Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery Stitzel and Spc. Justin Brown, the Army's first NCO and Soldier of the Year.

The *Journal* will also continue to be a source of news for NCOs, reporting on trends, publications and even Web sites that can assist you in your duties. In other words, news you can use.

Like every other aspect of the Army, the *Journal* is a work in progress; it's an evolving publication. The *Journal* staff cannot presume to know what NCOs across the Army want to read in the *Journal*. And so, for the first time in five years, the *NCO Journal* staff is conducting a readership survey. You will find it on Page 31. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete. Or if you'd prefer to complete the survey online, you can log onto <http://usasma.bliss.army.mil/journal>.

What we can assure you will remain unchanged is the fact that this is your *Journal*. The *NCO Journal* will always be a publication that is the voice of the Army's NCO Corps. And, since you are the boots on the ground, it is your



perspective that *Journal* wants to share with the rest of the Army. As such, we still ask for your articles, story ideas, letters and feedback.

We look forward to your articles and feedback.

Master Sgt. Lisa Hunter
Editor in Chief

Submission guidelines for articles, artwork

We recently revised our editorial requirements to open up the pages of the *NCO Journal* to a wider variety of subjects. We will no longer adhere to a theme for each issue, for example. Instead, we encourage soldiers in the field to submit from 100 to 1,000 words on any subject that will benefit other members of the NCO Corps. The best articles will be brief and will discuss creative solutions to common challenges. When sending us electronic versions of manuscripts, please save your document either as a Microsoft Word™ document or in a rich-text-format (.rtf) file. Send manuscripts to the e-mail address below.

Artwork and photographs to accompany articles will be helpful in illustrating the message in the text. We will accept photos, drawings, sketches and diagrams in a variety of formats. We prefer to receive electronic versions of artwork. When sending photos as e-mail

attachments, send them as .jpg files no larger than 1.5MB. Send one photo per e-mail; our mail server limits attachment sizes. If you send a PowerPoint document, include the individual artwork files used in building the slide. The same is true for MS Word documents containing graphic elements. Contact us for further information on formats and graphics ideas.

All submissions can be sent by e-mail, fax or mail. For e-mail, send to atss-sj-ncojournal@bliss.army.mil. Our fax is DSN 978-8540 or comm. (915) 568-8540. Our mailing address appears on the inside front cover each issue.

When thinking of ideas for submission, it helps to consider the *Journal* as the *Popular Mechanics* of the NCO Corps. If you have a creative approach to an issue, share it with your fellow NCOs through the pages of the *NCO Journal*.