



Departing editor encourages NCOs to continue their support of the *Journal*

We hope you've enjoyed this issue of the *Journal*. This is the largest issue in the *Journal's* 13-year history. This issue has been a labor of love, so to speak. The guise of looking through the back issues for stories that are still pertinent to today's force gave me an excuse to look back and see how much our NCO Corps has evolved in the last 13 years.

Five sergeants major of the Army have come and gone. The *Soldier's Guide* and *NCO Guide* have been rewritten. The Army has totally changed how we go to war and what the unit looks like when it gets there.

But, looking back at those early issues, I read several articles that are still pertinent to our NCO Corps today. Among the most interesting were the stories explaining how centralized promotion boards are conducted and how to prepare for promotion. Sgt. Maj. Deborah Seimer put in a lot of effort to update those articles and give NCOs the most up-to-date information possible.

Other stories addressed some of the more intangible aspects of an NCO's job. Articles like "How do you set their souls on fire?" address the age-old question of how to motivate your Soldiers. Another, Master Sgt. Christine Seitzinger's article, "Mentoring prepares Soldiers to be tomorrow's leaders," was first printed in the Spring 1992 edition of the *NCO Journal*. Seitzinger's story has not been updated. There was no need. Her message is just as important and pertinent today as it was 12 years ago.

This issue holds particular significance for me, as it is my last issue as the editor of your *Journal*. I will be moving on – though not far, geographically. I am leaving the editor's job to attend Class 55 of the Sergeants Major Course.

This has been a unique and very rewarding assignment for me. As you may know, the *NCO Journal* staff is assigned to the U. S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, hence, my comment about not moving far. When I first signed in to the Academy, a lot of Soldiers asked me why the *Journal* offices were at the Academy, instead of closer to the Army leadership at the Pentagon. At the time, I couldn't give them a good answer. Now, I can.

The Academy is the Army equivalent of an ivy-league college. The Academy's staff and faculty include more than 150 sergeants major and retired sergeants major. When you add in the librarians, health promotions officer, chaplain and about 700 Sergeants Major Course students that are usually in residence, you have probably the most comprehensive network of Army resources and know-how ever compiled. And, believe me; we have tapped into those resources. In addition to their wealth of institutional knowledge, they have shown an infinite amount of patience in working with me and the rest of the *Journal* staff.

On the other side of the coin are all the people at Department of the Army who have assisted us. From Sergeants Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley and Kenneth Preston and their staffs to the Human Resources Command, we have been very fortunate to have so many people who have gone the extra mile to provide us with current information. Thank you, one and all, for your great support and professionalism.

I also want to thank the *NCO Journal* staff: Mr. Dave Crozier, managing editor; Sgt. Chad Jones, photojournalist; and Sgt. Jimmy Norris, photojournalist. This is also Norris' last issue. After winning honorable mention in the DA Journalist of the Year and Sportswriting competitions, Norris is being reassigned as the editor of the 19th Theater Support Command's magazine.

And, last but not least, I would like to introduce the new *NCO Journal* editor, Master Sgt. Susanna Harper. Harper is reporting in from the 21st Theater Support Command in Kaiserslautern, Germany. If you all give her the same great support you've given me, I know she will do a great job with the *Journal*.

Thank you all for making this a wonderful, rewarding assignment and for helping us make the *Journal* a better publication. Always remember, this is your *Journal*.

Master Sgt. Lisa Hunter
Editor