

The Defender

- UNITED STATES ARMY DRILL SERGEANT ACADEMY -

MAY 13, 2019

USADSA

USADSA SHARE EXPERTISE

U.S. Army representative allies visit the USADSA

Over the last quarter, The United States Army Drill Sergeant Academy has welcomed several distinguished guests to the USADSA to view the Academy campus, discuss with leadership the Army R2 training initiative, what adaptive leadership is and to inform and engage with VIP visitors on the importance of the Army Drill Sergeant.

Taking pride and working together for the betterment of the end strength of the United States military is what makes the U.S. military the greatest and strongest in the world. Army Drill Sergeants are the epitome of what an adaptive leader is and bare the great responsibility of shaping civilians into the best Soldiers in the world.

Because of the great influence the Army Drill Sergeant has on every Soldier and aspect of the Army they serve as an example to many military branches in and outside of the United States.

As the Army continues to grow so does its professional relationships. The U.S. Army skillfully works together with ally and partner nations to maintain a healthy and cohesive bi-lateral exchange of information and insight to improve overall coordination during peace and crisis.



Foreign Liason Officers from Denmark, Brazil, Italy Spain, Australia, New Zealand, Turkey, Israel with Fort Bragg visit the USADSA



British Army Recruiting and Initial Training Commandant (ARITC) sit with SGM Perez, Deputy Commandant.



The Commanding General of the Korean Army Training Center visits the USADSA.

COMMANDANTS CORNER

Team,

Over the first three quarters, the Drill Sergeant Academy has been working tirelessly to ensure that the Initial Entry Training Enterprise receives the Drill Sergeants that they need to improve the Leader to led ratio. To date, we have graduated 8 classes with 699 expert trainers coming to an Army Training Center near you. This is 117 Drill Sergeants more than this time last year!

Currently, we have six classes in session with 802 motivated Drill Sergeant Candidates giving their all in their attempt to meet the standard and become Drill Sergeants. The next USADSA graduation will take place on 29 May 2019 for class 006-19. We will conduct 5 additional graduations in subsequent weeks and start anew refilling our ranks on 6 June 2019. We have 10 classes and roughly 1500 more Drill Sergeant Candidates to train this fiscal year!!



29th Commandant

Fitness standards increase

Leaders that are knowledgeable and expert trainers. To ensure Drill Sergeants arrive at their Initial Entry Training locations physically fit and ready to lead, we have increased in physical fitness entrance and graduation standards here at the Drill Sergeant Academy. Drill Sergeant Candidates must arrive to the Academy being able to pass the 3 event Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) with a minimum of 70 points per event and total score of 210 or above. The end of course APFT graduation standard is 80 points per event with a total score of 240 or above. Spread the word so your candidates are prepared and ready to succeed!

This We'll Defend



SGM Deedra Perez

A Word from Deputy Commandant

DSA Family,

We are now in the middle of the year and busier than ever. You have all been outstanding with the addition of a 6th Platoon, and now from 100 Candidates per platoon to over 142. This just proves you are all giving more than 100% each and every day to make the impossible possible. I am extremely proud of you all and of your ability to accomplish any task given to you. We ask a lot of you, just know it does not go unnoticed. Continue to stay resilient, take care of yourself, your families and your battle buddies.

This We'll Defend!

ALPHA COMPANY

1st Platoon “Assassins” are continuing their efforts to provide the Army Training Centers with well-equipped and confident Drill Sergeants who are prepared to train the next fighting force. 1st Platoon graduated their first class, Class 003-19, consisting of 93 highly motivated and inspired Drill Sergeants on 20 Mar 2019. After cycle break, the Assassins began training their second cycle of the year. Class 004-19 reported on 03 Apr 2019 with 146 Candidates who accepted the charge of becoming Drill Sergeants.

Over the duration of the Drill Sergeant course, Candidates conduct various areas of emphasized training in the classroom and in the field. The classroom instruction received covers areas such as Leadership, PRT, SHARP and EO, Ready and Resilient and other important informative instruction that continues to prove beneficial to all.

Throughout the rest of the cycle the Assassins will complete Land Navigation and training in Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills in preparation for their culminating Field Training Exercise. 1st Platoon Drill Sergeant Leaders (DSL) continue to put in great effort and devotion to ensure that the Drill Sergeant Candidates receive the best quality training.

2nd Platoon “Wolfpack” recently graduated their first class of the year and provided 102 highly skilled Drill Sergeants to multiple BCT, AIT and OSUT locations throughout the country on 10 Apr 2019.

The Wolfpack received nearly 175 Candidates on 24 Apr 2019 as part of their second cycle of the year. In preparation for the candidates, DSLs reviewed class material, conducted rehearsals and honed in on professional growth during their cycle reset period.

The 2nd Platoon Drill Sergeant Candidates will conduct the Fit to Win obstacle course, Victory Rappel Tower and many other team building challenges during their first few weeks of training. They will also be conducting the newly incorporated Battle March and Shoot training as well as Army Combat Fitness Test training and Level 1 certification; affirming graduating Candidates as immediate assets to their assigned unit.



Alpha Company is continuing to push through the cycles of graduates and future classes by preparing to provide detailed instruction while evaluating all Candidates abilities to demonstrate proficiency in the areas required to be an effective Drill Sergeant; Physical Readiness Training, Rifle Marksmanship, Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills, and Drill and Ceremony.

DSLOC

DRILL SERGEANT LEADER OF THE CYCLE



DSL Jones has shown impressive dedication His motivating and intense desire to be successful in all that he does is apparent his peers and subordinate Candidates.

-ISG Samuel Genovese



DSL Leavell is a hard charger NCO and it's always willing and able to go above and beyond her daily duties and scope to ensure mission success.

-SDSL David Rodriguez



DSL Franchini has spent countless hours and days preparing himself, peers and Candidates to be successful in every area that a Drill Sergeant is needed in order to provide expert instruction.

-ISG Samuel Genovese



DSL Fernandez is a passionate, hardworking DSL that leads by example.

-SDSL Marshall



Any Drill Sergeant Leader or NCO that encounters DSL Hickey immediately understands what he brings to the team and the mission. you will not find a more dedicated or knowledgeable NCO. Candidates recognized his drive for excellence and acknowledged him accordingly for those actions.

-SDSL Brandon Plunkett

BRAVO COMPANY

As the demand for Drill Sergeants rises the standard stays the same. The rewarding U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy, although challenging and demanding is one of the most prestigious schools a Non-Commissioned Officer can be honored to attend. Bravo Company, 3rd Platoon, Knights picked up its largest class in recent USADSA history on 28 March 2019, with 4th Platoon, Blacksheep adding on the to the Company ranks a couple weeks later on 11 April 2019.

The Drill Sergeants candidates of Bravo Company hit the ground running during their first week of training with their initial APFT. Several Drill Sergeant Candidates were immediately faced with the reality that physically they weren't meeting the Army Standard. Over the next couple of weeks, all candidates conducted several hours of Strength, Endurance and Mobility sessions preparing them for their next APFT and the vigor's of being a Drill Sergeant; all while learning how to properly execute a physical readiness training (PRT) session and how to properly pitch and instruct Drill & Ceremony.

Drill Sergeant Candidates see and experience firsthand from their Drill Sergeant Leaders how to deliver the different Methods of Instructions (MOI). Each candidate is tested on their ability to properly pitch and instruct an MOI for D&C.



The Knights and Blacksheep have been evaluated non-stop since they have arrived and will be expected to continue to keep their high level of discipline and motivation as they move forward throughout the course.

In the weeks to come, the candidates will be immersed into rifle marksmanship training, where they will be required to qualify on their M4's with M68's and Back up Iron Sights, while qualifying with the M4 carbine. Candidates will also learn the importance of marksmanship as they will have to instruct their future Soldiers.

Bravo Company Drill Sergeant Candidates will learn about battle drills, land navigation, US weapons and much more as they continue throughout course. Upon completion of the course the newest Drill Sergeants will be ready to join their battle buddies on the trail and train America's most prized possessions to join our elite ranks in the Army. The coveted Drill Sergeant hat and badge is not given to every NCO, it is given to only those who truly earn it. Candidates will continue to work and study hard to earn the right to be called a U.S. Army Drill Sergeant.

ACADEMY DEFENDERS

~Highlights of our Soldiers doing great things~

Academy Promotions

SFC Castle

SFC Espinoza

SFC Irwin

SFC Kammerer

SFC Mendoza

SFC Vasquez

SFC Lozada

Course Graduates

SFC Raiden ~ Master Fitness Training School

SFC Simmons ~ Ranger School

SSG Perryman ~ Senior Leadership Course

SSG Smalls ~ Senior Leadership Course

Welcome the Academy Ranks

SSG Allen *SSG Neuschwanger*

SSG Anthony *SSG Olejniczak*

SSG Crews *SSG Pharmessai*

SSG Fernandez *SSG Philpot*

SSG Hankin *SSG Rous*

SSG Konrad *SFC Stephens*

SSG Lopez *SFC William J.*

SSG Munden

Community Service



Charlie Company, 5th Platoon Drill Sergeant Leaders and Candidates partner with the Fort Jackson MWR to host and assist with a track meet held at the USADSA track.



CHARLIE COMPANY

Prior to picking up Class 008-19 the Drill Sergeant Leaders of 5th Platoon conducted cycle reset operations consisting POI review and of rehearsals of modules and PRT pitch and demonstrations. During this time the Vanguard also hosted a Hail and Farewell breakfast where they welcomed 4 new Drill Sergeant Leaders and bid farewell.



By 18, April, 5th Platoon received 154 Drill Sergeant Candidates. In the first 72 hours candidates received multiple briefings and were oriented to the Drill Sergeant Academy campus. They were introduced to the Drill & Ceremony sets through demonstrations from the DSLs, and were administered the initial APFT. The first 72 hours concluded with PRT instruction.

Week 1 was highlighted with Victory Tower & Fit to Win. Victory Tower provides candidates with the opportunity to face their fears head on and build their confidence. Fit to Win, an endurance course, provides candidates the opportunity to earn their 5th platoon name, Vanguard, this instills a sense of pride and belonging. Both events allow the Vanguard to exercise team cohesion and gives candidates a firsthand look via the DSLs of how they are expected to coach these activities once on the trail. Week 1 also included Set 1 evaluations on candidates' ability to pitch and demonstrate modules to peers. D&C Set 2 demonstration was also conducted.

With the graduation of Class 503-19 on 17 April 2019, 6th Platoon graduated their first group of Drill Sergeants in recent history. After ten rewarding weeks filled with events such as the Confidence Obstacle Course, Combat Lifesaver Class, Basic Rifle Marksmanship, Land Navigation, Combatives Week, and a challenging field training exercise, the "Dragons" witnessed 101 candidates "walk across the stage" and walk into their roles and responsibilities as drill sergeants.

After a brief Cycle Reset in which cadre will focus on refining their knowledge and skills regarding drill and ceremony (D&C), Physical Readiness Training (PRT), Basic Rifle Marksmanship and general leadership development, the "Dragons" will receive their 2nd group of candidates, Class 506-19, on 01 May 2019. Along with a new group of candidates, 6th Platoon will also encounter a new work environment. Renovations to the "Dragon's Lair" have been ongoing for the past few months; however, all renovations are expected to be complete by the end of April. With the assistance of the Automation section, 6th Platoon "Dragons" will now be employing innovative equipment to bring premier instruction, to a revolutionary platoon.