

# The Defender

- UNITED STATES ARMY DRILL SERGEANT ACADEMY -

SEPTEMBER 04, 2019

USADSA

## COMMANDANTS CORNER

Team,

First, I would like to say **thank you** for your support over the last year as we have made a substantial difference in improving the Leader to Led ratio within the Initial Entry Training Environment. Your hard work in preparing Drill Sergeant Candidates (DSCs) truly paid off and resulted in 1,745 Drill Sergeant (DS) graduates to date.

As we usher out FY19 and welcome in FY20, there will be a number of changes which will affect the Academy. Starting October 1st 2019, the DSA will no longer administer the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT); DSCs will be required to report with a DA Form 705 dated within 6 months of their class date demonstrating that they meet Army Standards. We will administer an Initial Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) as well as an End of Course ACFT. Each candidate will be required to attempt all six events and complete the ACFT. The goal is for each candidate to achieve the Gray standard. Over the next 10-12 months we will utilize this data to determine the scoring standard for Drill Sergeants.



29th Commandant

Once approved by the Infantry School and TRADOC, we are also postured to implement the new Basic Rifle Marksmanship (BRM) program and qualification standards. Currently we have working groups figuring out the X's and O's so that DSC's are prepared to execute the Enhanced Basic Combat Training Program of Instruction upon arrival to training centers.

Currently we are in the trial phase of our Drill Sergeant Academy Sexual Harassment and Assault Response Prevention online training program. This program will present DSs and DSCs with a realistic situational training experience that they may encounter in the BCT environment. It will be presented on ALMS (CAC enabled) and each DSC will be required to complete the training while attending the DSA; upon completion participants will receive a training certificate.

***"Those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything." – George Benard Shaw***

As I stated before, there are a number of changes being implemented at the DSA as we remain relevant and synchronized with the Enhanced Basic Combat Training Program of Instruction. One of the highest honors for a Non-Commissioned officer is a spot in Drill Sergeant Academy. Only the most qualified NCOs are chosen to instruct and support the DSA; continue to take pride in yourselves and the Army you serve. Be safe and GOD speed!

"This We'll Defend



*SGM Deedra Perez*

## A Word from Deputy Commandant

DSA Family,

As we head into the final cycles of the calendar year, I want to remind you all of what an outstanding job of training the next generation of Drill Sergeants you have done. While enduring an extremely hot and humid summer, you have continued to train at a high standard.

Over the course of this year, we have bid farewell to many members of our support staff and Drill Sergeant Leaders as they've headed to their next assignments and transitioned back into the operating force. As we head into the final quarter of FY19 we will also say goodbye to each of our company First Sergeants.

Change is inevitable, as new Drill Sergeants and Drill Sergeant Leaders join the USADSA team with different

styles of teaching and new ideas on how to make this Academy even better than before. I encourage everyone to embrace these changes, and guide our new team members on the right path. We will all be greater for it.



**This We'll Defend**



# ALPHA COMPANY

1st Platoon, Assassins, graduated one of the largest classes in Academy history this quarter with 127 Non-Commissioned Officers transforming into Drill Sergeants. Drill Sergeant Leaders took on the tough task by certifying these Non-Commissioned officers through performance evaluations in the areas of PRT, D&C, Rifle Marksmanship, Leadership, TR 350-6 and Tactics.

The Assassins welcomed two new Drill Sergeant Leaders during Class 011-19. SSG Hansen and SSG Ward, both coming from Fort Leonard, came in eager to get to work and immediately contributed to the Assassins team. DSL Albiter set herself apart from her peers by training 127 candidates on CLS with little help. DSL Hansen used his expertise as a Master Combatives Trainer certifying the entire Class of Candidates as Combative Level 1 certified with first time Go's. The Drill Sergeant Leaders will be enjoying a much deserved break during cycle reset. We will come into the next cycle with rejuvenation and ready to train!



2nd Platoon, Wolfpack, were very busy this summer. This summer the Wolfpack graduated the largest graduating class of Drill Sergeants the Drill Sergeant Academy has ever seen, welcoming 140 new Drill Sergeants into the enterprise. Additionally, the Wolfpack added two new members to the team; SFC Mehaffie and SSG Shelton. This summer members of the Wolfpack volunteered their time to assist the visiting South Carolina Gamecocks in a challenge on the obstacle course. In USADSA fashion, they showed up in full stride ready for the challenge and took second place in the competition.



Standing out this summer has been DSL Hill; she is an invaluable force multiplier within the Platoon. DSL Hill won the honor of representing the Wolfpack at the USADSA DSOY competition and took third place in that competition.

# VIP VISTORS



*Guest speaker, CSM Michael A. Grinston provided words of wisdom and encouragement to Class 505-19 Alpha Company Drill Sergeants during graduation ceremony.*



*Dr. Mark T. Esper, Secretary of the Army visits USADSA cadre to discuss the importance of the role of the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant.*

*Distinguished visitors from Qatar, received a briefing from command staff and observed the training of the 3PLT Knights and 5PLT Vanguard drill sergeant candidates during their tour of the Academy.*





# BRAVO COMPANY

Bravo Company remains on the grind training the best and brightest the Army has to offer. This summer the 3rd Platoon, Knights graduated Class 010-19 with 132 highly trained and competent Drill Sergeants. Each Drill Sergeant departed the Academy ready to take on the task of training America's most prized possession. One week later, the Knights were back at it again with Class 507-19. Class 509-19 reported with 90 Drill Sergeant Candidates ready to accept the call to become an Army Drill Sergeant.

4th Platoon, Black Sheep wrapped up a long summer of training with Class 507-19. After nine weeks of strenuous mental and physical training 52 highly motivated Drill Sergeant Candidates graduated on August 28, 2019.

During the summer months, Bravo Company highlighted the Academy by placing 1st and 2nd in the USADSA DSOY competition. The runner up was DSL Jalyssa Leavell from 4th Platoon and the winner was DSL Earnest Knight from 3rd Platoon. DSL Knight went on to compete at Joint Base San Antonio for the TRADOC Drill Sergeant of the Year competition where the United States Army Drill Sergeant Academy came out victorious. DSL Knight will move on to TRADOC and is sure to continue to do great and wonderful things for the Army. Bravo Company continues on the mission of training NCOs to become highly motivated, well discipline Drill Sergeants! This We'll Defend.... Till The End.



# ACADEMY DEFENDERS

*~Highlights of our Soldiers doing great things~*

## Academy Promotions

*SFC Bessey*

*SFC Simpson*

*SFC LockeThompson*

*SFC Durbin*

*SFC Cauley*

*SFC Ramoso*

## Course Graduates

*SSG Jackson ~ Senior Leadership Course*

*SGT Evans ~ Advanced Leadership Course*

## Community Service

## Welcome the Academy Ranks

*1SG Diaz*

*SSG Shelton*

*SFC Capocci*

*SSG Ward*

*SFC Harp*

*SSG Webb*

*SFC Mehaffie*

*SGT Williamson*

*SFC Williams*

*SSG Boston*

*SSG Collins*

*SSG Perina*

*SSG Schwierking*

*SSG Shaw*





# CHARLIE COMPANY

## 5th Platoon

Over the last quarter, Charlie Company 5th PLT cadre have been working diligently to ensure that Sergeants who come through the USADSA course get the best training and instruction in preparation for their upcoming time “on the trail.” On June 19th, 122 Non-commissioned officers of Class 008-19 donned their campaign hats and pinned on the Drill Sergeant Identification badge announcing their presence to the world as certified Drill Sergeants. After a brief cycle break, the Vanguard picked up its second class of Drill Sergeant candidates for the Summer; Class 012-19.

Currently in the Field Training Exercise portion of the course (Week 7), these Drill Sergeant candidates have had instruction and training on leadership, CLS, Rifle Marksmanship, and TRADOC Regulation 350-6. As of now, 91 candidates are slated to walk across the stage and claim their newest skill qualifier as U.S.Army Drill Sergeants on September 11th.

The Drill Sergeant Leader of the Cycle for Class 012-19 was SFC Jeffery Williams.



## 6th Platoon

On July 03, 2019, the recently added 6th PLT graduated Class 506-19, its second class of Drill Sergeants in FY19. The addition of a sixth platoon has not come without challenges but with the perseverance of its Drill Sergeants leaders the Dragons have been able to overcome every challenge and focus on ensuring each Drill Sergeant candidate receives instruction and training according to standard.

Currently in week 6 of the course, Class 508-19 has 51 candidates slated to graduate on September 25th.

6th PLT highlights DSL Matthew Tufaro, as the Drill Sergeant Leader of the Cycle for Class 508-19. Over the past two cycles, he has led his squad while also taking on the duties and responsibilities of the Deputy Senior Drill Sergeant Leader. His dedication to duty shows great credit upon himself, the USADSA, and the United States Army.