

# The Defender

- UNITED STATES ARMY DRILL SERGEANT ACADEMY -

NOVEMBER 1, 2018

USADSA

## TRADOC COMMANDER VISITS USADSA

Gen. Stephen J. Townsend, Commanding General of the U.S Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) toured the Drill Sergeant Academy September 09, 2018. During his visit, Gen. Townsend met with USADSA senior leaders, received an information brief and recognized some of the Academy's finest Drill Sergeant Leaders.



*Gen. Stephen J. Townsend, Commanding General of U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command and U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy leadership pose for photo outside of USADSA.*

Gen. Townsend discussed with leadership ways to improve and maintain Academy proficiency and the important role Non Commissioned Officers take on when becoming a Drill Sergeant.

As the general who oversees all training in the Army, there was one goal for Gen. Townsend during his tour of the Academy; to gain an understanding of the sustainment training and mission of the Academy.

Throughout his visit, Gen. Townsend observed Drill Sergeant Leaders instructing drill sergeant candidates and received a first hand look at the skills and tools used by Academy instructors that help mold the Army's greatest NCO's into Drill Sergeants.

# COMMANDANT'S CORNER

Team,

The Drill Sergeant Academy is currently in its busiest time of year with all companies in cycle. We're excited about the growth of the Drill Sergeant population across the Initial Entry Training environment and look forward to training competent, confident, and motivated NCOs for the best duty in the Army.

Drill Sergeants are privileged with the opportunity to train citizens to Soldiers. Our nation entrusts us with the most valued and precious commodity the nation has to offer, people. Therefore, we here at the Drill Sergeant Academy are truly humbled and the honored for the opportunity to teach, coach and mentor NCOs for that privilege.

Since our last quarterly newsletter 393 qualified NCOs have graduated from the USADSA.

These Drill Sergeants will now be assigned to an Initial Entry Training Unit where they will begin transforming America's sons and daughters into Soldiers for our Army.

We have also gained 18 new DSLs to our ranks. Welcome to the Academy!

The opportunity to mold NCOs into Drill Sergeants is not given but earned, thank you for your hard work and determination that has gotten you this far as a professional.

With the welcoming on new Drill Sergeant Leaders we must also bid farewell to those leaving. As the Army continues to grow so does its standards, those of you who are leaving I have no doubt will continue to grow in your careers and abide to the standards set here and in the Army. Take advantage of opportunities presented to you and remember success is not perfection but the result of hard work, learning from failure and persistence.



*CSM Michael L. Berry*

## STRENGTHENING BONDS

### *USADSA hosts Forces Armees Nigeriennes*



*USADSA Cadre poses for picture with Niger Army Soldiers after visit with USADSA.*

The U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy hosted Soldiers from the Niger Army (Forces Armees Nigeriennes) on September 27, 2018. During the visit, USADSA Commandant, CSM Michael Berry and Deputy Commandant, SGM Deedra Perez briefed Soldiers from the Niger Army on the Academy, its mission and standards.

The briefing served as a refresher for the Niger Soldiers; revisiting the fundamentals of maintaining professional relationships, leadership skills and the core subjects designed and instructed by the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command. Abiding to TRADOC and USADSA standards helps create productive learning environments for drill sergeant candidates attending the Academy and when they hit the trial to teach recruits.

The sharing and exchanging of tactics and methods used by U.S. military and its allies ensures the ability effectively communicate to carry out missions and improve interoperability between the U.S. and its partner nations.



# Marine Drill Instructors shadow USADSA DSLs

The phrase “one team, one fight” holds true to the hearts of all military branches. 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.

On October 10, 2018, The United States Army Drill Sergeant Academy welcomed distinguished Drill Instructors (DI) from Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) Parris Island to discuss with leadership the Army Ready and Resilient training initiative, implementation of “X” skill identifier, and to shadow Drill Sergeant Leaders while teaching drill sergeant candidates attending the Academy.



*DSL Nieves , 3rd Platoon Bravo Company pitches Salute at Sling Army module to Drill Sergeant Candidates.*



*DSL Desender, 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company inspects Drill Sergeant Candidate.*

Any opportunity to train is an opportunity to grow. Collaboration between Marine DIs and DSLs provides rewarding takeaways for the improvement of training NCOs, IET Soldiers and the MCRD Boot camp.

The Army Drill Sergeant sets the standard for every instructor in all aspects of the military. DSLs lead the pack as adaptive leaders of character committed to the development of Soldiers, and the Army profession.

Although differences vary between the DI and DSLs, the leaders meet on common ground with training Soldiers/recruits to excel in their professions and when faced with challenges during combat and personal pressure.



# ALPHA COMPANY

Over the last quarter 1st Platoon

*“Assassins”*, transformed NonCommissioned Officers into Drill Sergeants through mentorship by certifying them through performance evaluations in the areas of PRT, D&C, Rifle Marksmanship, Leadership, TR 350-6 and Tactics. Throughout the course, many were challenged by the course requirements but by graduation day, they were confident and disciplined Drill Sergeants.

During the cycle there are always Drill Sergeant Leaders (Instructors) that separate themselves by their actions and overall conduct. The Drill Sergeant Leader of the Cycle for Class 011-18 was DSL McCoy who proved to distinguish herself amongst her peers, thus reflecting her abilities through the eyes of the Drill Sergeant Candidates as well. She was acknowledged during General Townsends visit to the USADSA in September where she was presented with a coin for her outstanding performance.

2nd Platoon *“Wolfpack”*, continued on with their mission to also prepare Drill Sergeant Candidates for the rigors of Drill Sergeant duties by enhancing their esprit de corp during the Confidence & Conditioning Obstacle Courses, Victory Tower and their Rights of Passage Ceremony which symbolizes their accomplishments in the course.

The Drill Sergeant Leader of the Cycle for Class 013-18 was DSL Vasquezniето. He demonstrated his ability to instruct PRT exercises during the initial phase of instruction and did so flawlessly. His passion and expertise assisted in the growth and progression that each Candidate made throughout the cycle. DSL Hill also distinguished herself throughout the cycle by leading the Candidates through CLS training as well as Combatives certification. Her high level of expertise ensured that every student was proficient and confident in their abilities.

As Alpha Company concludes the year of training and certifying Drill Sergeants to provide to the force, they will be preparing for a busy Fiscal Year 2019 with an increased demand for Drill Sergeants due to the increase in OSUT extension as well as the additional training of all Drill Sergeants that will be assigned to BCT, OSUT, and AIT locations throughout the force.



# BRAVO COMPANY

Bravo Company is at it again transforming the Army's finest Noncommissioned Officers (NCOs) into Drill Sergeants!

108 NCOs reported for training at the United States Army Drill Sergeant Academy on August 30, 2018 for Class 014-18. Since reporting, these Drill Sergeant candidates have undergone hours of extensive training on Tactical Combat Casualty Care, Basic Rifle Marksmanship, CBRN, Land Navigation classes and other significant training given by Drill Sergeant Leaders.

Each area of training Drill Sergeant candidates have received has been challenging in its own unique way. Drill Sergeant candidates have relied on each other and their Drill Sergeant Leaders to accomplish each task to standard. As the candidates identified their personal weaknesses, they quickly came to the realization that every Soldier is not built the same or has the same experiences. Once these highly motivated NCOs identified their individual strengths and weaknesses they were able to better help themselves and peers in all difficult tasks.

With only a few weeks left, 91 highly motivated Drill Sergeant candidates of Class 014-18 remain well on their way to graduating from the USADSA and beginning their journey as U.S. Army Drill Sergeants.

As Drill Sergeant candidates strive through the 10-week course it is not without the determination and great efforts of motivation demonstrated by DSLs that candidates are able to graduate and don their sacred campaign hat.

Deputy Senior Drill Sergeant Leader Dudek is the epitome of a motivational leader.

As the first female to convert from being an AIT Platoon Sergeant to becoming a Drill Sergeant, Deputy Senior DSL Dudek has distinguished herself as a leader and mentor with her passion about training candidates and countless hours of personal time spent to ensure candidates understand each task before released for the day.

Bravo Company DSLs continue to excel by training the best NCOs and setting them up for success before, during and after their time on the trail. Bravo Company DSLs pride themselves in providing candidates with instruction, mentorship and a high level of expertise that can only be experienced at the United States Army Drill Sergeant Academy.





# CHARLIE COMPANY

Drill Sergeant Class 017-18 entered Phase 2 of the course on 23 August with PRT evaluations. The candidates were evaluated on their ability to conduct an Endurance Mobility (EM) session and a Strength Mobility (SM) session. They continued on with a student lead APFT, where they were in charge of administering an APFT which include set-up, demonstration, and grading each other to gain an understanding of what they will be required to do in the IET environment. Other major events conducted during this phase were Combat Lifesaver Course, presentation of classes on Rifle Marksmanship, Land Navigation, and CBRN. During Week 5 the candidates

were given the opportunity to put their research and hard work on their rifle marksmanship classes into action by conducting ranges throughout the week. They were mentored on how to set up a range in an IET environment, as well as zeroing and qualifying with their assigned weapons. The candidates closed out Phase 2 with tactics classes in preparation for the scheduled FTX.

Phase 3 began with the End of Course APFT, which the candidates must achieve a minimum score of 210 with 70 points in each event. They then went into the

aforementioned FTX which was a culminating event of the tactics classes they learned the week prior. Week 7 was closed out with a Battalion level embedment with 3-34 Infantry Regiment (BCT). The candidates got a firsthand look at what a pickup of a new cycle would like, along with mentorship from the drill sergeants of that unit. Basic Combat Combatives was the focus of week 8 of the cycle. The candidates learned all aspects of combatives and then were evaluated at the end of the week to become certified. The final activity for this class was a 12k foot march that culminated in a Rights of Passage (ROP) Ceremony welcoming them into the storied fraternity of the Drill Sergeant. Class 017-18 graduated on 3 October, 2018.



The Drill Sergeant Leader of the Cycle (DSLOC) is the Drill Sergeant Leader who had the biggest impact throughout the cycle. He set the example for his peers and subordinates alike and was voted on by the other DSLs. The DSLOC for Class 017-18 was SFC Kaid Lacroix.



# DSLs OF THE CYCLE



*DSL Staff Sergeant McCoy, 1st  
Platoon, Alpha Company*



*DSL Staff Sergeant Vaquez, 2nd Platoon, Alpha  
Company*



*DSL Staff Sergeant Castle, 4th Platoon,  
Bravo Company*



*DSL Sergeant First Class LaCroix, 5th platoon Charlie  
Company*