

The Defender

- UNITED STATES ARMY DRILL SERGEANT ACADEMY -

MARCH 14, 2019

USADSA

CHANGE OF RESPONSIBILITY

USADSA receives a new Commandant

The U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy welcomed a new commandant during a change of responsibility ceremony, at the Fort Jackson, on 1 Feb 2019. Command Sgt. Maj. James I. Hill Jr. became the 29th USADSA Commandant and accepted responsibility as the new Senior Enlisted Leader of the Academy.



*CSM James I. Hill Jr; 29th Commandant,
United States Army Drill Sergeant Academy*

CSM Hill joins the USADSA after serving as the 193rd Infantry Brigade CSM for 16 months. He enlisted in U.S. Army as an Anti-Armor Infantryman on 8 March 1995. During his 24 years of service, CSM Hill has held a number of duty assignments to include Observer/Coach Trainer SGM Joint Staff J-7 and CSM 4th Battalion, 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard). He is a graduate of USASMA Class 64 and holds a Bachelors Degree in Professional Studies Business and Management from Excelsior College.

As the new Commandant, CSM Hill is charged with coaching, teaching, and mentoring the U.S. Army's next generation of Master Trainers; the Drill Sergeant.

During ceremony, CSM Hill stated that he was truly honored and humbled to be afforded the opportunity to serve as the Commandant of the USADSA. "You have my word that I will give a 110% percent, continue the mission and not lose any ground."

In parting, outgoing Commandant Command Sgt. Maj. Michael L. Berry, who has led the USADSA since November 2017 stated it had been a privilege to serve as their leader for the last year.

"I've stood in awe at what the DSLs and the cadre of the Drill Sergeant Academy accomplished on a daily basis. They are all selfless serving leaders. The DSA gives a 110% every day," said CSM Berry.

CHANGE OF RESPONSIBILITY

USADSA receives a new Commandant (cont.)

He also thanked the Deputy Commandant, SGM. Deedra Perez for providing leadership during some challenging times and the Academy's Drill Sergeant Leaders and support personnel for a job well done.

"SGM Perez, I have two words to describe you, brilliant and motivating. If there was such a thing as having a PHD in developing Drill Sergeants you would have it and I wish you the best."

CSM Edward W. Mitchell, Command Sergeant Major, United States Army Center for Initial Military Training, hosted the ceremony.

During his speech he complimented SGM Perez on the professionalism of her Soldiers and DSLs and reminisced with CSM Berry on his accomplishments during his time as Commandant. He concluded his speech with words of inspiration for CSM Hill.

"CSM Hill has a phenomenal reputation and I have full faith and confidence in his leadership and ability to take the Drill Sergeant Academy to even greater heights; being the Commandant is a privilege and you must take every opportunity to provide the leadership our Soldiers and our nation deserves. The CIMT team looks forward to observing you in action. This We'll Defend."



COMMANDANTS CORNER

Team,

First, I would like to say it is an honor and a privilege to serve as your 29th Commandant of the United States Army Drill Sergeant Academy. I look forward to working with you all over the next few years.

For the first time in recent history, the Drill Sergeant Academy will have 6 classes in session simultaneously. This speaks to the commitment of our Senior Leaders across the Army to grow our ranks, ensuring America's Army is ready to fight tonight and win! In order to grow the force, you first have to increase the trainer population.

Non-Commissioned Officers have been and will always be the backbone of the Army. They shoulder the responsibility of primary trainer and are relied upon to do it right the first time; train to standard. That is what we teach here at the United States Army Drill Sergeant Academy.

I look forward to interacting and interfacing with your Non-Commissioned Officers as you send them to attend the Army's premier Training Academy and to discussing our cooperation in greater detail. If you have questions or are in need of any assistance do not hesitate to contact me at james.i.hill.mil@mail.mil or (803) 751-6672. Be safe and GOD speed!



29th Commandant

"This We'll Defend"

INCREASED END-STRENGTH

A sixth platoon is added to the Academy ranks



Charlie Company Drill Sergeant Leaders welcome drill sergeant candidates to the United States Army Drill Sergeant Academy 2 February 2019.

The new year has brought several changes to the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy.

The force continuously needs ready and capable Non-Commissioned Officers to take the charge of becoming Drill Sergeants and train Initial-Entry Soldiers. To improve the Leader to Lead ratio in the Initial Military Training environment, the USADSA has a sixth platoon.

The first group of Drill Sergeant candidates reported to 6th Platoon on 13 February 2019. These qualified NCO's hail from all three components of our Army, arriving at the Academy eager to learn from our Drill Sergeant Leaders and excited for the opportunity to be molded into Drill Sergeants. As the world's greatest Army continues to increase its' end-strength, so does the need to increase its trainer population.

The USADSA produces the Army's next generation of Master Trainers (Drill Sergeants) armed with the knowledge, skills, and behaviors necessary to transform America's sons and daughters into Soldiers ready to be contributing members of the team at their first unit of assignment from day one.

ALPHA COMPANY

1st Platoon “Assassins” began the year by receiving their first class of Drill Sergeant Candidates, Class 003-19. So far they have conducted numerous training events and evaluations that have assisted in their development and journey to become U.S. Army Drill Sergeants. Candidates have completed Set 1-5 Methods of Instruction evaluations, Physical Readiness Training evaluations, confirming their ability to effectively lead a PRT session, Obstacle courses, Combat Lifesaver certification and Rifle Marksmanship training. Next up will be MOI (platoon drill), Field Training Exercise and Combatives certification.

2nd Platoon “Wolfpack”, started the year training the Army’s finest Noncommissioned Officers in the areas that will develop them into proficient Drill Sergeants. To date, the DSLs have delivered blocks of instruction on PRT, MOI Sets 1-3, D&C, Leadership and Safety. The Candidates have also conducted the Rappel Tower, Confidence Obstacle course, and Fit to Win. These challenges tested our candidates ability to work together as a team and also provided an opportunity for some to face their fears. All of the past and future training events will enhance the Candidates ability to be well rounded motivators, mentors, and advocates of the Army profession.



Alpha Company Drill Sergeant candidates will also receive Army Combat Fitness Test training; candidates will graduate the Academy ACFT Level 1 certified.



Through hard work, proper instruction and uncanny mentoring, Alpha Company continues to set the bar high in its production of Drill Sergeants. The goal is to provide the Army with the most qualified, motivated and dedicated Drill Sergeants to support the mission of training, instilling discipline, and guiding Soldiers through Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training in order to prepare them for their first unit of assignment.

BRAVO COMPANY

Transforming the Army's finest Noncommissioned Officers into Drill Sergeants is a number one priority for Bravo Company.

On 10 January 2019, 133 NCOs reported for training at the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy as part of Class 002-19. Starting the cycle with the Confidence Tower, Conditioning Obstacle Course, and the Confidence Obstacle Course, candidates were able to identify personal strengths and weaknesses amongst themselves and their peers. Beginning the cycle with these events allowed candidates to work on their team building skills, ensuring an effective and efficient learning experience throughout the rest of the cycle.



Bravo candidates have taken advantage of every opportunity before and after the duty hours to better themselves. This has all but guaranteed their success on all performance and written evaluations.



Class 002-19 received a week of instruction on Basic Rifle Marksmanship before qualifying at the range; a total of 43 Drill Sergeant Candidates qualified as Experts and 20 as Sharpshooters.

Bravo Company continues to set the bar high and lead from the front at all times. These future Drill Sergeants are motivated, disciplined and ready to train our future warriors.

CHARLIE COMPANY

5th Platoon

Prior to picking up Class 502-19 the Drill Sergeant Leaders of 5th Platoon conducted cycle reset operations consisting of rehearsal of module pitches, PRT demonstrations, and review of the POI.

By January 31st, Charlie Company received 116 Drill Sergeant Candidates. In the first 72 hours the 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 were closed out with PRT Instruction.

Week 1 was highlighted with Victory Tower & Fit to Win, these events allowed the candidates to exercise team cohesion and gave them an idea of how they would be conducting these activities once they are on the trail. Set 1 evaluations were also administered; candidates drew one module from the Top 3 (Position of Attention, Rest Positions at the Halt, and the Hand Salute) and were required to instruct the module to their peers. D&C Set 2 demonstration was also conducted during Week 1.

During Week 2 of the course, Candidates negotiated the Confidence Obstacle Course where they received more detailed instruction on how to navigate obstacles. The candidates attended multiple leadership classes and were evaluated on D&C modules Set 2. D&C Set 3 was also demonstrated. Week 2 closed out with Instructor Preparation classes (The Army Learning Concept and Suicide Intervention training). In Week 3, the candidates were immersed in TRADOC Regulation 350-6; a vital component to their success in the IET environment. They concluded that instruction by taking the

TR 350-6 exam and closed out the week with PRT evaluations where each candidate instructed and demonstrated a Strength and Mobility (SM) session and an Endurance Mobility (EM) session. 5th Platoon now has six more weeks of the Drill Sergeant Course.



6th Platoon

On 14 February, 2019, 121 candidates belonging to 6th Platoon, Charlie Company arrived for day zero of the Drill Sergeant 10 week course. This day was a significant mark in USADSA history, as it was the first time in years that the Academy had 6 full platoons in operation simultaneously. The "Dragon" candidates are currently in Week 2 of the course and are expected to graduate April 17th .

