

**Drill Sergeants and their challenges**

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**For SGM Feick, FA**

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# Drill Sergeants and their challenges

## Introduction:

**Thesis:** Drill Sergeants and their challenges in today's society to produce physical and mentally fit Soldiers without violating their ethics.

## Opposing view:

Standard Operation Procedures for training new Soldiers eliminates ethical dilemmas.

## Body:

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*INDENT* → In the 1990s, the basic training concepts were changed. More and more female soldiers joined the Army. During this time, standards for graduation changed, not only for the troops, but also for the Drill Sergeants. Examples for this are the 12-mile road march and the confidence course. *Per photo -3.7* I remember executing these tasks at Ft. Benning in the summer of 1996. All the Drill Sergeant candidates received the information that if they did not complete these tasks to standard they would not graduate. Some of the female Candidates refused or could not complete the confidence course. Some could not carry their rucksacks the entire 12 miles but all of these soldiers graduated from the course. I am not saying that all of the female soldiers cannot keep up with the male soldiers or even surpass them, but the chain of command defiantly altered the standards to meet the required number of graduates.

*-1'* Things did not really change until 2003, when the effects of non-realistic training caused non-combat troops casualties in combat. All of the sudden training got more intense.

The Drill Sergeants are under tremendous pressure to prepare young men and women for combat operations. No matter what MOS a soldier has, he is still a rifleman first.

The days were only combat soldiers see action are over.

NCOs who attend Drill Sergeant School are the top 10% of today's Army. They receive top-notch training from the Drill Sergeant Instructors. Superiors and peers expect them to deliver great training for new Soldiers. For many Soldiers, becoming a Drill Sergeant is a dream come true. It means that they will have a tremendous impact on the future Army. Everybody graduating from the school wants to produce the best new Soldiers they can.

It is clear that the purpose of basic training is to take "soft" civilians and turn them into Soldiers who can handle stress in tough situations, physically, emotionally, and mentally fit, and who will obey their superior's orders without question. Working for the military is not like working at Home Depot.

Another goal of basic training is to instill devotion to duty, a sense of mission, and discipline-the cornerstone of military service. Regrettably, however, the first casualty of gender-integrated basic training has been discipline.

In December 1997, the Federal Advisory Committee on Gender-Integrated Training and Related Issues (the Kassebaum-Baker Committee) released its report to then-Secretary of Defense William Cohen. The Committee of military and civilian experts was clear. It found:

Mixed-gender basic training creates an environment that is conducive to misconduct. In 1996, for example Army Drill Sergeants at Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland were charged with rape, abuse, and harassment of female soldiers under their supervision.

These problems will intensify when troops deploy for the military operations. Studies shown that there was more sexual activity between troops serving in Desert Shield, when men and women were working in closer quarters than usual, than there was in troops' home garrison. Problems related to gender integration may account in part for the fact that 47% of all females, but only 28% of men; leave the service before the end of their third year of service.

The Drill Sergeant is under tremendous pressure not only because of male and female situations. On pick-up day, he receives approximately 60 new recruits. Half of them are over weight, and more than 90% of them cannot do 20 push-ups. He has eight weeks to get these future Soldiers to meet the Army's height and weight standards. In the old days, the Drill Sergeant was able to tell the recruits what they can eat in the Mess hall, but now they can eat what ever they want.

It is in the best interest of the new Soldier and the Drill Program for the Drill Sergeant to monitor and make corrections on what the recruits eat. Physical training alone will not produce the desired effect on the Soldier's body composition.

Politicians weeded out proven techniques that worked over the past 50 years. Officers and senior NCOs are more worried about their careers than the product they produce.

Civilians that join the Military expect hard and realistic training. Leaders must uphold and enforce Standards. We owe it to our young men and women to give them the best

training we can.

Fighting and winning the War on Terror takes a certain breed of Soldiers. Soldiers must experience stress, how to deal with it, before they arrive in the Combat Zone.

I am not saying that all Drill Sergeants are perfect role models, there a bad apples everywhere, but don't take away the tools and the means that the Drill Sergeant has to produce the fighting force we need to win this war.

Summary:

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Drill Sergeants and their challenges in today's society to produce physical and mentally fit Soldiers without violating their ethics. Not only must the training of the Soldiers adhere to all given standards but also the training and evaluation of our future Drill Sergeants. Quality not quantity is important for our future army.