

custody as a part of a sentence and that a convening authority may not legally mitigate any legal sentence to correctional custody. The rationale for this position is that since neither Congress nor the President has provided for imposition of correctional custody by a court-

martial, while specifically providing for it as a nonjudicial punishment, there is an implied denial of the authority of a court-martial to impose it. Therefore, such punishment is not within the jurisdiction of a court-martial. Relief was denied.

FROM THE DESK OF THE SERGEANT MAJOR

By Sergeant Major John Nolan

1. The Competitive Edge. "What can I do to be competitive in my Army career?" This is frequently asked of me by legal clerks and court reporters. All of you should be asking it of yourselves, in order to best direct your efforts toward success and to make the most of development opportunities. First of all, we need to understand our Army, not only its mission and functions, but also its value and beliefs, and the areas it offers in which to excel. The Army is a profession that requires dedication, sacrifice, and commitment. Service to our country, in the highest and finest sense, is the principal reward. The Army is also opportunity. As perhaps no other institution, the Army offers the opportunity to serve, to develop, to grow, to share and to contribute. Lieutenant General Richard H. Thompson, Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, wrote an excellent article, "How to Succeed in Logistics." Some of his comments are relevant to all of us, and so I will share them with you.

a. Be active—a competitor and a doer—guided by technical knowledge, logical thought, and common sense. Don't do anything stupid.

b. Go after the tough jobs. Contrary to popular belief, it can be beneficial to volunteer.

c. Don't work merely for efficiency reports and scores. Give each job your best and the reports and scores will take care of themselves.

d. Don't be afraid to ask for help or information when you when you need it, and don't be so foolish as to "shoot from the hip." Don't be afraid to say, "I don't know;" but once you say this, go find the answer.

e. When you evaluate subordinates, empha-

size the importance of their jobs in plain and simple language. If they have done well, say so. If they have not, then tell them so.

f. All of us know that we all make mistakes. However, we must understand and learn from those mistakes.

2. SQT—Common Tasks Consolidated. Common SQT tasks, formerly found in the Soldiers Manual for each separate MOS, have been collected into a single Soldiers Manual of Common Tasks (SMCT). The list was consolidated and revised to include 16 tasks ranging from communications to weapons qualification and maintenance. The SMCT will standardize performance levels and allow more efficient changes to the list. The manual was distributed several months ago to every active and reserve unit. Skill qualification tests which are administered after 1 October 1981 must use the SMCT for reference. The next SQT is scheduled for December 1981. The list of common tasks will be deleted from current Soldiers Manuals as they are revised.

3. Publications.

a. Change 21 to AR 27-10 (Military Justice) is being published, with an effective date of 15 October 1981. In addition to distribution through normal channels, a copy of Change 21 will be mailed to all SJA/JA offices.

b. Change 10 to DA Pamphlet 570-551 (Staffing Guide for US Army Garrisons) has been distributed to the field, with an effective date of 1 August 1981. It significantly changes the sections pertaining to Staff Judge Advocate/Judge Advocate Offices.

c. DA Circular 350-81-2 (Skill Qualification Test Announcement for FY 82) has been distributed to all commands.

4. Awards. The new Army Achievement Medal (AAM) allows 15 promotion points for soldiers advancing to grades E5 and E6. Of the four new awards that took effect on 1 August 1981, which were designed to recognize soldier contributions during peacetime, the AAM is the only one worth promotion points. All Active Army, National Guard, and Army Reserve soldiers may be recommended for the AAM, which requires approval by a commander in the grade of colonel. The medal will be awarded to

servicemembers for important achievements deserving special recognition, but not considered as qualifying for the Army Commendation Medal (ARCOM). The ARCOM is worth 20 points. The other three peacetime awards—the Army Service Ribbon, the NCO Professional Development Ribbon, and the Overseas Ribbon—will be awarded to soldiers meeting necessary requirements.

5. Congratulations to SP5 Ronald A. Hill, who was recently selected as Soldier of the Year at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and to SGM Walter G. Jester, on his recent promotion.

Reserve Affairs Items

Reserve Affairs Department, TJAGSA

1. USAR 0-4 Board to Convene in March

In recent years, promotion boards considering officers for promotion to the grade of major, USAR, have been convening during the first week in May. However, for 1982, and possibly for succeeding years, the 0-4 USAR board will convene during the first weekend in *March*. Those individuals facing mandatory promotion consideration next year who have not yet finished the JA Officer Advanced Course *must* do so by the date the board convenes in order to avoid being passed over for educational deficiency. In order to be safe, the course should be finished by the first of the year, in order for the Reserve Components Personnel and Administration Center to enter the course completion on the records being examined by the promotion board. If an individual finishes the course before the board convenes but after RCPAC can enter the completion on the OMPF, the officer may be erroneously passed over and be put through the professional and personal inconvenience of a stand-by board. The Correspondence Course Office of TJAGSA will *not* be able to quickly process an avalanche of last minute course completions because of personnel shortages anticipated during this period. *Get the course done NOW.* The Correspondence Course Office is bulk-shipping entire phases to those who re-

quest them. If you are not sure whether you will be considered for mandatory promotion in 1982, call MAJ Bill Gentry at RCPAC, toll free (800) 325-1862.

2. JAGSO Triennial Training

The Judge Advocate General's Service Organizations Triennial Training will be conducted at The Judge Advocate General's School from 21 Jun to 2 Jul 82 for Contract Law and International Law Teams. Inprocessing of team members will take place on Sunday, 20 Jun 82. Only officers will attend the team training as there will be no facilities, programs, or training available at TJAGSA for enlisted members. The 1155th U.S. Army Reserve School, Edison, New Jersey, will host the training.

3. BOAC Phase VI

The Judge Advocate Officer Advanced Course (Phase VI) will also be conducted from 21 Jun-2 Jul 82. The Judge Advocate Reserve Components General Staff Course has been discontinued. To obtain a quota for the Advanced Course, reserve members must submit a DA Form 1058 thru channels to Cdr., RCPAC, ATTN: AGUZ-OPS-JA, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132. National Guardsmen should submit the appropriate NGB form thru chan-