

CS 211 SMajs (9 May 66)

9 May 1966

Dear Frank:

On 1 July I intend to appoint a Sergeant Major of the Army. I should like you to nominate for my consideration a candidate from your command. Nominations are also being requested from the other major commanders. Upon receipt of all replies, I shall make the final selection.

I want this to be a personal recommendation from each senior commander. It is not to be considered a contest, nor will screening boards be used to locate candidates.

While I do not wish to establish guidelines as to the qualifications that the individual must possess, I expect him to have a good military bearing, a pleasing personality, and the ability to express himself effectively on Army matters, but not be overly talkative. The tour should not be considered as a final or retirement-type assignment. To assist you in making your nomination, I am inclosing a statement of the duties and functions as I now visualize them.

I hope to receive your nomination by 10 June along with a brief summary of the nominee's qualifications, physical description, and a recent full-length photograph. Please give this no more publicity than is absolutely essential to your nomination procedure, since I will release it from here with a hopefully well planned information program.

With warm best wishes,

CC:
Col Smith
SGS
SMaj Loikow
Corresp Br
R/R - o
R/R - c

Most sincerely,

HAROLD K. JOHNSON
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

General F. S. Besson, Jr.
Commanding General
United States Army Materiel Command
Washington, D. C.

NOTE: An identical letter sent to each individual on attached list.

General F. S. Besson, Jr.
Commanding General
United States Army Materiel Command
Washington, D. C.

Dear Frank:

Lieutenant General Ben Harrell
Commanding General
United States Army Combat
Developments Command
Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Dear Ben:

Lieutenant General Charles B. Duff
Commanding General
United States Army Air Defense Command
Ent Air Force Base
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Dear Charlie:

Major General J. D. Alger
Commander
United States Army Forces,
Southern Command
Fort Amador, Canal Zone

Dear Jim:

Major General George A. Carver
Commanding General
United States Army, Alaska
APO Seattle 98749

Dear Charlie:

Major General Richard J. Meyer
Commanding General
United States Army Strategic Communications
Command
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dick:

Major General Charles J. Denholm
Commanding General
United States Army Security Agency
Arlington Hall Station
Arlington, Virginia 22212

Dear Charlie:

Brigadier General Elias C. Townsend
Commanding General
United States Army Intelligence Command
Fort Holabird, Maryland 21219

Dear Carter:

DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS

THE SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE ARMY

1. The Sergeant Major of the Army is appointed for a specified term of office, usually corresponding to that of the Chief of Staff. The Sergeant Major will take an oath of office at a suitable ceremony.
2. The Sergeant Major will serve as a personal advisor and assistant to the Chief of Staff on those matters pertaining primarily to enlisted men, including but not limited to morale, welfare, training, clothing, insignia, equipment, pay and allowances, customs and courtesies of the service, enlistment and re-enlistment, discipline, and promotion policies. He will usually be appointed to any boards or commissions dealing with enlisted personnel matters.
3. The Sergeant Major will serve as a point of contact for other services and civilian organizations and individuals on matters pertaining largely or in part to the activities, problems, services, and obligations of enlisted men, including but not limited to Army Emergency Relief, United Services Organization, Special Services, Red Cross, and the Association of the United States Army.
4. The Sergeant Major will represent the United States Army enlisted men at ceremonies and appropriate official and semi-official social activities.
5. The Sergeant Major will normally accompany the Chief of Staff when activities pertaining to enlisted men are involved and when contact with groups of enlisted men are likely. He will also visit units and organizations on his own to pursue matters pertaining primarily to enlisted men.
6. The Sergeant Major will receive Army and other service enlisted personnel who call at Headquarters, Department of the Army.
7. The Sergeant Major will perform such other assignments as directed by the Chief of Staff.