

Mr. & Mrs. Drill Sergeant

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According to the rest of the cadre, Richard and Katherine are both model soldiers. They pair up as study partners, practice the assignments in front of each other, never correct each other in front of the instructors and don't bring their family problems into the class.

"I wouldn't have even known they were married," said Cosgrove. "In a way, I think we have it easier than some of the other students," Richard said. "We have each other to talk to. Some guys come down here by themselves."

Both Katherine and Richard are excelling in the course. They are expecting to graduate together with the hope of working at the same Basic Training camp. They said they would like to set an example for the recruits as a bonus to teaching them how to be soldiers. They want to show young adults what the Army can do for them as individuals and together, and how it made their own lives satisfying.

Training The Trainers

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It goes without saying that an effective drill sergeant must first be an effective instructor. Each day a drill sergeant spends countless hours in front of 25-40 recruits teaching them every conceivable subject from close order drill and the maintenance of a rifle to personal hygiene. Therefore, they must be able to effectively communicate with and teach a large number of recruits.

As the term Drill Sergeant implies, graduates at Ft. Knox must be well versed in the area of close order drill. It is through close order drill that boot camp recruits learn and understand the concepts of teamwork, selfless devotion to duty, quest for excellence, self-discipline and self-confidence.

It is the duty of the drill sergeant to instill and develop the Army's values of loyalty, duty, respect, honor, integrity and personal courage within their recruits, while teaching today's recruits to become tomorrow's leaders.

Soldier Forever...

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"I was contacted by local schools to come and do American flag and history demonstrations for the students. I try to tell them to stay in school and get the best education they can," said Goodall. "I try to convey to them they can be anything they want to be, but they have to work for it and don't give in or give up, keep trying."

Goodall also keeps extremely busy in another military aspect. Five years ago after a 4th of July Concert on the Ohio River, he expressed his dismay to the organizers of the event that there was no color guard present and the national anthem wasn't played. He took it upon himself to organize a color guard, because, as he explains, "After all, the 4th of July is about our independence and the price we paid for it. I put together a Mass Color Guard Formation using local veterans and 100th Division buddies," said Goodall.

Since then, Goodall has been active in presenting the colors all over his home state and even around the country. Currently, Goodall also travels the nation performing in WWII re-enactments. He is now preparing for a 4th of July battle re-enactment at the Patton Museum. "I'll be in a WWII Jagdpanzer tank, dressed in a Panzer uniform," said Goodall.

Goodall's pride in country, flag and especially in the Army Reserve is evident in his unyielding service in a wide variety of capacities. As a retiree, he still performs military and veterans service above and beyond the call of duty. The reasoning for all of this work is quite simple according to Goodall.

"One thing I tell the young kids at the schools I visit is, 'The Flag was passed down to my generation and the time will come when we will pass it to your generation, don't let us down.'" In the true spirit of the Army Reserve, it is quite evident that Master Sgt. Goodall has not let us down.

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You are the highest-ranking Non-Commissioned Officer in the Army Reserve, what has been the key to your success?

"What has made me so successful was sticking to what worked for me," he said. Soldiers should work out their own problems before taking them to their supervisor or boss. "I always felt that if I brought a problem to my commander, then I was the problem. Most importantly, you must do your job and stay focused on what you are doing to be successful. If you stick to doing your job the best you can, then promotions and opportunities will come your way."

What message would you like to send to the troops?

"For leaders, focus on what your soldiers need, not want. For all members of the Army Reserve, prepare yourself mentally, physically, and financially for the missions you may be asked to perform," said Lackey. "Don't forget, family members, fellow employees and employers should be prepared, also," advised Lackey. He expressed his thanks to all that have helped him along the way. "To all, I appreciate the support over the years, I could not have been so successful alone."

What would you like to be remembered for?

"I feel like I am making a difference," said the career soldier. "One legacy I hope to leave behind is that I have brought the Soldier of the Year and NCO of the Year awards to a new level." Down the hallway from his office, portraits of the awardees hang proudly for passers-by to see.