



Staff Sgt. Alejandra Villalva attacks an "enemy" with his bayonet while screaming his battle cry. The drill sergeant candidates must train on every obstacle and course that basic trainees must complete.

Reservists complete drill sergeant course



Drill sergeant candidate Sgt. Mauricio Vasquez crosses the lateral bars.

STORY, PHOTOS

By Spc. ANDREW THOMPSON

After a six-month trail of vigorous training, a class of 26 reservists completed Army requirements to become drill sergeants.

They came to Fort Sill's Conditioning Confidence Course and Individual Tactical Techniques Course Jan. 20 and 21 for the training and certification.

Completing the course and training ensures the drill sergeants can demonstrate and instruct to standard.

During the course the candidates negotiated obstacles using teamwork. The course also demanded that they be physically well-conditioned.

The three-phase drill sergeant course began July 11, 2003. During the first two weeks, or "red" phase, the drill sergeant candidates spent a lot of time in the classroom, said Sgt. 1st Class Toby Meister, instructor.

The second or "white" phase is the most academically challenging because candidates are required to retain and implement the material from phase one and face new tasks in Individual Duty Training lasting seven weeks, he said.

In the final, or "blue," phase, the candidates are still required to maintain standards and implement lessons from phases one and two, while being certified in field, range and conditioning tasks and taking final exams.

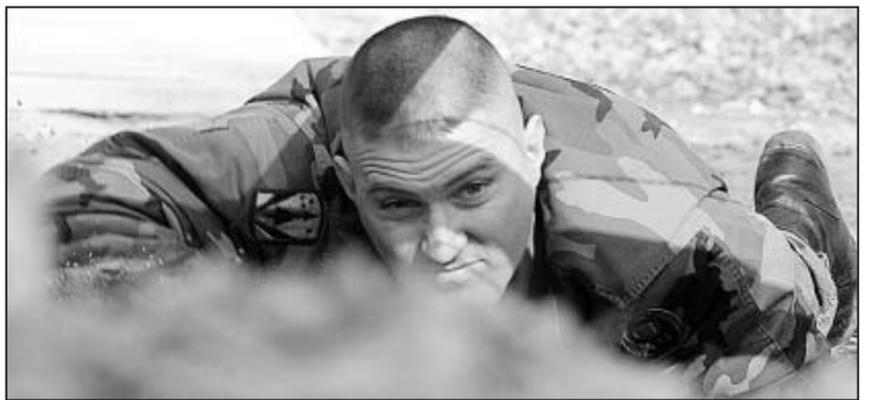
The third phase is what brought the class to Fort Sill.

"In the third phase, we start doing things like going to the hand grenade range. The majority of the training is done in the field and at the ranges where they actually learn how to be a drill sergeants on the ranges. So phase three is actually a motivational phase and more hooah-based," said Meister.

The 26 reservists completed the drill sergeant training requirements, were certified and graduated at Fort Sill Jan. 24.



Above, Sgt. Carina Jandrew keeps her balance while quickly crossing a log at the bayonet assault course. Left, Sgt. Jay Stinson helps Staff Sgt. Mike Harvey up a wall in an obstacle requiring the NCOs to use teamwork. The drill sergeant candidates completed the third phase of the course at Fort Sill. Below, Sgt. Jay Stinson low crawls through the dirt and under an obstacle.



Above, Staff Sgt. Brian Bliss moves under barbed wire in the final obstacle at the bayonet assault course. The candidates practiced negotiating obstacles and giving clear and motivational verbal instructions— skills they will employ when training new soldiers. Right, Staff Sgt. Jimmy Holdridge strikes Staff Sgt. James Dial during a pugil-stick bout. The pugil-stick and bayonet training and certification were course requirements for the candidates.

