

# The way I see it

By Jim Koenig

"Junior enlisted soldiers"



I attended a company rap session the other day and the subject came up that Senior NCO's didn't understand what the junior enlisted soldiers goes through in today's Army.

### NCO's don't understand?

Having spent three years and three months in the barracks and over 18 years in the Army, I can sympathize with the troops on some of their complaints, but saying that NCO's don't understand is like saying it doesn't get cold in Greenland.

Back in the sixties, when most Senior NCO's joined or were drafted into the army, barracks life was the pits. There were 40 men to a room with no partitions allowed. The soldiers lived out of footlockers, rugs and posters were a no-no, visitors were unheard of, and there were no rap sessions either.

### Duty day

A normal duty day began at 4:15 a.m. with reveille formation at 5 a.m. daily, P.T. began at 5:30 a.m. and work call formation at 7 a.m. It was six days a week back then and sometimes we worked on Sundays. A normal day usually lasted to 6 p.m.

Everyone in the sixties needed a pass to get out the front gate and a soldier was only allowed to go 50 miles on an over night pass and 350 miles during the weekend.

The duty rosters were endless, K.P., fire guard, P.X. and Commissary guard, post police and C.Q. to name a few.

Alerts lasted three to seven days. Soldiers were actually locked in the barracks and only permitted to go to the latrine and dining facility, that was all.

### The Pay

The pay was another thing, \$78 a month total. That figures to \$19.50 a week, before taxes for a 73 hour work week. Of course there are those who'll say, "Well, back then you didn't need a lot of money." You must be joking?

Yes, NCO's do understand what the junior soldiers go through, maybe even more than you realize, because they were once there themselves.

## 440th Signal Bn host Sports Spectacular

The 440th Signal Battalion will host a Brigade Multi-Sports Spectacular on May 15 and 16 at the Cambrai-Fritsch Gym beginning at 10 a.m. Events include basketball, volleyball and racquetball for both male and females and a boxing smoker. Names of team members and individuals must reach your unit A and R officer or NCO by May 7.

## "Mothers' Day"

