

Promotions

Experts tell how its done

By Jim Koenig

The FIVE by FIVE recently interviewed 10 brigade soldiers who have reached the top through promotions and asked their opinion on what a soldier should do to get ahead of his or her peers.

CSM Walter W. Krueger, USAREUR Sergeant Major said during a recent visit to the 22nd, "Don't worry about getting so much civilian education that you can't disassemble your rifle anymore. In other words," the highest enlisted soldier in Europe said, "don't get too smart in reading, writing or arithmetic and forget what you're getting your pay check for. You get a check for soldiering, whether its a platoon sergeant, a section sergeant, or leading a RATT-rig team in the 22nd, if he does it well, takes care of his soldiers, he'll progress."

Be prepared

LSG Bobby Williams, 440th climbed the promotion ladder by doing his job better than his peers. Williams was promoted on the spot to E-5 by being selected the outstanding super numerow on guard duty for the 26th time in a row. "My motto," Williams said, "is be prepared."

CSM Richard Price, Brigade Command Sergeant Major, says the key to promotions is simply studying. Price, who made sergeant major in a little over 18 years, stated that if a soldier would devote additional time to studying general military subjects it will pay off for future promotions.

Practice

MSGt.(P) Wray Hall, 32nd Signal said he practiced reporting and presenting a good appearance and impression and had his superior inspect him and his uniform the day before the board.

MSGt. Anacito Rubio, HHC Brigade, recommends having a proper fitting uniform and getting as much military and civilian education as possible.

"The time to prepare for a promotion board is not a few days prior", says CSM



Joe Spears, 440th Signal. Spears added that a soldier should always keep in mind, "the Army is not a job, its a way of life."

MSGt. Colin Teasly, HHC Brigade, sought advice from his superiors before each board and prepared in the areas they advised him in.

"Get back to basics", LSG Neil Manley, HHC Brigade, said, "look extra sharp, emulate confidence, and think military."

PLC and college

CSM Paul Barron said, "each college credit is worth a promotion point and is the quickest way to accumulate points after attending PLC."

SFC Marion Askin, 17th Signal said a soldier must work hard and have a willingness to accept responsibility.

"Many soldiers do not know how to report to the president of the board," said LSG. Robert Welch, 32nd Signal. Welch added that when he was an E-5 he acted like an E-6 who was waiting to get the stripes pinned on.

Soldiers are promoted because, in the collective judgment of the selection board, they possess the greatest potential to serve in positions of increased leadership responsibility and technical skill.

The bottom line is - if you want to get ahead - its up to you.