



## CSM Eagle Column January 2009

This past November, I had the honor of participating in the selection of five new members of the SMDC Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. To better understand what this prestigious award symbolizes, I've included within my article a brief history of the club from the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club web page ([www.audiemurphy.com/samc.htm](http://www.audiemurphy.com/samc.htm)).

### The History of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club



The original club was started at Fort Hood, Texas early in 1986. There were several key people at Fort Hood - officer, enlisted, civil service, and a Killeen civilian - who were instrumental in getting this club up and running.

Leading the effort was Lieutenant General Crosbie Saint, then the III Corps commander; his Command Sergeant Major George L. Horvath; III Corps Awards Clerk Jean Crisp, and Don Moore, a Killeen artist who assisted with designing the logo and club awards.

In 1991, then III Corps Commander Lieutenant General Pete Taylor and Command Sergeant Major Richard B. Cayton expanded the Fort Hood installation club to include all of III Corps. This included Fort Riley, Kansas; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Polk, Louisiana; and Fort Carson, Colorado.

In 1993, CSM Cayton was voted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club by the membership and then became the Forces Command Sergeant Major. Soon thereafter, the club became Forces-Command (FORSCOM) wide, including the Reserves and National Guard.

In 1994 at a Sergeant Major of the Army conference, the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club spread Army-wide, to all commands with installations retaining the selection process for their own NCOs. In 1998, it was estimated that the club membership was over 3000 soldiers and was steadily increasing.

## Meaning of the Crest

The crest was designed by one of the original organizers of the club, Mr. Don Moore, Illustrator of Killeen, Texas. The letters **SAMC** are an abbreviation for the "Sergeant Audie Murphy Club". The **3 stars** separating the letters represent the "Be," "Know" and "Do" which is at the core of an Army NCOs' professional spirit. The majestic **American Bald Eagle** is the national bird and our country's symbol for freedom. The eagle also represents the intent of the SAMC to be nationwide. The **laurel** represents the individual achievement of the NCO in the club. The **lighting bolt** represents swift and decisive action taken by the NCO. The sword is a historical reference and is the symbolic tool of the NCO to cut to the heart of the matter and to lead the charge. The U.S. Army **staff sergeant stripes** represent the highest enlisted rank attained by Audie Murphy. The powder-blue **streamers**, the color of the infantry, indicate the words of the NCO philosophy: Loyalty, Caring, Discipline, and Professionalism.

### The Motto

**"You lead from the front."**

*... Audie Murphy*

The 2008 recipients of membership into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club are:

- 1) SFC Samuel Jackson - HHC, SMDC/ARSTRAT (G-3 Plans)
- 2) SSG Benjamin Sharp - C Det/2, 1st Space Co, 1st Space Bn
- 3) SSG Randolph Brown - HHC, 1st Space Brigade
- 4) SSG Christopher Barber - C Det, 1st Space Co, 1st Space Bn
- 5) SSG Mark Bagwel I- HHC, 1st Space Bn

These newly selected SAMC recipients will be inducted by our Commanding General, LTG Campbell, during a SAMC award/induction ceremony during the SMDC/ARSTRAT 2009 Annual Senior Enlisted Leaders Training Conference scheduled from March 23-26, 2009 at Vandenberg Air Force Base in Lompoc/Santa Maria, CA.

As your SMDC/ARSTRAT Command Sergeant Major, I extend my thanks and appreciation to all our Commanders, CSMs/SGMs, 1SGs, Senior NCOs, Primary/Special Staff personnel, Protocol Offices, Public Affairs Offices, CIO-IT and Civilian Work Force for their unwavering support and involvement in making this event a major success.

Special thanks- Special thanks- to CSM Kevin McGovern, CSM Joseph Rhodes, CSM Timothy Czuba, CSM James Ross, SGM Patrick Kutac, SGM John Mattie, 1SG Petey Smith, SFC Katherine Nieto, SFC(P) Willie Kelly, Lorronica Hamil; Michael Howard, Don Montoya, Sharon Hartman (PAO); Joseph Allen (IT-VTC); Marilyn White and Claude Skelton (Protocol) for their support, contributions and assistance during the SAMC board event.

**Secure the High Ground!**