

# Fresh Outlook For Council's 1961 Agenda

New members with new ideas is the keyword for the Berlin Command Senior Non-commissioned Officers' Council for the coming year, with an entirely new slate of members having been appointed at the last meeting of the council in December.

Heading the nine-man group in 1961 is Sergeant Major Carlos E. Leal, Berlin Command Sergeant Major who will handle the job of president. The recorder is Master Sergeant Willie G. Coulberson, Co F (Patten), 40th Armor.

Council members are Sergeant Major Lester Edgar, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battle Group; Sergeant Major Milton H. Weinstein, Headquarters Company, 3rd Battle Group; Sergeant Major Bernard Block, Headquarters Company, Special Troops; First Sergeant Wallace E. Stump, Company C, 2nd Battle Group; First Sergeant Richard D. Ludwick, Headquarters Company, 3rd Battle Group; First Sergeant Charles W. Kilver, 279th Station Hospital; and Master Sergeant (E-8) Elmer I. Longenecker, Headquarters Company, Special Troops.

Sergeant Major Leal, speaking for the entire council on the day of their installation, praised the work of past command councils, and vowed that the incoming group would do everything in its power to fulfill the stated objectives of the group.

Senior Non-commissioned Officers' Councils were established throughout USAREUR in 1956, with the first Berlin council appointed early in June of that year.

It has several objectives, chief among them being to advise the commanders on matters pertaining to esprit de corps, morale, and welfare within the command, and, specifically, to include advice on the proposed expenditure of welfare funds.

Another important function is to assist the commanders in keeping personnel informed on matters of command policy, decisions, and customs. Also of extreme importance is its duty to enhance the prestige of the Non-commissioned Officers Corps and to develop responsibility and leadership within the corps.

A great deal of the council efforts are directed towards the solving of general grievances which have been brought up by enlisted personnel.

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... *New Year's*



**RESOLUTIONS**—Newly elected members of the Berlin Command Senior Non-Commissioned Officer's Council gather for their first meeting. From left to right they are: Sergeant Major Bernard Block, Special Troops; First Sergeant Richard D. Ludwick, Hq Co, 3rd BG; Sergeant Major Lester Edgar, 2nd Battle Group; Master Sergeant Willie G. Coulberson, Co F; command Sergeant Major Carlos E. Leal, Jr., council president; First Sergeant Wallace E. Stump, C Co, 2nd BG; First Sergeant Charles W. Kilver, 279th Hospital; Master Sergeant Elmer I. Longenecker, Hq Co, Special Troops, and Sergeant Major Milton H. Weinstein, 3rd BG.

—US Army Photo by Sp5 Penton

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Sergeant Major Leal emphasized the fact that the council is designed to handle only questions of general interest to command personnel, not individual problems. These individual problems should be handled through the accepted chain-of-command.

However, any enlisted man may propose a matter of interest for the council. The first step in bringing a question before the senior council is to submit it to a unit non-commissioned officers' council. If the unit council believes that the matter in question is one of value, it will in turn submit the proposal to the senior council.

In its monthly meetings, the senior council discusses all phases of every proposal advanced before it by the unit councils. The senior group may agree fully with the proposal, may modify it, or may reject it.

If the senior council agrees that the matter in question is worthy of implementation, a fact sheet is drawn up and sent to the G-1 (Personnel) Division, from where it is sent to the staff section or commander having prime control over the matter. If the staff chief agrees with the proposal, it is implemented through normal channels. If he disagrees, his reasons for rejecting the proposal are routed back to the council, which will then either drop the proposal, or re-submit it with alterations.

Sergeant Major Leal, when congratulating the previous councils on their fine efforts, went on to enu-

merate some of the changes which have been implemented through the councils, actions, and also revealed the reasons why some of the proposals were not accepted.

The last suggestion submitted by the retiring council asked that priority be given to E-8's and E-9's for family type housing as a just reward for their long years of faithful service. This question is still under study.

Another recent suggestion was forwarded to revert the guard uniform from AG-44 back to OG 108. It was felt that sentries could better clothe themselves for winter weather in the OG 108 uniform, and that they would also save wear and tear on the AG-44 and not have to pay for the extra cleaning necessary when the AG-44 is worn.

This proposal was not accepted because it was felt that since sentries are seen daily by hundreds of Berlin citizens, they should be attired in uniforms which present the United States Forces in the best possible light, and that the AG-44 uniform served this purpose fully. Also, it was felt that no one performs guard duty frequently enough to present a uniform cleaning problem. However, the proposal to change the AG-44 uniform for prisoner chasers was accepted.

Another of the latest proposals which was initiated by the council and accepted as an excellent suggestion was the establishing of an "Express Line" at the commissary to allow sponsors to patronize the store during free hours without encountering lengthy delays.