

First Sergeant Diamond Formation

NARRATOR: LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, OUR FIRST SERGEANTS WOULD LIKE TO HONOR SERGEANT _____ SERVICE AS A DIAMOND-WEARING FIRST SERGEANT WITH A SPECIAL FORMATION.

NARRATOR: FIRST SERGEANTS! PREPARE TO FORM THE DIAMOND.

[1ST 1ST SGT TAKES POSITION]

NARRATOR: THE 17TH CENTURY PRUSSIAN ARMY FELDWELBEL WAS MOST LIKELY THE EARLIEST INTRODUCTION OF THE FIRST SERGEANT. STANDING AT THE TOP OF THE NONCOMMISSIONED HIERARCHY OF RANK, HE WAS THE OVERSEER OF ALL THE COMPANY'S ENLISTED PERSONNEL.

[2D 1ST SGT TAKES POSITION]

NARRATOR: DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, INSPECTOR GENERAL FREDERICH VONSTEUBEN SETS FORTH THE DUTIES OF THE FIRST SERGEANT: TO BE INTIMATELY FAMILIAR WITH THE CHARACTER OF EVERY SOLDIER, AND IMPRESS UPON THEIR MINDS THE INDISPENSIBLE NECESSITY OF THE STRICTEST OBEDIENCE.

[3D 1ST SGT TAKES POSITION]

NARRATOR: THROUGHOUT AMERICAN HISTORY, MILITARY LEADERS HAVE VIEWED THE FIRST SERGEANT AS THE KEY TO THE DEVELOPMENT

OF A GOOD COMPANY. THE GOOD ORDER AND DISCIPLINE OF THE TROOPS, THEIR CARE AND WELL-BEING, HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THE FOCAL POINTS OF THE FIRST SERGEANT'S JOB.

[4TH 1ST SGT TAKES POSITION]

NARRATOR: THE FIRST SERGEANT IS EASILY DISTINGUISHABLE FROM THE OTHER ENLISTED RANKS BY THE DIAMOND IN THE CENTER OF THE CHEVRON. THIS DISTINGUISHING MARK HAS ITS BEGINNINGS IN 1830, WHEN THE FIRST SERGEANT WORE A RED SASH AROUND HIS WAIST.

[5TH 1ST SGT TAKES POSITION]

NARRATOR: IN 1847, ARMY REGULATIONS AUTHORIZED THE WEAR OF THE CHEVRONS ON THE FATIGUES OF NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS. IT ALSO AUTHORIZED THE LOZENGE, OR FRENCH DIAMOND, TO DESIGNATE THE FIRST SERGEANT. INDICATIONS ARE THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF THE DIAMOND AS AN INSIGNIA DEVICE.

[6TH 1ST SGT TAKES POSITION]

NARRATOR: THE CHEVRONS HAVE CHANGED OVER THE YEARS, FROM THEIR BEGINNINGS IN THE ARMY AIR CORP, TO THE LOOK OF TODAY'S AIR FORCE, BUT THE ONE CONSTANT HAS BEEN THE DISTINGUISHABLE DIAMOND, DENOTING THE POSITION OF THE FIRST SERGEANT.

[7TH 1ST SGT TAKES POSITION]

NARRATOR: THE FIRST SERGEANT CREED READS...I AM A FIRST SERGEANT. MY JOB IS PEOPLE--EVERY ONE IS MY BUSINESS. I DEDICATE MY TIME AND ENERGY TO THEIR NEEDS; THEIR HEALTH, MORALE, DISCIPLINE AND WELFARE.

[8TH 1ST SGT TAKES POSITION]

NARRATOR: I GROW IN STRENGTH BY STRENGTHENING MY PEOPLE. MY JOB IS DONE IN FAITH; MY PEOPLE BUILD MY FAITH.

[9TH 1ST SGT TAKES POSITION]

NARRATOR: THE AIR FORCE IS MY LIFE; I SHARE IT WITH MY PEOPLE. I BELIEVE IN THE AIR FORCE GOAL--"WE TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN." MY JOB IS PEOPLE--EVERY ONE IS MY BUSINESS!

LAST 1ST SGT (# 9):
PRESENT, ARMS --- -- ORDER, ARMS

NARRATOR 2: FIRST SERGEANTS...DISMISSED!

A completed diamond formation

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