

## USAMPS Receives the American Correctional Association Accreditation

By Ron Mullihan, USAMPS Accreditation Programs Manager

In 2009, USAMPS began working with the American Correctional Association (ACA) on developing an accreditation program and in 2010 entered into a contractual agreement for USAMPS to be audited by the ACA in FY11. This audit is based largely on training development and integration for the corrections training base at Fort Leonard Wood, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, US Army Military Police School, 14<sup>th</sup> Military Police Brigade, 701<sup>st</sup> Military Police Battalion and especially the 701<sup>st</sup> MP BN Charlie Company.

The Standards and Accreditation Department of the ACA serves a dual mission of providing services for ACA and the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections (CAC). These services include the development and promulgation of new standards, revision of existing standards, coordination of the accreditation process for all correctional components of the criminal justice system, semi-annual accreditation hearings, technical assistance to correctional agencies, and training for consultants who are involved in the accreditation process.

This audit at USAMPS for the academy accreditation contained 103 standards that required a compliance audit. The 103 (11 mandatory and 92 nonmandatory) standards for audited files contain a policy, procedure, and practice(s) that demonstrate how that standard is in compliance.

This ACA audit at USAMPS was for corrections training academy level accreditation. It is the last leg in the ongoing effort for the US Army and the US Army Corrections Command to garner the coveted ACA *"Golden Eagle Award,"* reserved for those very few organizations that are able to get both their confinement facilities and training academy accredited. In the past two years all of the regional confinement facilities have applied for and been awarded their ACA accreditation.

<sup>1</sup>"The primary advantage of being an accredited facility is the adoption of standards which result in clearly defined policies and procedures, ultimately enhancing consistency in operations. Accreditation provides an agency with credibility among its peers, law makers, the courts and the public." This demonstrates that all correctional agencies use the same level of peer oversight and baseline for correctional staff training development standards as well as correctional implementation standards.

In October 2010 and again in April 2011, USAMPS conducted mock audits for corrections training here at USAMPS. On 16-17 June 2011, ACA visited USAMPS for the first time and finished their audit review, citing zero derogatory findings, with a recommendation to the ACA National Board that USAMPS be awarded accreditation. This accreditation for the training academy also meant that the US Army and the Army Correctional Command became one of very few to claim the *"Golden Eagle Award,"* This is another example of the MP Regiment moving in step with our civilian counterparts in law enforcement and corrections – *"Professionalization of the Force."* USAMPS will accept this award at the ACA National Conference on 9 August 2011 in Kissimmee, FL.

<sup>1</sup> Wayne Barkley, Superintendent Riverview Correctional Facility, Ogdensburg, New York