
Regimental Command Sergeant Major



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What is SSQ?

Greetings from the home of your Military Police Corps Regiment. This quarter, I want to talk to you about a leadership tool called **SSQ** that I have been preaching about for the past few years. I see too many noncommissioned officers (NCOs) acting and performing like officers. Too many NCOs are involved in command-type business and like to think that they run everything. The higher we serve, the more likely that we may fall into that trap. The reality is that the commander is always in charge and our mission is to support that commander. That is the basic foundation that the NCO Corps was built on. The starting point for our mission and our duties is always back at the basics. We can get so lost in our systems, programs, processes, and policies that we actually lose sight of the basics.

I asked in the article title what is **SSQ**? **SSQ** is the basics of leading. **SSQ** is where you must always come back to if you want to do the mission right. The NCO creed speaks of the accomplishment of the mission and the welfare of our Soldiers. **SSQ** is the road to ensure that you do it successfully. **SSQ** is simply—

- **Standards**—The Army is built on standards. By enforcing regulations, policies, standing operating procedures, and commander's directives, NCOs ensure that the mission is not only done but done right. A unit that overlooks the little things will surely fail at the big things.
- **Safety**—Composite risk management, or safety, is crucial to how we go about business. The Army is by definition dangerous. We are manned to protect our country and defeat our enemy in armed conflict when needed. While we cannot make every task absolutely safe, we can make each task safer.
- **Quality of life**—A basic field craft rule is to always improve your position. This applies downrange as well as back at home station. Do what you can to improve the conditions that your Soldiers serve in. We ask much of our Soldiers, and we owe them leadership that takes care of them.

SSQ is nothing new or earthshaking, is it? Keep it on top of your kit bag to remind you of what is important.

Warrior Police Keeping the ARMY STRONG!