



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY FIRES CENTER OF EXCELLENCE AND FORT SILL
455 MCNAIR ROAD, SUITE 100
FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA 73503

ATZR-CM

09 July 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Instruction for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25), Fort Sill Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Selection Board

1. **References:**
 - a. TRADOC Regulation (TR) 600-14, TRADOC Sergeant Audie Murphy Award, 15 August 2023.
 - b. FORSCOM Regulation 600-80-1, FORSCOM Sergeant Audie Murphy Award, 1 August 2022.
2. **Fire Center of Excellence and Fort Sill hosts the quarterly Sergeant Audie Murphy Award Selection Board in order to select exemplary Noncommissioned Officers (NCOs) stationed at Fort Sill, OK.**
3. **Purpose.** The TRADOC SAMA is a privilege earned by a few exceptional NCOs. The SAMA is a means of recognizing those NCOs who have contributed significantly to the development of a professional NCO Corps and combat ready Army. Members exemplify leadership characterized by personal concern for the needs, training, development and welfare of Soldiers, and concern for families of Soldiers.
4. **SAMA eligibility applies to NCOs between the ranks of Corporal (E-4) through Master Sergeant or First Sergeant (E-8). Brigade, Battalion CSMs and Battery/Company 1SGs are directed to ensure widest dissemination of this MOI to ensure maximum participation. Brigade and Battalion CSMs will conduct screening of all SAMA nominees to ensure SAMA packets are completed. The Brigade CSMs will ensure all requirements for Phase I-IV are met IAW TRADOC Regulation 600-14 prior to sending the nominee to the final selection board.**
6. **TRADOC Soldiers previously inducted into the Sergeant Morales Club will be entitled to honorary induction into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club (SAMC). Substantiation of membership is the responsibility of the NCO and must include the service member's Certificate of Achievement and membership card in the Sergeant Morales Club. Former Morales members will receive the TRADOC membership card only. Sergeant Morales Club members wishing to receive full induction into the TRADOC SAMA program must go through the entire selection process.**
7. **Honorary Membership:** Honorary membership may be extended to selected personnel (SGM/CSM, WO4 and COL or above) who fit the image of a SAMA member

ATZR-CM

SUBJECT MOI for the FY26 Fort Sill Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Selection Board

but would not normally be allowed to compete. Individuals selected for honorary awards will forward a SAMA packet along with an endorsed recommendation from the Installation CSM or higher.

a. Candidates recommended for honorary membership must submit their nomination SAMA packets to the initial, intermediate, and final selection board. (Nominees for honorary induction will not appear in person before the selection boards).

b. Candidates will be in compliance with AFT and Army Body Composition Standards to include scoring 80 points on all AFT events. All honorary induction candidates must submit their record AFT scorecards (DA Form 705-TEST) in their SAMA selection packets.

c. A full SAMA packet for honorary candidates will be completed in full and submitted to the selection panel for final decision.

d. Honorary members will receive an honorary TRADOC Certificate of Achievement, TRADOC SAMC Member Card and the TRADOC Sergeant Audie Murphy Medallion. Honorary members will not receive an ARCOM.

e. Careful evaluation must be taken by the approving authority to ensure that the spirit and intent of the program is preserved. Upon approval/endorsement of the honorary nominee, the installation CSM will forward the complete recommendation packet to HQ, TRADOC, G-1 AG, for final approval.

f. Honorary awards are not guaranteed and will be rigorously evaluated.

g. Exception to the above regarding honorary awardees. Sergeant Morales members are authorized to participate in SAMA/SAMC functions and will receive honorary membership into the TRADOC SAMA program. However, they will only receive the TRADOC SAMC Membership Card upon verification that they are in fact, a Sergeant Morales Club Member. Verification of the Sergeant Morales Award must be in the final form of the award to include the Sergeant Morales Certificate of Achievement and Membership Card. Memorandums, copies of evaluations (NCOERs), and other awards will not be used for verification. It is highly encouraged that Sergeant Morales Members also attend the TRADOC SAMA process.

8. The SAMA selection process consists of four phases:

a. Phase-1: Identifying the best potential candidate for the SAMA: 1SG's will recommend, thoroughly screen, and evaluate all their candidates prior to them moving to phase 2. This will include the candidate creating the TRADOC SAMA packet. This packet will contain all information needed to conduct a thorough administrative check of the candidate along with all pertinent information needed to move to phase 2.

b. Phase-2: Preparatory Board: CSMs at the Battalion/Squadron level will conduct a selection board. This board will challenge candidates with strictly situational

based questioning. The BN CSM will be the President of the board and the board members will be the rank of 1SG/MSG to CSM. None of the board members need to be SAMC members. The only exception is that the BN CSM can substitute a board member with an SSG or above SAMC member. The board will be comprised of all voting members to include the BN CSM. at a minimum, one situational based board; this will determine if the candidate meets all criteria to move to Phase 3. CSMs do not need to be SAMC members. CSMs at the Battalion/Squadron level do not need to endorse their candidates with a formal memorandum. If the candidates move to Phase 3 it has implied that Battalion/Squadron level CSM has approved the advancement. However, the President of the board will have the final vote if the decision is not unanimous but has no more than one member that does not recommend advancement. **(Example: three members vote yes, one member votes no, in this circumstance the President makes the final decision whether the candidate meets the criteria to move on to the final selection board).**

c. Phase-3: Initial Selection Board: The Brigade CSM will conduct a selection board. This board will challenge candidates with strictly situational based questioning. The Brigade CSM will be the President of the board and the board members will be the rank of SGM or CSM. None of the SGM/CSMs needs to be SAMC members. The only exception is that the Brigade CSM can substitute SGM/CSM board members with a SFC or above SAMC member. The board will be comprised of all voting members to include the Brigade CSM. The President of the board will have the final vote if the decision is not unanimous but has no more than one member that does not recommend advancement. **(Example: three members vote yes, one member votes no, in this circumstance the President makes the final decision whether the candidate meets the criteria to move on to the final selection board).**

d. Final Selection Board / Phase-4: The TRADOC CSM delegates the authority to conduct the final SAMA selection board to all TRADOC Centers of Excellence/Senior Mission Command CSMs. The final phase will be comprised of three days with the final day being the knowledge board. Day one will be the AFT administered by the SAMC Redleg Chapter members and be assigned the subject of their professional writing submission for Muddy Boots. Day two will be the six-mile ruck march, the SL1 task assessment, and the 50-question general knowledge test. Day three will be the knowledge board, The USAFCoEFS CSM will serve as the President of the board, three additional CSM/SGMs will be appointed as board members. Each board member will come from a different subordinate Brigade. The only exception to this guidance is that the installation CSM can substitute or add one board member with a representative from the installation Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. The USAFCoEFS CSM can appoint a Brigade CSM as the SAMA President of the board in his or her absence. However, the USAFCoEFS CSM will endorse the results with his or her signature on a formal Memorandum for Record. Each board member to include the President of the board are voting members and will determine if a candidate will be selected or not. However, the President of the board will have the final vote if the decision is not unanimous but has no more than one member that does not recommend advancement. **(Example: three members vote yes, one member votes no, in this circumstance the President**

ATZR-CM

SUBJECT MOI for the FY26 Fort Sill Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Selection Board

makes the final decision whether the candidate meets the criteria to move on to the final selection board).

9. Nomination packets shall consist of the following documents in the order listed:

- a. Binder with Unit Coversheet (Encl 2).
- b. SAMA board Packet Checklist (Encl 3).
- c. Brigade Level CSM Nomination Memorandum (Encl 4).
- d. Candidates will submit a command-style photo, head and shoulder shot.
- e. A Biography of the service member (Encl 5).
- f. Updated Soldier Talent Profile (STP) or equivalent for USAR and ARNG NCOs.
***Note: Must have an Expert Primary Weapons Qualification on SRB/STP within 180 days of Final Selection board or provide an Exception to Policy (ETP) signed by Service Member's BDE CSM if a range or weapon is not available.**
- g. DA Form 2166-9-1 (NCOER SGT) or DA Form 2166-9-2 (NCOER SSGMSG/1SG) equaling two years of rated time. If the NCO is a CPL/SGT and does not have an evaluation this will be annotated on the brigade nomination memorandum, endorsed by the Brigade CSM.
- h. Army Fitness Test (AFT) scorecard. ***Note: Must achieve at least 80 points on all events. The only accepted AFT scorecard will be the one administered by the Installation SAMC Redleg Chapter for the final selection board.**
- i. DD Form 2266 (Hometown News Release).
- j. Professional writing. All candidates will write an article for Muddy Boots. The Senior Army Element/Center of Excellence (SAE/COE) Command Sergeant Major will determine if the article may be routed to the TRADOC Enlisted Initiatives Groups for final review and submission.
- k. DA Form 7801 (Weapons Card) with expert qualification. ***Note: The DA Form 7801 must be signed/stamped as "Verified" by the Company Commander or First Sergeant.**
- l. Ruck March Results. Nominees must complete a six-mile ruck march with a minimum of a 35-pound ruck sack in 90 minutes or less. A memorandum will be signed by the SAMC member grading the event. ***Note: Personnel on temp or permanent profile will be validated by the profile.**

ATZR-CM

SUBJECT MOI for the FY26 Fort Sill Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Selection Board

m. Written General Knowledge Test. Nominees will be given a 50-question written exam that challenges their general military knowledge and leadership abilities with a score of 80% or above.

10. SAMA candidates will submit their packets to their First Sergeants. Once the packet has all the required documents from Phase 1 through 3, BDE representative/sponsors will send those packets to the SAMC Secretary or the delegated representative. All questions may be directed to Red Leg Chapter SAMC leadership.

11. Candidates are highly encouraged to attend SAMC FT. Sill Red Leg Chapter meetings (at the SAMC room in Snow Hall on the first Wednesday of each month from 1200-1300), social functions, and volunteering with club functions. If candidates are selected for induction; they will be required to meet the guidelines outlined in the Fort Sill SAMC Red Leg Chapter Bylaws. Any candidate, inductee or inducted member can and will be recommended for suspension/removal for conduct prejudicial to the good order and discipline of the organization

12. Candidates will report on the first day of the board at 0530 for the AFT that will be administered by the Ft. Sill SAMC Red Leg Chapter. Candidates who do not attend the AFT will not be allowed to move forward in the selection process. Point of contact for the AFT is the Red Leg Chapter SAMC President at the email listed above.

a. Candidates must score a minimum of 80 points in each event.

b. Candidates on permanent profile may participate in the SAMA assessment but must score a minimum of 80 points on all events of the AFT authorized on their profile. Pregnant/Postpartum SMs may use their most recent fitness test IAW Army Directive 2022-06. SMs on a temporary profile may compete only if their profile DA Form 3349 states that they may participate in some AFT events, and must score a minimum of 80 points in those events.

c. Candidates will have a current BDE Representative from their unit or their active leader within their NCO support channel as their sponsor with them throughout the entirety of the selection process.

13. SAMA Final Selection board Proceedings.

a. SAMA Final Selection boards will be held quarterly. SAMA FY2026 Final Selection boards will be convened on the following dates, at the Regimental Conference Room (RCR), 455 McNair Avenue (McNair Hall). Candidates will receive an in-brief 30 minutes prior to the board convening.

	Packet Due Date:	Board dates:	Ceremony Date:
FY26 Q1	111700NOV26	201300NOV26	201330FEB26
FY26 Q2	041700MAR26	191300MAR26	171330JUL26

ATZR-CM

SUBJECT MOI for the FY26 Fort Sill Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Selection Board

FY26 Q3	091700JUN26	181300JUN26	241330SEP26
FY26 Q4	081700SEP26	171300SEP26	181330DEC26

b. Uniform for candidates and sponsors will be the Army Service Uniform (ASU) or Army Green Service Uniform (AGSU). Board Members and sponsors may wear their medallion if they are a current SAMC member.

c. Board members and subject groups will be identified at least 15 days prior to the board convening.

d. All knowledge boards during the SAMA selection process will be solely comprised of situational-based questioning IOT assess the NCOs ability to effectively lead Soldiers. Board members will provide the necessary equipment and materials needed to satisfy their question requirements.

e. Following guidance from TRADOC Regulation 600-14, units providing board members will follow and coordinate for an alternate board member if unable to attend the final selection board.

f. The board President will identify selected candidates for induction at the completion of the final selection board.

g. All board dates are tentative but will be within a week or two of the scheduled date. This will be based on the board President's availability.

14. Board Members and their subjects are as follows:

FCoE CSM	Board President	
428 th /434 th	Board Member	Health and Holistic Fitness (FM 7-22), Army Body Composition Program (AR 600-9), Uniforms and Awards (AR 670-1/AR 600-8-22), First Aid (TC 4-02.1), The Army Profession (ADP 1-0)
30 th /RAHC	Board Member	Army Leadership and the Profession (ADP 6-22), Training (ADP 7-0) Weapons (TC 3-22.9), Map Reading and Land Navigation (TC 3-25.26)
NCOA/Garrison/HQ Det	Board Member	Knowledge of Family & Soldier Support Agencies, NCOPDS Requirements and Procedures, Operations (ADP 3-0), CBRN (FM 3-11)
75 th /31 st	Board Member	History of the NCO (FM 7-22.7),

ATZR-CM

SUBJECT MOI for the FY26 Fort Sill Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Selection Board

Developing Leaders (FM 6-22), Drill and Ceremonies (TC 3-21.5), PMCS (AR 750-1)

SAMC President	Board Member	Knowledge of Audie Murphy, 3rd Infantry Division History, Audie Murphy Bio
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SAMC Council Member Recorder

15. Please reference subjects on the following websites: <http://www.apd.army.mil/>, <https://armypubs.army.mil/> and use the attached Sergeant Audie Murphy Biography.

16. The point of contacts for this memorandum and/or any SAMA questions is the Redleg Chapter President 1SG Crain, Matthew J. at matthew.j.crian.mil@army.mil or 580-917-5580 and the Redleg Chapter Secretary SSG Perez, Enrique L. at enrique.l.perez6.mil@army.mil or 580-558-0343.

5 Encls:

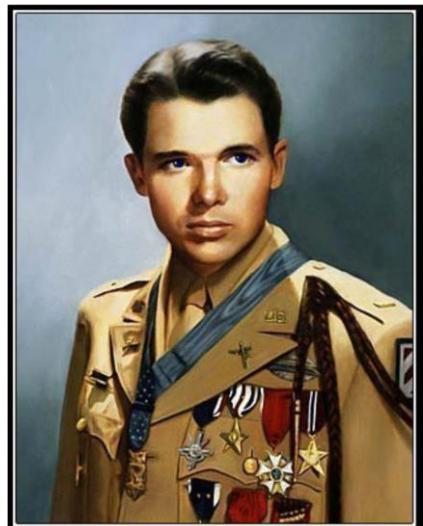
1. The Biography of Audie Murphy
2. SAMA Board Coversheet
3. SAMA Board Packet Checklist
4. BDE Level CSM Nomination MFR
5. Personal Biography (Example)

NEIL H. SARTAIN

CSM, USA

U.S. Army Fires Center of Excellence Command Sergeant Major

The Biography of Audie Murphy



Audie Leon Murphy was a legend in his own time. A war hero, movie actor, writer of country and western songs, and poet. His biography read more like fiction than fact. He lived only 46 years but made a lasting impression on American history.

Audie was born on a sharecropper's farm in North Texas on June 20, 1924. As a boy, he chopped cotton for one dollar a day and was noted for his feats of derring-do and his accuracy with a gun. He had only 5 years of schooling and was orphaned at age 16.

After being refused enlistment during World War II in both the Marines and Paratroopers for being too small (5'5") and underweight (110 lbs.), he enlisted in the U.S. Army a few days after his 18th birthday. After basic training at Camp Wolters, Texas, and advanced training at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, Audie was sent overseas. He was assigned to the famous 15th Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division where he fought in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France, and Germany. He earned a battlefield commission for his courage and leadership ability, as well as citations and decorations including every medal for valor that America gives. He was also awarded one Belgian and three French medals. Lieutenant Audie Murphy is the highest decorated soldier in American history.

Discharged from the Army on September 21, 1945, Audie went to Hollywood at the invitation of movie star James Cagney. He remained in California for the rest of his life and was closely associated with the movie industry, both as an actor and a producer. He acted in 44 films starring in 39 of them. His best-known film is "To Hell and Back", adapted from the bestselling book of his war experiences by the same name. Most of his movies were westerns. In 1955, Audie Murphy was voted the Most Popular Western Actor in America by the Motion Picture Exhibitors. Audie wrote the lyrics to 16 country and western songs, the most popular of which was "Shutters and Boards", written with Scott Turner in 1962. The song was recorded by over 30 pop singers, including Jerry Wallace, Dean Martin, and Porter Waggoner. He was an accomplished poet; unfortunately, only a few of his poems have survived.

In 1950 Audie joined the 36th Infantry Division ("T-Patchers") of the Texas National Guard and served with it until 1966. He was a Mason and a Shriner and belonged to several veterans' organizations. Audie Murphy was killed in a plane crash on a mountaintop near Roanoke, Virginia on May 28, 1971. Fittingly, his body was recovered 2 days later on Memorial Day.

ATZR-CM

SUBJECT MOI for the FY26 Fort Sill Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Selection Board

Example SAMA final selection board Coversheet:

Coversheet: Must include unit crest, standard name line with Battalion and Brigade

Font Arial 28 for (RANK Last, First, Middle Initial, BN BDE)

Unit Crest: Centered on the page, presented in color

**RANK LAST, FIRST MIDDLE.
BN BDE**



ATZR-CM

SUBJECT MOI for the FY26 Fort Sill Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Selection Board

Sergeant Audie Murphy Award Board

Packet Checklist

- 1) Binder with unit coversheet
- 2) Brigade Level CSM Nomination Memorandum
- 3) Command style photo (Head and Shoulder)
- 4) Biography
- 5) Updated Soldier Talent Profile
- 6) Previous NCOERs equaling two total years
- 7) Army Fitness Test scorecard (AFT Scorecard/SAMC Graded)
- 8) DD Form 2266 (Home Town News Release)
- 9) Essay (1 page in length)
- 10) DA Form 7801 (Weapons Card)

ATZR-CM

SUBJECT MOI for the FY26 Fort Sill Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Selection Board

(Type on appropriate headquarters letterhead.)
(Office Symbol)

(date)

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMA Selection Board

SUBJECT: Letter of Nomination for RANK Last, First Middle Initial.

1. Letter will be two three paragraphs with specific quantifiable comments about the Soldier's character and tactical and technical competence. Letters are not limited to the three paragraphs. Letter of Nominations not meeting these criteria will be rejected.
2. Can use information from the Soldier's entire record, including comments about schools completed, assignments, deployments, impact awards, achievements, and accomplishments.
3. Generic comments are not effective in communicating the Soldier's attributes to the board members. Provide clear and concise information about the Soldier.
4. The point of contact for this memorandum is the Brigade SAMC Representative at (803) 000-0000 or first.middle.last.mil@army.mil

FIRST MI. LAST NAME
CSM, USA
Brigade Command Sergeant Major

ATZR-CM

SUBJECT MOI for the FY26 Fort Sill Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Selection Board

This is the format. Use only Font Size 12 / Arial

Biography: RANK First Last Middle Initial.

Sergeant First Class First Middle Initial. Last name is a native of Riverside California. He entered the Army in April 2005 and attended Basic and AIT at Fort Benning GA, graduating as an Infantryman.

He has served in several positions, including Team Leader, Squad Leader, Ranger Instructor and Platoon Sergeant. He is currently serving as a Training/ Advise Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of Team three, Alpha Company out of the 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade stationed at Fort Benning, GA forward deployed to Afghanistan.

SFC Last Name has served two tours overseas in Germany. His deployments include Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Freedom's Sentinel. His stateside Assignments have been at Fort Hood and Fort Benning. His military education includes Basic Leaders Course, Advanced Leaders Course, Senior Leaders Course, Army Basic Instructors Course, Tactics Certification Course, Conduct after Capture, Security Force Assistance Advisor Course, Combative Level 1, Airborne School, Jumpmaster, Air Assault, Mountain Warfare- Winter, and the Ranger Course.

SFC Last Name awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal 9th award, Army Achievement Medal 7th award, Good Conduct Medal 4th award, National Defense Service Medal, Afghan Campaign Medal with one Campaign star, Iraq Campaign Medal with three Campaign stars, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Medal with Arabic numeral 3, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon with Arabic numeral 5, NATO Medal, Expert Infantryman Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge and the Ranger Tab and other service medals and ribbons.

He has been married to his wife NAME for more than three years.