

## The NEW Sergeant

Privilege is earned in increments, not given as a condition of employment. True privilege has limits. It is being able to schedule your vacation when you'd like. It is driving the newest car or taking the best beat. Privilege is not standing in the way of progress, undermining authority or being disobedient to orders.

Paramilitary organizations can be best described as benevolent dictatorships. There can be no doubt about who is in charge at any given moment. Strong chiefs breed strong administrations, which breed strong staffs and, ultimately, strong officers and a strong, healthy department.

For those officers who come to the job believing they are privileged or who are lead to believe they have become so, a wake-up call is in order. If allowed to continue in this manner, they will foul the gears of the department and nearly bring it to a halt. Even if the gears are not so clogged as to become immovable, the pace of the agency will slow to the point where forward progress is barely perceptible.

It is our job to be the interface between the troops and the command staff. We are the ones who explain the decisions of those above and enact their policies. It is also our job to make sure that orders are followed and that the direction that is set for us is carried out. Agreeing with everything that is done is not mandatory, but a united front certainly is.

Chiefs don't run squads. Sergeants do. Squads are the foundation of any department and, as such, are the starting point for any problems within the organization. If allowed to go bad or fall into disrepair, the squad can ultimately bring an agency to its knees.

It is the sergeant's job to take care of both the officers and the agency by making sure that the virus of unearned privilege does not infect the squad, lest it become a crippling disease and cause broadening issues within the rest of the department.

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