



**United States Army War College and  
Carlisle Barracks**

# **Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Study Guide**



## **Foreward**

*Congratulations! You've been nominated by your chain of command for the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. You've already demonstrated the knowledge and abilities of a good NCO. From this point on, you will prove your dedication to a goal. This booklet puts you on the path to this goal. It requires a great deal of preparation and you may run into obstacles, but don't give up! Within this guide you'll find a means to test your knowledge and some tips to assist you in your boards. Don't just read the regulations, FM's and brochures; talk to people and agencies. This provides you a greater understanding and keeps you abreast of the most current changes in policy. It ultimately comes down to you. You must prove that you deserve to wear the medallion, to be recognized as a Sergeant Audie Murphy member.*

*CSM Franklin A. Saunders  
Post Command Sergeant Major*

## **Preparing for the Board**

You should, at very least, be able to answer all of the questions in this packet, and be extremely familiar with applicable reference.

Use regulations, field manuals, and soldier training publications as your primary references for the subject areas.

Personally visit each family/soldier support agency (AER, ACS, ASAP, Chaplain, BOSS, EO/EEO, EFMP, Red Cross, Safety Office, etc.) on Carlisle Barracks asking for an overview of the installation-specific operations. This will give you the exact location and procedures for the specific offices, as well as points of contact and phone numbers. Put them in your leader book.

## **Appearing before the Board**

**Entrance:** When you are ready to enter the board room, knock firmly and loudly enough to demonstrate your confidence and determination. Three or four taps should be enough. Wait for the invitation to enter and march in the most direct route towards the president of the board. Halt approximately two steps in front of the president and execute a facing movement if necessary. Execute a hand salute and report, "Sergeant Major, Sergeant (your name) reports."

**Initial Inspection:** Remember you're being examined for proper execution of the salute and proper uniform so you may be holding the salute for a while because of the inspection. After the president of the board has dropped his/her hand, then drop your salute. After the salute you will probably be given some facing and marching movements. Make sure that your arm move at a natural rhythm with your marching movements.

**Finding your Seat:** In most cases the president of the board will move you directly to the chair via marching movements. In any case make a mental note of where the chair is located when you are making your marching or facing movements. When the president tells you to take your seat, sit at the position of attention: heels and knees together, feet at a 45 degree angle, and hands resting on top of your legs. Keep your arms to your sides, your head upright, and your eyes looking at the person that is

speaking to you. When the president introduces each member of the board, acknowledge each member in turn.

Specific Areas of Discussion: The first thing you will probably be asked is for you to tell the board a little about yourself. Practice your responses several times prior to going to the board while seated before a mirror or another person.

You should be prepared to explain:

- Why you feel you should be inducted into the SAMC?
- Why you want to become a member of the SAMC?
- What you feel you will contribute to the organization?
- What qualities of yours are similar to those of Audie Murphy?

You should be able to recite the Audie Murphy story and be able to tell the board about Sergeant Audie Murphy.

You should be prepared to give a brief background of yourself and you may consider covering the following:

- Your family
- Military Service-assignments, duty positions, education, achievements
- Civilian Education
- Community Service
- Short and Long Term Goals

Be prepared to answer situational questions such as:

- You have a SSG assigned as your subordinate. He and his wife are out at a local recreation area fishing, and he has been drinking alcohol. On the way home, he gets stopped and gets a DUI. He has been a stellar performer and takes excellent care of his soldiers. You are now making your recommendation to your BN CDR on your recommendation for punishment under the UCMJ. What are your recommendation?
- Now, this same SSG and his wife have been fishing. He has been drinking alcohol, but she has not. She is the designated driver. However, she gets bitten by a poisonous snake. He gets a DUI while rushing her to the hospital. What would your recommendation be now?

Responding to Questions: Always begin your answer with the title of the person who asks the question and a brief restatement of the question. For example: “Sergeant Major, the publication that governs the wear of the uniform is AR 670-1.” Remember to speak clearly, confidently and firmly. The board has to decide if you are a worthy soldier. A board is usually impressed with a soldier who acts and speaks with assurance and tact.

Leaving the Board: When the president of the board is finished with you he/she will say “dismissed.” Come to the position of attention, move to a position that is within two steps of the president and salute. Wait until the president’s hand is down before you drop your salute. In the most direct route execute marching movements towards the door, exit and close the door behind you.

## 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 best selling 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 Wagoner. 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.

## **The History of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club**

The original club was started at Fort Hood, Texas early in 1986. There were several key people at Fort Hood - officer, enlisted, civil service, and a Killeen civilian - who were instrumental in getting this club up and running.

Leading the effort was Lieutenant General Crosbie Saint, then the III Corps commander; his Command Sergeant Major George L. Horvath; III Corps Awards Clerk Jean Crisp, who is now Test and Experimentation Command (TEXCOM) awards clerk, and Don Moore, a Killeen artist who assisted with designing the logo and club awards.

In 1991, then III Corps Commander Lieutenant General Pete Taylor and Command Sergeant Major Richard B. Cayton expanded the Fort Hood installation club to include all of III Corps. This included Fort Riley, Kansas; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Polk, Louisiana; and Fort Carson, Colorado.

In 1993, CSM Cayton was voted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club by the membership and then became the Forces Command Sergeant Major. Soon thereafter, the club became Forces-Command (FORSCOM) wide, including the Reserves and National Guard.

In 1994 at a Sergeant Major of the Army conference, the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club spread Army-wide, to all commands with installations retaining the selection process for their own NCOs. In 1998, it was estimated that the club membership was over 3000 soldiers and was steadily increasing.

### **Sergeant Audie Murphy**

1. Where and when was Audie Murphy born?
  - Kingston, Texas - June 20, 1924
2. How many years of schooling did Audie Murphy have?
  - Five years
3. At what age was Audie Murphy orphaned?
  - 16 years old
4. Where did Audie Murphy do basic training?
  - Camp Wolters, Texas
5. Where did Audie Murphy do advanced training?
  - Fort Meade, Maryland
6. What unit was Audie Murphy assigned to during World War II?
  - 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division
7. Where did Audie Murphy fight during WWII?
  - North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France, and Germany

8. What was the Service Number of Audie Murphy?

- 01 692 509

9. Name five of the U.S. awards that Audie Murphy earned during WWII?

- Medal of Honor
- Distinguished Service Cross
- Silver Star (1 OLC)
- Legion of Merit
- Bronze Star (w/V, 1 OLC)
- Purple Heart (2 OLC)
- Good Conduct Medal
- Distinguished Unit Emblem (1 OLC)
- American Campaign Medal
- World War II Victory Medal
- Army of Occupation Medal (w/Germany clasp)
- European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal (1 Silver Star, 4 Bronze Service Stars)
- Name the six foreign awards that Audie Murphy earned during WWII?
- Medal of Liberated France
- French Fourragere in colors of the Croix de Guerre
- French Legion of Honor, Grade of Chevalier
- French Croix de Guerre (w/ Silver Star)
- French Croix de Guerre (w/Palm)
- Belgian Croix de Guerre (1940 Palm)

10. How many movies did Audie Murphy act in?

- 44

11. Name five movies that Audie Murphy acted in.

40 Guns to Apache Pass	Seven Ways from Sundown
A Time for Dying	Showdown
Apache Rifles	Sierra
Arizona Raiders	Six Black Horses
Bad Boy	Texas, Heaven and Brooklyn
Battle at Bloody Beach	The Cimarron Kid
Beyond Glory	The Duel at Silver Creek
Bullet for a Badman	The Gun Runners
Cast a Long Shadow	The Guns of Fort Petticoat
Column South	The Kid from Texas
Destry	The Quick Gun
Drums Across the River	The Quiet American
Gunpoint	The Red Badge of Courage
Gunsmoke	The Texican
Hell Bent for Leather	The Unforgiven
Joe Butterfly	The Wild and the Innocent
Kansas Raiders	To Hell and Back
Night Passage	Trunk to Cairo

No Name on the Bullet	Tumbleweed
Posse from Hell	World in My Corner
Ride a Crooked Trail	Gunfight at Comanche Creek
Ride Clear of Diablo	Seven Ways from Sundown

12. How many songs were written by Audie Murphy?
- 16 (TRADOC Reg 600-14) (Disregard the fact that 17 are listed, the TRADOC answer is 16).
13. Name five of the songs written by Audie Murphy.

Shutters And Boards	1962
When The Wind Blows In Chicago	1962
Please Mr. Music Man Play A Song For Me	1962
Foolish Clock	1962
Leave The Weeping To The Willow Tree	1962
The Only Light I Ever Need Is You	1962
Go On And Break My Heart	1963
Willie The Hummer	1963
My Lonesome Room	1963
Elena, Goodbye	1964
Big, Big Day Tomorrow	1964
If There Is A Short Cut To Nowhere (I'll Take It)	1964
Pedro's Guitar	1964
Round And Round She Goes	1965
Rattle Dance	1966
Dusty Old Helmet	1969
Was It All Worth Losing You	1970

14. What movie star invited Audie Murphy to Hollywood?
- James Cagney
15. What movie was adapted from the book of Audie Murphy's war experiences?
- To Hell And Back
16. Which unit of the Texas Army National Guard did Audie Murphy join in 1950?
- The 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division ("T-Patches")
17. What is significant about the year 1955 for Audie Murphy?
- That was the year his was voted as the Most Popular Western Actor in America by the Motion Picture Exhibitors
18. Was Audie Murphy a member of any fraternal organizations?
- Yes, he was a Shriner (Mason)
19. When and how did AUDIE MURPHY die?
- AUDIE MURPHY was killed in a plane crash on a mountaintop near Roanoke, Virginia on May 28, 1971. His body was recovered 2 days later, on Memorial Day

## **Sergeant Audie Murphy Club**

1. What regulation(s) cover the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Program?
  - (TRADOC) Regulation 600-14, Sergeant Audie Murphy Club (SAMC) Program
2. According to TRADOC REG 600-14, what is the purpose of induction into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club?
  - The SAMC 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
3. According to TRADOC REG 600-14, what is the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club?
  - An elite organization of NCOs whose demonstrated performance and inherent leadership qualities and abilities are characterized by those of Sergeant Audie Murphy
4. When and where was the original Sergeant Audie Murphy Club started?
  - The original club was started at Fort Hood, Texas early in 1986
5. Who designed the SAMC logo?
  - Don Moore, a Killeen artist, assisted with designing the logo and club awards
6. Describe the SAMC Crest.
  - The crest depicts the symbols of the majestic American Bald Eagle superimposed over the olive branch-wreath, saber, and lighting bolt. In front of the eagle are the U.S. Army staff sergeant stripes. The eagle firmly clutches in both claws a powder-blue banner, the color of the infantry. On the banner are displayed words Loyalty, Caring, Discipline, and Professionalism
7. What do the three stars separating the S\*A\*M\*C in the crest represent?
  - The Be, Know, and Do for the NCO
8. Why is SSG rank insignia included in the crest?
  - Reflects Audie Murphy's highest enlisted rank
9. What does the eagle represent?
  - Our national bird and symbol of freedom, and the intent of the club to be nationwide
10. What does the laurel represent?
  - Represents the individual achievement of the NCOs in the club
11. What does the lightning bolt represent?
  - It represents the swift and decisive action taken by the NCO
12. What does the sword represent?
  - The sword is a historical reference, a tool for the NCO to cut to the heart of the matter, to lead the charge

13. What do the streamers represent?

- The streamers indicate upon which the club bases their philosophy-Loyalty, Discipline, Professionalism, and Caring

14. What is the SAMC motto?

- “You lead from the front,” Audie Murphy