

Have You Seen Me?

by Sergeant Major Timothy E. Maples

I am the Goodrich Riding Trophy, the symbol of the Draper Armor Leadership Award and property of the Draper Armor Leadership Fund. Since 1924, 13 of my number have been misplaced due to reorganizations, reflaggings, or other similar actions by Department of the Army. I remain the property of the Draper Armor Leadership Fund for life and am only entrusted to the care of others during that unit's existence. Your help is needed to return all the unaccounted for, misplaced, misappropriated, or otherwise wandering Goodrich Riding Trophies to the Chief of Armor, Fort Knox, Kentucky. Your assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated by the Chief of Armor, the Draper Armor Leadership Fund, and all the soldiers entitled to compete for the award.

The Draper Armor Leadership Award was established in 1924 by LTC Wickliffe P. Draper as a plan to competitively test the leadership of small cavalry units. In 1928, LTC Draper established a trust fund of \$35,000 to perpetuate the award. The only units authorized to compete for the award are: companies and troops of armor battalions and cavalry squadrons. Combat support, combat service support, HQ and mechanized infantry units, air cavalry, and attack helicopter units are not eligible.

The Goodrich Riding Trophy, the symbol of the award, resulted from a conversation between Major L.E. Goodrich, Cavalry Reserve, and General Malin Craig, Chief of Cavalry, in 1926. Major Goodrich originally donated \$50,000 to sponsor a mounted service ride. However, the final outcome was the bronze equestrian statue pictured. A. Phimister Proctor, one of America's leading sculptors, was commissioned to design and sculpt the Goodrich Riding Trophy. Proctor, whose specialty was sculpting animals, especially horses, produced the masterpiece of a cavalry trooper astride a horse in full gallop, attacking with a drawn pistol. Proctor used a Sergeant Wotiski and his mount "Peggy" as models during the completion of the sculpture.

From 1928 to 1940, platoon-size competitions were held at various locations throughout the United States. The year 1939 saw a new dimension added to the competition: mechanized cavalry regiments sent their representatives, thus signaling an end to the era of horse cavalry and the termination of their domination of the cavalry competition. The competition was suspended during World War II (1941 to 1946).

In 1955, Army Regulation 672-73, *Decorations, Awards, and Honors – Armor Leadership Awards*, was published, thus formalizing the Draper competition and officially naming the award "The Armor Leadership Award." The regulation stated that tests would be conducted to determine the best platoon in a designated armored division. In 1960, the regulation was changed to reflect: "The commander of each armored and infantry division, armored cavalry regiment, separate armored brigade, and armor group of the active Army, Army National Guard, and the United States Army Reserve will select annually the outstanding tank company, tank troop, or armored cavalry troop of his command." Since then, the regulation was



changed only once, in 1980, with little impact on the basic regulation. In 1991, Department of the Army, in concert with the Commander, Training and Doctrine Command turned the responsibility and administration of the Draper Armor Leadership Award over to the Chief of Armor at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

It is no longer feasible to conduct a unit field exercise at one location to determine the Armor Leadership Award Winner. Instead, competing units are examined on their overall performance by the parent command throughout the calendar year (Jan-Dec). The winner is selected by the major command and the appropriate data forwarded to: Custodian, Draper Armor Leadership Fund, The Office of the Chief Of Armor, Fort Knox, Kentucky 40121 by 31 March of the following year.

The Draper Award program also recognizes individuals for their demonstrated leadership ability while attending courses at Fort Knox. The outstanding leadership graduate from AOBC, AOAC, ANCOC, and BNCOC are recognized for their contributions and efforts while students. Additionally, the Drill Sergeant of the Cycle, Instructor of the Cycle, along with the trainee who demonstrates the most leadership skills during OSUT receive recognition for superior performance.

Each awardee receives an individualized wall plaque that depicts the Goodrich Riding Trophy, engraved with his name, rank, and award time frame; a book entitled "Leadership," containing a collection of leadership articles published in *Journal of the United States Cavalry Association*, *Cavalry Journal*, *Armored Cavalry Journal*, and *ARMOR Magazine* throughout the years; and finally a certificate, suitable for framing, depicting the Goodrich Riding Trophy with a pocket card imprinted with his name, rank, and unit of assignment signed by the Chief of Armor.

The Goodrich Riding Trophy is not a permanent award to the unit or a permanent part of the lineage and honors of that unit. It is the property of the Draper Armor Leadership Fund and must be returned when the unit is reflagged, permanently stood down, or the unit becomes no longer eligible to win the award. Please assist the Chief of Armor and the custodian of the Draper Armor Leadership Fund to recover the lost Draper Riding Trophies. If you have a sighting or any other questions about the Draper Armor Leadership Award, the POC is SGM Timothy E. Maples. He can be reached by writing Commander, USAARMC, ATTN: ATZK-AR (SGM Maples), Fort Knox, Kentucky 40121-5000; telephone DSN 464-1321/1439 or commercial (502) 624-1321/1439; FAX DSN 464-7585, commercial (502) 624-7585.