

Trainee Abuse Scenario

A drill sergeant on his last month on the trail was progressively being impatient with the privates processing for BCT. There was frustration in his voice and the comments that he made to members of the chain of command indicated he had a “short timers’ attitude” and was just counting the days until he finished his assignment as a DS. The culmination for the DS was during on the last processing days in which he was heard yelling at a private because the private wasn’t paying attention and doing what he was told. The DS started yelling profanities and degrading the private in front of the group and ultimately got “up in his face”. The PVT was scared of the DS’s anger and aggressive approach and started running away from the formation to avoid the DS’s wrath. The Drill Sergeant then started running after the PVT while continuing to make verbal comments.

The DS was immediately approached by the chain of command and corrective action was taken to remove the DS from the situation until he calmed down.

Abuse Issues: Verbal and demeaning comments by the DS and chasing the soldier in a threatening manner.

Lessons Learned:

- o A third year DS is susceptible to burn out
- o Chain of Command needs to keep a “pulse” on morale of DS and watch for signs of fatigue and frustration through comments and actions.
- o Counsel DS on proper behavior and emphasize that use of profanity and abusive language is not allowed IAW 350-6.
- o Utilize local programs available to DS’s such as Trail break, 3 or 4-day pass, etc. to relieve them from the situation and “recharge their battery” for their remaining time on the trail.