

More on Swagger Sticks



That's a great swagger stick story by Denny Harris.

It brings back memories of Col. Chapman's swagger stick inspection. I can't recall how often this happened; however, all Barracks Officers and SNCO's periodically fell out on the parade deck for "swagger stick" inspection.

Officers had silver tips on theirs and ours (SNCO) had gold. We lined up in, a single rank, according to rank, from the Commandants walk to the gas pumps and Col Chapman and Henry (the Col's dachshund, not the Bks XO - - Lt Col Henry Campbell), with the Bks Sgt Major M/Sgt Zym (following after Henry) would pass down the rank and woe to the Marine that had a dented, unpolished or not otherwise perfect swagger stick.

This inspection was much like his "pre parade" inspection of the parade staff. If a discrepancy was noted that Marine was immediately dismissed from the formation to attend to the defect and he was to re-appear in the Col's office "post haste."

Semper Fi,

Joe Larkin
'56 - '59