

THE BACKBONE

Volume 3

Fort Benning
NCO Academy Newsletter

Issue 1

HENRY CARO NCO ACADEMY MISSION STATEMENT

The Henry Caro NCOA provides a superior institutional learning experience that equips and certifies it's NCOs on the fundamental competencies required to effectively lead Soldiers.

We accomplish this mission with a cadre of top-tiered NCOs who take personal ownership in their student's futures and what is taught at this Academy, returning to the Force more valuable to any mission; with a Civilian Staff that eagerly comes to work knowing that their experience and input matters in the futures of all cadre and students who pass through the Henry Caro NCOA.



"Standards and Discipline"



INSIDETHIS ISSUE

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Message from the Commandant



CSM Eric B. Olsen
Commandant

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric B. Olsen".

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Message from the Deputy Commandant



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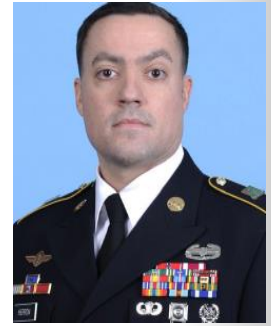
Maneuver

Senior Leader Course

Trends:

The Land Navigation Test continues to be the largest contributor to students failing to graduate the Maneuver Senior Leader Course. Approximately 15% of students receive a first time no-go on the course, and approximately 2% of the course is sent home each cycle after failing the retest. It is imperative that future students conduct Effective Land Navigation training prior to attending the course.

The Henry Caro NCOA follow on school program allows MSLC students the ability to walk on to a school of their choice after MSLC graduation. With this in mind, it is highly beneficial for each student to come prepared for follow on school attendance. Have all physicals and prerequisite requirements complete and research potential course's that start after the course graduation date. We strongly urge student's home station leadership to support this opportunity for their subordinates to capitalize on the wide range of institutional training provided for both 11 and 19 CMF here at the MCoE.



MSG Brandon Herron
MSLC Branch Chief

Recent Changes:

Students will no longer be housed at Abrams Hotel while attending the Maneuver Senior Leader Course. Wings B and C of Olson Hall have been renovated and will now be used for lodging by students arriving from another installation.

Future Plans:

The MCoE NCOA training developers have been working diligently on re-writing the entirety of the MSLC POI. With the full implementation of all LCCs due by Q1 2021 this gave the perfect opportunity to realign the POI for both 11 and 19 CMF. We will be looking at focusing a module of the course at MOS specific studies to enhance the proficiency of our future PSGs. Our next step is finalizing the task selection. We will bring together a working group in the beginning of March consisting of Infantry and Armor proponent representatives and current MSLC cadre. More to follow as we continue to press forward and finalize our COAs.

<http://www.benning.army.mil/MCoE/ncoa/M-SLC.html>

Infantry

Advanced Leader Course

We would like to welcome SSG's Burton, Thompson, Joubert, and Maiava to IN ALC.

Trends:

1. We have seen a dramatic decrease in first time and overall Land Navigation failures during the 2nd QTR of FY 19. Units should maintain their current training and preparation of Soldiers coming to ALC.
2. IN ALC Students are required to qualify with the BUIS during the Marksmanship program. We have consistently seen right at about a 50% failure rate on day one when students show their skill level during the "shoot-in" event. It is highly advised that students get training and experience with the BUIS prior to attendance.
3. 11C's are getting more of an opportunity to attend IMLC after graduation. Units are encouraged to make the time available for these students as we've seen an increase in slots.

Recent Changes:

1. We are now teaching four of the Leader Core Competencies (LCCs) that will be fully slated in 2021. The two important one's we have implemented are the Case Study and Persuasive Essay. These will help the students with their research, understanding, and ability to write for future PME schooling as it is now mandated starting in BLC. Students wishing to prepare for these classes would benefit from understanding how to utilize PURDUE OWL writing lab. https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html

Future Plans:

1. We are working with the Infantry School, AMU, AWG, and the 75th Ranger Regiment to update and create a better marksmanship program. Training will be aligned with the release of TC 3-20.40.
2. We are continuing our Multi-Echelon Leader Development (MELD) training efforts with the 198th IN BDE and are continuing to look for opportunities to have future SLs interact and lead the OSUT soldiers in training.

Website

<http://www.benning.army.mil/MCoE/NCOA/IN-ALC.html>

Armor

Advanced Leader Course

The Armor Advance Leader Course (AR ALC) is steadily evolving in order to educate our Armor Noncommissioned Officers. We have received tremendous feedback from the Senior Leaders serving in our Define CMF (CMF), the AR ALC cadre, the cadre at all the Armor Regional Training Institutes, and most importantly from our Students. Additionally, we train the 91A (M1 Abrams System Maintainer) and 91M (Bradley Fighting Vehicle System Maintainer) future Shop Foreman. With the new updated Program of Instruction (POI), this course is more relevant to the operational force with the most up to date doctrine. We highly encourage ALL students attending our courses to have already displayed mastery at skill level II tasks prior to reporting in order to achieve the desired outcomes. This will give us the opportunity to build on their knowledge and experience from a doctrinal stand point. It is imperative that NCOs scheduled to attend our courses continue to seek out mentorship, both inside and outside their current organization. The training and education of our Noncommissioned Officers remains our number one priority.



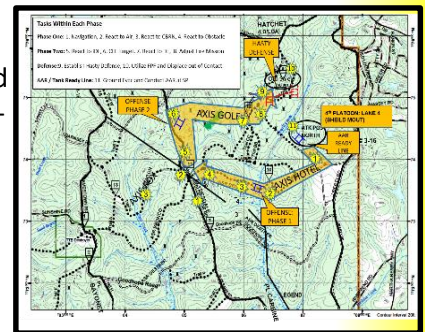
1SG Sheldon O. Johnson
Armor ALC 1SG

Trends: Students consistently report to AR ALC with a general lack of knowledge and the ability to apply the fundamentals at their current skill level. This is preventing our instructors from ensuring the students achieve the maximum desired outcome of the course due to significant time spent retraining on skill level II tasks. Areas that most of our students continue to struggle in are Dismounted Land Navigation, Vehicle Identification (ID), and Operational Terms and Symbols. Student feedbacks reinforced that they are not receiving the proper individual and crew level training at their home station prior to AR ALC. Numerous students commented that GST is a “check the block” training event at their home station because the focus is on platoon and higher level training. If there is any truth to this feedback, then it is imperative that leaders at the unit level implement individual and crew level training tasks to standard, which will enable us to bridge the gap and set these young Noncommissioned Officers up for success as our future Armor leaders.



Recent Changes:

We are continuing to enhance our week-long Field Training Exercise (FTX), where we evaluate students on their ability to apply the fundamentals in a field environment. Beginning with Class 003-19, the 19K students will be in a closed-protective hatch posture while conducting their crew Situational Training Exercise (STX) lane. They will also maneuver at night in the same posture, and then progress into section STX. We also recently removed the 19D Terrain Board assessment and replaced it with a field practical exercise for both the Reconnaissance Module (Tactics I) and the Security Module (Tactics II).



Future Plans:

Beginning with class 004-19 (6 JUN 19 – 26 JUL 19), the following assessments will become course critical, which means they will be grounds for dismissal from the course for academic failure: Vehicle ID for both 19K and 19D, Offense (Move I), and Defense (Move II) for 19K. Our Vehicle ID class can be found on the Army Career Tracker (ACT) page, or at <https://atn.army.mil/vehicle-identification/vehicle-identification>. Once you log into ATN, you can also type "vehicle identification" into the search bar to access the class. This is the slide deck ALC students are trained on in their 8 hour block.

Basic Leader Course

Trends:

Soldiers and units are now aware that the Program of Instruction (POI) has been overhauled and updated this past year. They are arriving better prepared for the course and we hope this trend continues.

Many Soldiers are still arriving with paperwork missing or not completely filled out. Additionally, Soldiers struggle with assembling their Army Service Uniform or having them properly fitted IAW AR 670-1.



Recent Changes:

Updates to the Program of Instruction (POI) continue to occur due to the feedback from Cadre and prior students, over how to better improve the course. One new update with the Individual Student Assessment Plan (ISAP) is that students will Conduct Individual Training (CIT) evaluations completely in an outdoor environment and in full combat equipment.

Previously, students had the option of giving a class inside the classroom. The intent is to have students conduct a Sergeant's Time Training session using the 8-step training model, incorporating training management principles, and risk management, to assess the students' ability to conduct individual training and develop leaders who are agile, adaptive, and focus on lethality.



Future Plans:

The Henry Caro NCOA Basic Leader Course here at Fort Benning is preparing for the implementation of the new Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT). We currently have our Master Fitness NCO certifying all personnel to be level one and two certified on the ACFT to ensure grading standards are understood by all Cadre. The intent is to have Cadre properly trained and prepared for the implementation of the ACFT well in advance of it being introduced to the force.



Once the ACFT goes into effect, we highly recommend units prepare their Soldiers for these changes prior attending BLC.

<https://www.benning.army.mil/MCoE/NCOA/BLC.html>

Army Career Tracker (ACT) Instructions

To access the Henry Caro Noncommissioned Officer Academy pages via the Army Career Tracker please follow the below steps.

1. Open web browser and go to the following address:
<https://actnow.army.mil>
2. Once you have logged into the ACT click on the “Communities” tab twice and using the drop down menu select “Other Communities”
3. On the next drop down menu select “NCO Academies”. This will bring you to a list of all NCO Academies with pages on ACT.
4. Locate the “MCoE Fort Benning” Academy link from the list and click on it. This will bring you to the Academy ACT site, where our BLC, IN ALC, AR ALC, and M-SLC post all pertinent information to their courses (reporting instructions, packing lists, student welcome letters, etc.)

NCO Academy Recognitions

M-SLC Class 001-19

Instructor of the Cycle – SFC Brad Wood, NCOA
Support of the Cycle – Mr. Billy Wilson, NCOA
Distinguished Honor Graduate – SSG William Stockton, HHC, 2-351 IN
Honor Graduate – None Selected
Iron man – SSG Kenneth Wood, HHC, RST 75th Ranger
Leadership Awardee – SSG William Moody, Greenville Recruiting Co
Volunteer – SSG Eric J. Nevadunsky, HHC, 2-15 CAV

M-SLC Class 002-19

Instructor of the Cycle – SFC Brian Butler, NCOA
Support of the Cycle – Mrs. Tracy Boatwright
Distinguished Honor Graduate – SSG Odum, E. Smith Jr., B Trp 5/15 AV, 194th Bde
Honor Graduate – None Selected
Iron man – SSG Jack E. Taylor, Cape Girardeau, 5th Recruiting Bde
Leadership Awardee – SSG Colin Boyle, MCoE, NCOA
Volunteer – SSG Stuart C. Gusti, C Co, 6th RTB

IN ALC Class 001-19 (11B)

Instructor of the Cycle – SSG Colin S. Boyle, NCOA
Support of the Cycle – NCOA Dining Facility Staff
Honor Graduate – None Selected
Distinguished Honor Graduate – SGT Dominick J. Tortorella, 1/75 IN
Iron man – SGT Thomas M. Edison, 3-15 IN
Leadership Awardee – SGT Eric D. Allinder, 1-325 AIR
Volunteer – None Selected

IN ALC Class 001-19 (11C)

Instructor of the Cycle – SSG Colin S. Boyle, NCOA
Support of the Cycle – NCOA Dining Facility Staff
Distinguished Honor Graduate – SGT Robert G. Reynolds III, 3/75 IN
Iron man – SGT Robert G. Reynolds III, 3/75 IN
Leadership Awardee – None Selected
Volunteer – None Selected

Armor 19D ALC Class 001-19

Instructor of the Cycle – SFC Brandon J. Falso, NCOA
Support of the Cycle – Mr. Ed Buckley, G-3 NCOES TM
Distinguished Honor Graduate – None Selected
Honor Graduate – SGT Christopher W. Lyon, B Trp 1-73 CAV
Iron man – None Selected
Leadership Awardee – SGT Austin C. Forby, A Trp 2-13 CAV

Armor 19K ALC Class 001-19

Instructor of the Cycle – SSG Patrick R. Naragon, NCOA
Support of the Cycle – Mr. Bennett Stewart, CCTT
Distinguished Honor Graduate – SGT Duran T. Sharplis, A Co, 1-8 CAV
Honor Graduate – None Selected
Iron man – None Selected
Leadership Awardee – SGT Cameron Drugich, HHC 2-7 IN

BLC Class 001-19

Instructor of the Cycle – SSG Hung J. Dang, NCOA
Support of the Cycle – None Selected
Distinguished Honor Graduate – SPC Samuel T. Bishop
Iron man – None Selected
Leadership Awardee – SPC Samuel T. Bishop
CMDT's INSP Awardee – None Selected

BLC Class 002-19

Instructor of the Cycle – SSG Gintana S. Farr, NCOA
Support of the Cycle – None Selected
Distinguished Honor Graduate SPC Matthew McCarthy, E Co, 3/75th RR
Iron man – SPC Steven J. Noriega, C Co, 3/75th RR
Leadership Awardee – SPC Joshua Quay, HHD, 4th RTB
CMDT's INSP Awardee – None Selected

NCO Academy Recognitions

IN ALC Class 002-19 (11B)

Instructor of the Cycle – SSG Adam L. Seals, NCOA

Support of the Cycle – None Selected

Honor Graduate – SGT Christopher J. Newborg, E Troop, 2-1 CAV, 1 SBCT

Distinguished Honor Graduate – None Selected

Iron man – SGT Henry Stumpf, HHC, 1-64 AR, 1 ABCT, 3 ID

Leadership Awardee – SGT Nicholas J. Day, HHC, 1-508 PIR, 3BCT, 82ND ABN DIV

Volunteer – None Selected

IN ALC Class 002-19 (11C)

Instructor of the Cycle – SSG Adam L. Seals, NCOA

Support of the Cycle – None Selected

Distinguished Honor Graduate – SGT Matthew P. Cain, HHC, 2-502 IN, 2 BCT, 101 ABN DIV

Iron man – SGT Martin A. PinadaLopez, HHC, 1-77 AR, 3rd BDE, 1 AD

Leadership Awardee – None Selected

Volunteer – None Selected

Armor 19D ALC Class 002-19

Instructor of the Cycle – SSG Shane A. Stabler, NCOA

Support of the Cycle – Mr. Johnny Knowles, DOTS

Distinguished Honor Graduate – SGT Stephen A. Sobotka, A Troop 2-14 CAV, 2nd BCT, 25th ID

Honor Graduate – None Selected

Iron man – SGT Alfred K. Angelo, A Troop 1-89 CAV, 2nd BDE, 10th Mountain

Leadership Awardee – SGT Brandon R. Schuster, HHC 1-35 AR, 2nd BDE, 1st AD

Armor 19K ALC Class 002-19

Instructor of the Cycle – SSG Anthony O. Cruz, NCOA

Support of the Cycle – Mr. Johnny Knowles, DOTS

Distinguished Honor Graduate – SGT Jacob B. Purcell, B TRP 1-16 CAV

Honor Graduate – None Selected

Iron man – SGT Spencer G. Worden, A TRP 1-16 CAV

Leadership Awardee – SGT Dominick E. Harris, D TRP 5-4 CAV

Armor 91M ALC Class 001-19

Instructor of the Cycle – SFC Daniel Gillespie, AR School

Support of the Cycle – None Selected

Distinguished Honor Graduate – SGT Evon C. St., Duffus, E Co, 10th Brigade Engineer Battalion

Honor Graduate – None Selected

Iron man – SGT Moises Fierro, F Co, 6/9 CAV, 3rd Bde, 2nd Cav

Leadership Awardee – SGT SGT Evon C. St., Duffus, E Co, 10th Brigade Engineer Battalion

Armor 91A ALC Class 001-19

Instructor of the Cycle – SFC Robert B. Ford, AR School

Support of the Cycle – None Selected

Distinguished Honor Graduate – SGT Edward P. Turner, H Co, 1-77 AR, 3rd ABCT, 1st AD,

Honor Graduate None Selected

Iron man – None Selected

Leadership Awardee – SGT Keena D. Lemelle, B Co, 1-66 AR, 3rd ABCT, 4th ID

BLC Class 003-19

Instructor of the Cycle – SSG Christian R. Meadows, NCOA

Support of the Cycle – None Selected

Distinguished Honor Graduate – SPC Brandon N. Metcalf, C Trp, 1-16TH CAV

Iron man – SGT Jacob D. Regan, B Co. TF 1-28TH

Leadership Awardee – SGT Jacob A. Coffman, A Co., 1ST BN, 1ST SFAB

CMDT's INSP Awardee – SPC Zachary C. Snyder, A Co, 707TH MI BN

BLC Class 004-19

Instructor of the Cycle – SSG William M. Nichols, NCOA

Support of the Cycle – None Selected

Distinguished Honor Graduate SPC Timothy C. Willis, A Co, Troop Command, MEDDAC

Iron man – SGT Earon J. Postellearman, C Co, 1-28th Task Force

Leadership Awardee – SPC Timothy C. Willis, A Co, Troop Command, MEDDAC

CMDT's INSP Awardee – SPC John J. Torres, E Co, 507th RTB

NCO Academy Recognitions

M-SLC Class 003-19

Instructor of the Cycle – George Sanchez, NCOA
Support of the Cycle – Mr. Jason Elkin,
Distinguished Honor Graduate – SSG Ryan C. Breithart,
C Co, 2-11 IN
Honor Graduate – None Selected
Iron man – SSG Conroy J. Dennis, HA Trp, 3rd Sqdn, 1st SFAB
Leadership Awardee – SSG Tyler J. Acles, 4th RSTB
Volunteer – SSG Joshua C. Plante, B Co, 138th IN, 1SBCT, 4ID

M-SLC Class 004-19

Instructor of the Cycle –
Support of the Cycle –
Distinguished Honor Graduate –
Honor Graduate –
Iron man –
Leadership Awardee –
Volunteer –

IN ALC Class 003-19 (11B)

Instructor of the Cycle – SSG Keith W. French, NCOA
Support of the Cycle – NONE SELECTED
Honor Graduate – NONE SELECTED
Distinguished Honor Graduate – SGT Nicholas E. Schettini,
B Trp, 3rd BN, 3rd SFAB
Iron man – SGT Courtney J. Ruff, B Co, 1-503rd PIR
Leadership Awardee – SGT Brady T. Gear, C Co, 2-504th PIR
Volunteer – None Selected

IN ALC Class 003-19 (11C)

Instructor of the Cycle – IN SESSION
Support of the Cycle – IN SESSION
Distinguished Honor Graduate – IN SESSION
Iron man – IN SESSION
Leadership Awardee – IN SESSION
Volunteer – IN SESSION

IN ALC Class 004-19 (11B)

Instructor of the Cycle – IN SESSION
Support of the Cycle – IN SESSION
Distinguished Honor Graduate – IN SESSION
Iron man – IN SESSION
Leadership Awardee – IN SESSION
Volunteer – IN SESSION

Armor 19D ALC Class 003-19

Instructor of the Cycle – IN SESSION
Support of the Cycle – IN SESSION
Distinguished Honor Graduate – IN SESSION
Iron man – IN SESSION
Leadership Awardee – IN SESSION
Volunteer – IN SESSION

Armor 19K ALC Class 003-19

Instructor of the Cycle – IN SESSION
Support of the Cycle – IN SESSION
Distinguished Honor Graduate – IN SESSION
Iron man – IN SESSION
Leadership Awardee – IN SESSION
Volunteer – IN SESSION

BLC Class 005-19

Instructor of the Cycle – SSG Hung J. Dang, NCOA
Support of the Cycle – None Selected
Distinguished Honor Graduate – SPC Donghek Chae, B Co 1-
19th IN BN, 198th IN BDE
Iron man – SPC Andrew G. Justice, A Co, TF 1-28th IN
Leadership Awardee CPL Kurene V. Ma'o, HHC, 198th IN BDE
CMDT's INSP Awardee – SPC Jeremy K. Foust, E Co, 1/507 PIR

BLC Class 006-19

Instructor of the Cycle – IN SESSION
Support of the Cycle – IN SESSION
Distinguished Honor Graduate – IN SESSION
Iron man – IN SESSION
Leadership Awardee – IN SESSION
CMDT's INSP Awardee – IN SESSION

NCO Academy Instructor Application

Give Back to the NCO Corps!

The Henry Caro NCO Academy is always accepting applications for those NCOs interested in becoming the best Instructors the Army has to offer. You will be challenged every day training and educating NCOs from across the Army and will be helping to shape the future of our NCO Corps.

Instructor Badge(s): Future instructors will attend the Common Faculty Development Instructor Course (CFDIC) and earn the special qualifying identifier “8” and can earn the Basic Instructor Badge as early as 6 months once you are certified. Opportunities are available to also earn the Senior and Master Instructor Badges.

Civilian Education: Our Instructors have ample time to complete civilian education whether online or in the classroom. The Fort Benning Education Center and the participating colleges do an outstanding job at providing classes that our flexible with our schedules.

Functional Courses: The leadership here at the NCO Academy understand and encourage the continued development of our Instructors and provide multiple opportunities for functional course attendance. Our Instructors have graduated from *Airborne, Pathfinder, Ranger, Army Reconnaissance Course* and many other courses while assigned here as an Instructor.

Promotion Potential: Instructors assigned to the NCO Academy have a high potential for promotion. Over the past 2 Promotion Boards, 22 SSGs have been selected for SFC, 4 SFCs have been selected for MSG, and 2 out of 4 1SGs have been selected for attendance to the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy

Select the link below to apply

<http://www.benning.army.mil/MCoE/ncoa/InstructorApplication.html>

Follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Fort-Benning-NCO-Academy-1629154024022775/>

NCO Academy Contacts and Links

	Phone	Email	Website
The Henry Caro NCO Academy	(706) 545-9412	eric.b.olsen.mil@mail.mil	http://www.benning.army.mil/MCoE/ncoa/index.html
The Commandant	(706) 545-2233		
The Deputy Commandant	(706) 545-2235	eric.r.bunuan.mil@mail.mil	
Operations NCOIC	(706) 545-5528	matthew.s.reel.mil@mail.com	
Maneuver Senior Leader Course			
First Sergeant	(706) 545-2586	Brandon.r.herron.mil@mail.mil	http://www.benning.army.mil/MCoE/ncoa/M-SLC.html
Senior SGL	(706) 545-5528	timothy.j.Harshbarger.mil@mail.mil	
Senior SGL		Brad.d.wood.mil@mail.mil	
Infantry Advanced Leader Course			
First Sergeant	(706) 545-0986	Benjamin.g.brooks.mil@mail.mil	http://www.benning.army.mil/MCoE/ncoa/INALC.html
11B Senior SGL	(706) 545-6531	Adam.l.seals.mil@mail.mil	
11C Senior SGL	(706) 626-3218	samuel.s.heer.mil@mail.mil	
Armor Advanced Leader Course			
First Sergeant	(706) 626-7417	Sheldon.o.Johnson.mil@mail.mil	http://www.benning.army.mil/MCoE/ncoa/ARALC.html
19D Senior SGL	(706) 626-1636	Robert.b.Kramm.mil@mail.mil	
19K Senior SGL	(706) 626-1637	codey.l.bob.mil@mail.mil	
91A/M Senior SGL (Ft. Benning)	(706) 626- 1042	donald.r.harrison40.mil@mail.mil	
Basic Leader Course			
First Sergeant	(706) 545-5050	david.e.gurba.mil@mail.mil	http://www.benning.army.mil/MCoE/ncoa/BLC.html
Senior	(706) 545-5784	andrea.g.pitts.mil@mail.mil	
Senior	(706) 545-5784	christopher.p.collen.mil@mail.mil	