



History of the Henry Caro Noncommissioned Officer Academy

On 15 October 1973, the Noncommissioned Officer School of the Infantry (NCOSI) was established at Fort Benning, Georgia.

On 12 September 1974, NCOSI was provisionally established as a separate battalion, commanded and staffed by noncommissioned officers. CSM Henry Caro became the first enlisted Commandant of NCOSI. Today all NCO academies are commanded by Command Sergeants Major - the only enlisted Commandants in our Army.

On 16 December 1974, NCOSI was officially subordinate to the School Brigade, United States Army Infantry School, with the mission of providing command, administrative and logistical support to assigned and attached personnel.

To accomplish its mission, NCOSI organized with a battalion headquarters; a headquarters company, which was responsible for ANCOC; an "A" company, which was responsible for BNCOC and PNCOC; and a "B" company, which was responsible for a primary leadership course (PLC).

The Noncommissioned Officer Education System (NCOES) grew in the 70s and 80s. On 13 April 1984, the first Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC) reported to the Fort Benning NCO Academy, replacing both PNCOC and PLC. The Primary Leadership Development Course emphasized how to lead and train, and the duties, responsibilities, and authorities of NCOs at the team and section level regardless of branch or gender.

The Sergeants Major Academy is responsible for developing the Common Leader Training Tasks for all NCOES courses which is approved by the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). Each Branch Commandant is responsible for developing the combat critical tasks to be taught and evaluated for their particular branch at the basic and advanced NCO educational levels.

NCOES is the vertical progressive ladder that provides formal NCO education at that critical point in one's military career to properly prepare him/her to perform at the next higher level. NCOES is also horizontally integrated with the commissioned officer education system, thus ensuring that commissioned officers and NCOs receive similar subjects and current doctrine during their respective educational courses as to be compatible in their joint assignment following graduation.

In late 1986, the TRADOC Commander, General Carl E. Vuono, directed that all NCO Academies would come directly under their respective installation Command Sergeant Major and Commanding General for command and control. He also directed that Drill Sergeant Schools be moved under the NCO Academies umbrella. Even though the Drill Sergeant School is not a level of NCOES, it is still professional NCO training.

On 1 February 1987, the NCO Academy became officially subordinate to the United States Army Infantry Center Command Sergeant Major, and consisted of a headquarters detachment to handle all the administrative, logistical, and training support requirements for the Infantry Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course, the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course and the Primary Leadership Development Course.

In June 1987, MG Kenneth C. Leuer stated that the training of the Noncommissioned Officer Corps would be one of his priority missions at Fort Benning, Georgia. He directed Fort Benning's Chief of Staff, Colonel James I. Daily, to provide the guidance and resources required to renovate an old elementary school (Faith Middle School). Colonel Daily was the driving force behind building the most outstanding NCO Training Complex in the Army.

In July 1988, the command and control of the Drill Sergeant School was shifted from the Infantry Training Center to the Fort Benning NCO Academy.

In December 1988, MG Michael F. Spigelmire directed that Fort Benning's NCO Academy assume the responsibility of developing and conducting a local First Sergeant Orientation Course to be implemented early in 1989. The First Sergeant Course's mission is to train senior noncommissioned officers to perform both tactical and garrison related first sergeant duties with emphasis on battle focused training, support of tactical operations, day-to-day problem solving, Soldier family care, and communicative skills.

In 1989, the Henry Caro NCO Academy won the Army Community of Excellence award. The year 1989 was also proclaimed the "Year of the NCO" by the Chief of Staff General Carl E. Vuono. MG Leuer approved that Fort Benning's new NCO Academy Training Complex be named after its first enlisted Commandant - CSM (deceased) Henry Caro.

On 24 January 1989, SMA Julius W. Gates officially dedicated Fort Benning's NCO Academy as the Henry Caro Noncommissioned Officer Academy.

In 1992 the command and control of the Drill Sergeant School was shifted from under the umbrella of the NCO Academy to the Infantry Training Brigade.

In the summer of 1996 the Battle Staff Course was activated under the NCO Academy. The Battle Staff Course mission is developed and designed to train senior noncommissioned officers on the collection and processing of information in the Tactical Operation Center (TOC).

On 25 May 1999, the command and control of the Drill Sergeant School shifted back from the Infantry Training Brigade to the NCO Academy.

On 14 February 2000, the Headquarters of the NCO Academy was relocated to the west wing of Infantry Hall. The NCO Academy building, formerly Faith Middle School, was torn down.

In October 2005, the Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC) was formally renamed as the Warrior Leader Course (WLC).

In November 2005, the first BNCOC Mobile Training Team (MTT) deployed to Ft Carson, CO to conduct an on site 11B BNCOC Course to support the ARFORGEN reset process by training NCOs at their home station who otherwise may have missed an opportunity to complete BNCOC at this point in their career and thus contribute to a growing backlog. In May 2007, BNCOC MTTs deployed to two OCONUS locations, Alaska and Germany, to conduct 11B and 11C BNCOC courses to ARFORGEN reset units.

The 2005 BRAC Act combines the Ft Knox Armor NCO Academy with the Ft Benning Infantry NCO Academy under one Maneuver Center of Excellence NCO Academy at Ft Benning by 2011. The MCoE NCOA will train all Infantry and Armor NCOs in their BNCOC and ANCOC requirements as well as offer regional non-MOS specific training in the Warrior Leader Course. The combined NCO Academy will continue to offer the Battle Staff NCO Course and the First Sergeants Course. Also, as part of the 2005 BRAC Act, all Drill Sergeant Schools will be consolidated at Ft Jackson, SC.

On 05 September 2006, the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course (ANCOC) was formally renamed as the Maneuver Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course. Maneuver ANCOC is now combined to include both Infantry (11B and 11C) and Armor (19K and 19D) MOS tracks.

On 06 September 2006, the first pilot class of the Maneuver Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course began. Maneuver ANCOC combines the best elements of CMF 11 and CMF 19 course content and introduces newer, more relevant subjects, most of which is experienced in small group instruction consisting of all 4 MOSs. Only one week of the seven week course is MOS specific. This will better prepare our senior NCOs to function in combined arms teams. This course, along with the Maneuver Captains Career Course, paves the way for the establishment of the Maneuver Center of Excellence in 2011.

On 3 October 2007, the Ft Benning NCO Academy graduated its last class of Drill Sergeants. Two weeks later on 17 October 2007, the Fort Benning's Drill Sergeant School was officially deactivate, colors cased, and command and control relinquished to the Drill Sergeant School at Fort Jackson, SC.

In December 2008, the Headquarters of the NCO Academy was relocated from Infantry Hall to buildings 1710, 1712, and 1713. This location served as a temporary headquarters while the new NCO Academy Headquarters building (bldg. 74) underwent complete renovations.

On 01 October 2009, current combat operations demonstrated that Noncommissioned Officer Development must change to meet the operational Army's needs and ensure relevance in the operational environment as well as future operations. Therefore the transformation of the Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course (BNCOC) and the Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course (ANCOC) to the Advanced Leaders Course (ALC) and Senior Leaders Course (SLC) was implemented.

In the fall of 2012, General Robert Cone, Commander, TRADOC Headquarters, honored the MCoE Henry Caro Noncommissioned Officer Academy as an "Institution of Excellence" through an accreditation process conducted by the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). This is the highest accreditation level possible.

In March 2013, renovations to the new NCO Academy Headquarters building are completed and the NCO Academy Headquarters element relocates to its new home in building 74.

In August 2013, the NCO Academy officially became a subordinate unit to the 199th Leader Brigade, United States Army Maneuver Center of Excellence, with the mission of providing command, administrative and logistical support to assigned and attached personnel.

2 February 2015, History is made as the Henry Caro Noncommissioned Officer Academy presented 37 cadre with the Army Instructor Badge, which is the first identification badge approved for wear since the Army Recruiter Badge in 1967.

On 1 Oct 15, the Warrior Leader Course (WLC) was formally renamed as the Basic Leader Course (BLC).

In the spring of 2016, General David G. Perkins, Commander, TRADOC Headquarters, honors the MCoE Henry Caro Noncommissioned Officer Academy as an "Institution of Excellence" through an accreditation process conducted by the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). Earning this rating for the second time, back to back, is a direct reflection of the long hours, hard work and sacrifices the members of this unit have made to ensure success.

In October 2018, the NCO Academy was released from attachment as a subordinate unit to the 199th Leader Brigade and realigned directly under the Maneuver Center of Excellence leadership.

Today the Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCoE) Noncommissioned Officer Academy educates, trains, and develops leaders at all levels from the operational force by providing excellent academic and performance based evaluations in an institutional training environment to develop smart, fast, lethal, and precise small unit leaders. Students will leave the Academy having the educational experience of their life ready to reenergize their units with the knowledge gained at this institution. Each leader will further develop tactical, operational and strategic skills required to be adaptive and build cohesive teams that are resilient and committed to the Army Profession with the ability to succeed in conditions of uncertainty.

“Standards and Discipline”

Since activation, the following noncommissioned officers have commanded the Henry Caro Noncommissioned Officer Academy:

Commandant

Tenure

CSM Henry Caro	Dec 1974 to Nov 1975
CSM Firman Sowers, Jr.	Nov 1975 to Mar 1977
CSM Frank A. Caito	Mar 1977 to Jun 1979
CSM Charles E. Bohon	Jun 1979 to Mar 1980
CSM Russell Anderson	Mar 1980 to May 1981
CSM P. D. Rosado	May 1981 to Mar 1982

CSM Willie W. Snow	Mar 1982 to May 1983
CSM Richard L. Smith	May 1983 to Oct 1983
CSM John W. Prost	Oct 1983 to Apr 1985
CSM David J. Kloss	Apr 1985 to Sep 1986
CSM William N. Roland	Sep 1986 to Aug 1987
CSM James W. Fowler	Aug 1987 to Mar 1990
CSM Wayne L. Gibney	Mar 1990 to Jul 1992
CSM Allan R. Halstead	Jul 1992 to Jul 1994
CSM Willie G. Wells	Jul 1994 to Nov 1997
CSM George R. Monk	Nov 1997 to May 2002
CSM Charles L. Raper, Jr.	May 2002 to Jan 2005
CSM Steven M. Warnock	Jan 2005 to Dec 2005
CSM Jay A. Brimstin	Dec 2005 to Apr 2008
CSM Zoltan James	Apr 2008 to Jan 2010
CSM Mark A. Horsley	Jan 2010 to Aug 2012
CSM William D. Hain	Aug 2012 to Dec 2013
CSM Timothy L Metheny	Dec 2013 to Jul 2015
CSM Michael J. Ames	Jul 2015 to Jun 2018
CSM Eric B. Olsen	Jun 2018 to Feb 2020
CSM Joe C. Davis	Feb 2020 to Present