

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Congratulations to SFC Ziacik and SSG Valadez for their commitment to excellence
- IN ALC and TC 3-20.40
- AR ALC and VID
- BLC Changes and updates

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

Academy Leaders	2
Maneuver Senior Leader	2
Infantry Advanced Leader	2
Armor Advanced Leader	3
The Dep	3
Basic Leader Course	3

The Backbone

SECOND QUARTER

DECEMBER 18, 2019

Committed to Excellence

On 10 October 2019 SFC Louis Ziacik, Chief Instructors for the Henry Caro Noncommissioned Officer Academy formally received the Master Instructor Badge, becoming the 41st recipient across the Army and the first ever at Fort Benning.

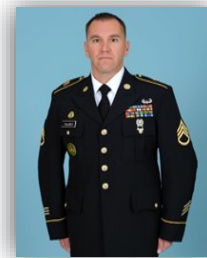


SFC Louis Ziacik, Master Instructor



SSG Michael Valadez, an Instructor with Armor Advanced Leaders Course won the MCoE Instructor of the Year Competition. The Henry Caro Noncommissioned Officers Academy has now claimed this honor two years in a row. SFC Ziacik in 2018 and SSG Valadez in 2019.

SSG Valadez is postured to compete in the upcoming TRADOC Instructor of the Year Competition.



SSG Michael Valadez, Instructor of the Year

Commandant's Message

Our NCO Corps is currently postured to be better than ever as we approach the NCO 2020 Strategy's concluding year with the Army's shift from COIN to Decisive Action (shifting our focus to "sharpening our craft.") TRADOC (including this NCOA) is increasing academic rigor in

NCO professional development courses so it's imperative that units appropriately follow-through with this rigor by recognizing their NCOs properly, whether they graduate with honors or are dismissed prior to graduating. The ARs 350-1 and 600-8-19 detail the required unit

commander's actions which may include imposing suspensions of favorable actions and bars to continued service for negative actions. These are just a few prioritized talk points that directly affect this NCOAs supported units but there are so many more current and emerging measures

Commandant (continued)



**CSM Eric Olsen,
Commandant Henry Caro NCOA**

to ensuring a quality and progressing Backbone of our Army. We encourage all to stay abreast of all NCO Corps initiatives through other key platforms such as the TRADOC, NCOL COE and HRC official websites, newsletters, and social media sites.

On a more somber note, my time as the NCOA Commandant is suddenly starting to close with a recent decision to move my family to Fort Hood into another brigade position

in March. It has been an absolute honor serving the NCOs of the Maneuver Force. There are few jobs available to Senior NCOs that professionally develop us and allow us the opportunity to positively influence the NCOs across the Total Army Maneuver Force like an NCOA Commandant, and it's critical that the Army's senior leaders keep NCOs empowered in this position as compared to most other Armies. This job has brought so

many opportunities for positive change, and the leaders of the Henry Caro NCOA and our higher HQ have proudly faced the challenge to better the NCOs to whom we owe the effort. I will continue to advocate for what we know as RIGHT within the NCO Corps as I circulate into new positions, and never forget those I've met during my tenure here on Fort Benning. Thanks

“As a member of our team or as a student, you will experience winning and learning.”

Maneuver Senior Leader Course

As the Maneuver Senior Leader course we strive to provide the most professional form of instruction expected from seasoned Senior Noncommissioned Officers. Our cadre of instructors consisting of 19D, 19K, 11B and 11C have a vast range of experiences in both FORSCOM and institutional assignments. We are what we expect from our graduates,

professionals and experts in our field. You will be better after you leave here, either as a member of our team or as a student. *1SG Jose Torres, MSLC*

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“Sergeants are leaving the course understanding the New Marksmanship qualification from TC 3-

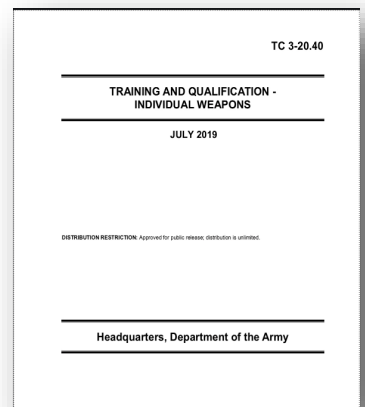


Infantry Advanced

The Infantry Advanced Leader Course (IN ALC) is steadily evolving in order to educate our Infantry Noncommissioned Officers. We have received tremendous feedback from the Senior Leaders serving in our career manage-

ment field, the IN ALC cadre, and the cadre at all 13 of the Infantry Regional Training Institutes, and most importantly from our Students. *1SG Billy Harris, IN ALC*

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Armor Advanced Leader Course



ISG
Sheldon
Johnson

The Armor Advanced Leader Course is transforming to ensure our Armor Noncommissioned Officers are receiving the most relevant doctrinal training on current skill level III tasks. In April 2019, Vehicle Identification (VID)

became a course critical assessment. Students arrived and struggled continuously with this critical task. Over the last two classes 005-19 and 001-20 students have demonstrated drastic improvement and reported that they have downloaded the study material on ATN and the NCOA ACT website. Their preparation through study prior to reporting to the course has led to success. We challenge leaders across the Army to mentor and develop junior Noncommissioned Officers on skill level II and skill level III tasks prior to reporting

to AR ALC. Educating and developing our junior NCOs is our number one priority here at the Academy. *ISG Sheldon Johnson, AR ALC*

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“Be the one who does what you say you are going to do.”

The Dep

The Academy is interested in leaders who are called to a greater sense of purpose to serve and provide quality education to the Army’s future. We are seeking people who value our purpose and aim to inspire others through their optimism and commitment to the team. Leaders who exemplify character attributes inherent in the Profession of Arms are the people

we are eager to bring into this family to provide the most enlightening experience to our students. The Henry Caro NCO Academy is seeking critical thinkers that have innovative ideas to enhance the institution and broaden the learning experience. Standards and Discipline are two important aspects of this institution and our goal is to develop leaders and strengthen the

Army community. Fit and disciplined Noncommissioned Officers who strive to grow personally and professionally, we welcome you. To find out how to apply, visit us on



SGM Chris Masters, Deputy

Basic Leader Course

Upcoming Changes: Starting 6 January 2020 all COMPO I, Active Army students will be administered an APFT and Height and Weight on Day 0. This is an entrance requirement and there will not be a retest. BLC is also migrating to a new school packet standard, beginning with a digital pre-execution check-

list, effective in February 2020. All Soldiers with an ATRRS reservation and on the waitlist will be required to have the digital packet to G3 prior to ATRRS entry. This will ensure that all administrative requirements are met and in-processing of students is conducted efficiently.

ter prepared when reporting to school, but we have seen that many Soldiers continue to struggle with PRT evaluations. Evaluations begin week one and many are not prepared to properly lead PRT in accordance with FM 7-22. *ISG Jeffery Wade, BLC*

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Trends: Overall, Soldiers are bet-



BLC Physical Readiness Training



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Standards & Discipline



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.

Give Back!

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: 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 is flexible with our schedules.

Functional Courses: The leadership here at the NCO Academy understands and encourages the continued development of our cadre and staff. We provide multiple opportunities for functional course attendance and have graduates from *Airborne, Pathfinder, Ranger, Army Reconnaissance Course* and others while assigned to the Academy.

Promotion Potential: Instructors assigned to the Academy have a high potential for promotion. Over the past two Evaluation Boards, 22 SSGs



**HENRY CARO NCO ACADEMY
FORT BENNING, GEORGIA
2019**



have been selected for SFC, four SFCs have been selected for MSG, and two ISGs have been selected for attendance to the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy.