

FORUM & FEATURES



Advanced NCO Course

NCO ACADEMY STAFF

The best qualified Infantry staff sergeants in the Army are selected to attend the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course (ANCOC) at Fort Benning. Here are some of the things these prospective students should know before they leave their units to attend the course.

First, they must have six months left on their enlistments at the end of the course. If they will not, they must either reenlist or extend their enlistments before leaving their parent units.

Any NCO selected to attend the course who has a temporary profile that would keep him from taking part in physical training, physical readiness testing, or field duty should ask to be rescheduled to attend later. If he reports to Fort Benning with a limiting profile, he may be released from ANCOC for medical reasons. (Those NCOs who are over 40 years of age must have medical evaluations and clearances to take part in the physical training activities.)

Noncommissioned officers who have previously completed ANCOC by correspondence and who do not wish to attend the resident course must go through their chains of command and supporting personnel officers to decline attendance; if they report for the course, they will be retained and

required to complete it.

Students should plan to arrive so that they can report to Building 17E (Wilkins Hall), Main Post, Fort Benning, not later than 1200 on the Sunday before the course begins the next day, Monday. Activities for that Sunday will include a weigh-in, the issue of supplies and equipment, and a unit orientation.

RECORDS

Each student when he reports must have with him the following records and documents:

- At least five copies of his travel/PCS orders and amendments, as appropriate.
- A copy of his hazardous duty orders, if he is currently on jump status.
- A copy each of his Form 2 and Form 2-1.
- A copy of his DA Form 31, with provision for leave after the course, as applicable.
- His medical and dental records, immunization record, and identification tags.
- A copy of all his limiting medical profiles. These should also be posted in his medical records.
- A copy of his over-40 physical ex-

amination, completed and posted in his medical records, as appropriate.

- A copy of his "pinch test/skin fold test" if he has been granted an exception to the height and weight standards shown in AR 600-9. The test must be dated within 14 days of the date of his arrival for the course.

- The personnel, finance, dental, and health records for TDY enroute students. TDY and return personnel need not bring their finance records.

NCOs who are ordered to ANCOC should request advance travel pay or per diem before leaving their parent units, if they think they will need it. The per diem rate is about \$3.50 per day. The processing time at Fort Benning for payment of advance travel and per diem is about two or three weeks. (Students must also be prepared to pay \$10 for the mandatory dining in.)

Students attending the course, with the exception of those stationed at Fort Benning, will be taken off separate rations and provided a meal card. They will be billeted in two-man BEQ rooms, with maid service provided and washers and dryers available in the building. The charge for the BEQ is \$3 per day, two-man occupancy. (This charge is reimbursed when an NCO processes his travel expenses upon returning to his parent unit or

upon reporting to his new duty station.)

The ANCOC uses the same appearance standards as those detailed in AR 670-1. Insignia and badges that are not authorized by the Department of the Army are also not authorized by the ANCOC, with the following exceptions:

- The jungle expert badge may be worn by authorized personnel who are in a TDY and return status to the 82d Airborne Division or to units stationed in Panama.

- The 2d Armored Division patch worn above "US ARMY" is permitted for personnel in a TDY and return status to the 2d Armored Division.

- The USAREUR authorized U.S. flag replica worn on the left sleeve by personnel assigned to the 509th in Italy and who are in a TDY and return status is permitted.

HATS AND BERETS

Drill Sergeant hats and airborne, Ranger, and Special Forces berets will not be worn nor will the green uniform trousers be bloused at any official function during the course. The hat and the berets may be worn and the trousers bloused when the NCO students are off duty and during the graduation ceremony.

Students must bring the following clothing and equipment in at least the numbers shown:

- One Class A uniform, complete with accessories, awards, and decorations.

- One pair of low quarter shoes.

- One garrison cap.

- Two pairs of black combat boots.

- Two pairs of BDUs.

- Two additional pairs of BDUs or conventional fatigues.

- One BDU or conventional baseball cap (as appropriate).

- One pile cap.

- One field jacket.

- One pair of black gloves with inserts.

- One raincoat.

- One sweat band for steel helmet.

- One lensatic compass.

- One set of earplugs with case.

- Four T-shirts (green, brown, or white) without stenciled name.

- Three white T-shirts, crew neck (for PT).

- One pair of running shoes.

- Two pairs of white socks.

- One white shirt.

- One bow tie.

- Ruck sack (optional).

- Kevlar or conventional jump helmet for personnel on jump status (optional).

- Dress blues (optional).

The following requirements have been established for graduation from the course:

- Pass the APRT with at least 60 points in each event. APRTs are administered to standards in accordance with FM 21-20.

- Pass the land navigation field examination.

- Pass all academic examinations.

- Maintain an academic average of at least 70 percent. Students whose averages fall below 70 percent after the fifth academic week are subject to appear before an academic evaluation board.

- Maintain weight in accordance with standards outlined in AR 600-9.

Noncommissioned officers who have any questions about the course should feel free to call the ANCOC chief instructor at AUTOVON 835-7015/1478; Commercial (404) 545-7015/1478. After duty hours, the NCO Academy special duty NCO can be reached at AUTOVON 835-3310; Commercial (404) 545-3310. The mailing address is Chief Instructor, ANCOC, NCOA, TSB, Fort Benning, Georgia 31905.

NCOs selected to attend the course are encouraged to write or call at least five weeks before their class starts to check on any possible changes in regulations or policy.

FAOAC: A "7x50" View

CAPTAIN TIMOTHY A. SCULLY

Each morning as the sun creeps into the sky over the prairie dogs at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, a few dauntless captains can be heard to remark "another great day to be in the Infantry!" Armed with charts, darts, camp stools, and calculators, these infantry officers move to the sound of cannon

fire as exchange students at the Field Artillery Officer Advanced Course (FAOAC). The course of instruction is just a little different from that of the Infantry School, and so the following is a "7x50" view of the experience from one who has been there.

Twenty-four Infantry captains are selected each year by the U.S. Army Military Personnel Center to attend the seven-and-one-half month Field Artillery Officer Advanced Course. (This exchange of officers is part of a program that is designed to broaden the officer corps' knowledge of com-