

DRIVER'S SEAT

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ANCOC/BNCOC Scheduled Training For FY 97

Welcome to the Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course (ANCOC)/Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course (BNCOC/CA). Congratulations on your selection for attendance, a significant milestone in your career development. The United States Army Noncommissioned Officers Academy at Fort Knox, Kentucky, is here to assist you to further your career by providing the finest career development training.

This fiscal year, approximately 195 staff sergeants and 686 sergeants should receive a letter that starts this way from the commandant of the Fort Knox Noncommissioned Officers Academy. However, a more realistic expectation for attendance has only 50% of that number attending and getting the letter. The reasons are always many and varied why those who should don't attend, but most of them boil down to our responsibility as NCOs to take care of our soldiers.

Course selection and attendance is a significant milestone in a soldier's career and directly couples to his promotion to the next grade, or not. Supervisors must take a long hard look at the career impact of deferring, or allowing a soldier to defer, his attendance. With the Army's increased competitiveness and promotions scarcity, the loss of a school seat is potentially devastating. When a soldier receives notification of his class date, the chain of command must make every effort to ensure he arrives on time and is prepared to negotiate the course.

We all know that the section sergeants, platoon sergeants, first ser-

geants, and command sergeants major are key players in preparing a soldier to attend ANCOC/BNCOC. Another key player, often unnoticed or under-utilized, is the Brigade Schools NCO. He is available to provide information and access to the Army Training Requirements and Resources System (ATRRS). ATRRS will provide the soldier with information necessary to ensure a smooth transition into the school environment, such as the names of prospective students and their class dates, a welcome letter from the commandant, equipment/clothing packing list, commercial and DSN telephone numbers for the Academy, and a list of subjects taught in the respective courses, just to name a few. Once the schools NCO has provided the soldier and his chain of command with information, the first line supervisor must take swift action.

The command must ensure the soldier meets the Army height and weight requirements and be able to pass an Army Physical Fitness Test. If the soldier has a permanent profile, the restrictions on physical activity must be indicated clearly on the appropriate form. Soldiers with temporary profiles may not attend the course until the profile and recovery periods are completed. Soldiers who do not meet these requirements will be returned to their respective unit.

Areas that are sometimes overlooked include The Adult Battery of Education (TABE). Presently, scoring in the 10.0 percentile or higher in reading and vocabulary on the TABE is not a require-

ment for attendance. But historically, those who have scored lower on the TABE have encountered difficulty in successful completion of the course. If the soldier is weak in either of these areas, provide him the opportunity to take courses at the local education center to improve his reading and vocabulary skills.

If a soldier has been detailed outside the CMF, or worked in a position that calls for his MOS but does not allow his involvement in the day-to-day MOS activities, he is at a disadvantage when he arrives at the course. A thorough knowledge of Common Leader Training (CLT) and how to apply it properly will go a long way toward the soldier's success. Finally, the chain of command must conduct a thorough interview with the attendee to cover subjects such as financial stability (adequate funds for the family left at present duty station, but also sufficient funds to defray the cost of BEQ living while attending ANCOC; the ideal solution would be the Government American Express Card); marital status (married, separated, divorced, divorce pending); child care arrangements; power of attorney for wife and child care provider; serviceman's group life insurance (SGLI) data updated; and Privately Owned Vehicle (POV) inspection. Any area not properly addressed could lead to a problem that causes additional stress for the student and prevents him from focusing on his school experience. The Academy environment is stressful enough without adding unnecessary or preventable problems.

Course	Class Number	Start Date
ANCOC (19K)	005	14 Sep 97
BNCOC (19D)	502	30 Mar 97
BNCOC (19D)	004	11 May 97
BNCOC (19D)	005	20 Jul 97
BNCOC (19D)	503	10 Aug 97
BNCOC (19K)	005	30 Mar 97
BNCOC (19K)	006	11 May 97
BNCOC (19K)	502	1 Jun 97
BNCOC (19K)	007	20 Jul 97
BNCOC (19K)	008	10 Aug 97

Ideally, the soldier should arrive at least 24 hours prior to the start of the course. He should have a copy of his DA Form 2A and 2-1, 10 copies of DD

Form 1610, orders with any amendments, and a copy of his permanent profile or over-40 physical clearance if applicable.

The Academy environment will be a unique experience which requires an open mind and a commitment to learn. At all times, the soldier must conduct himself in a manner that will reflect credit upon himself, his unit, and the noncommissioned officer corps. All evaluations are situation-based and require the soldier to demonstrate how to think, rather than what to think. It will be a challenging and rewarding experience. Guaranteed.

The Fort Knox Noncommissioned Officers Academy, under the command

of CSM Kevin P. Garvey and his instructors, is prepared and capable of providing high quality education to CMF 19 soldiers attending ANCOC or BNCOC. The academy is capable of handling an ANCOC class of 80 students in both the 19K or 19D MOS; with BNCOC capable of handling 60 students in both the 19K or 19D MOS. The class schedule for the remainder of FY 97 appears at left.

The Fort Knox Noncommissioned Officers Academy will provide each of your soldiers the necessary tools to make them successful and an asset to their unit and the United States Army. Remember, prepare your soldiers well, and you will set them up for success.

Forge the Thunderbolt!