

# DRIVER'S SEAT

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## Consolidation “A Vision Realized”

To train tank commanders or cavalry scout section sergeants/squad leaders to be technically and tactically proficient in skill level three tasks, to fight, maintain, train, and sustain their crew/section and to perform duties of a tank commander or scout section sergeant in armor/cavalry units. This purpose is the first item in the CMF 19 Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course (BNCOC) program of instruction (POI). Starting in the fourth quarter, FY 96, all 19D/19K sergeants (P) will attend BNCOC only at Fort Knox, Kentucky, which is a big change in the current way we train our NCO leaders. Through consolidation, Fort Knox will be keeping in step with the Army's school philosophy of “One Course, One Standard, One Army.”

The consolidation effort has been an ongoing project and supports the downsizing of the Army and the Armor Force. With BNCOC consolidation effective in the fourth quarter, FY 96, the vision has become reality. Just four years ago, seven external academies and Fort Knox trained CMF 19 soldiers. Due to the end of the Cold War, downsizing, and budget cuts, armor soldiers stationed in Europe since October 1993 started attending BNCOC at Fort Knox. Gradually, four other academies closed and divided their student load among the other existing academies. When the decision was made to consolidate at Fort Knox, there were only two external academies and Fort Knox still operating.

Consolidation of the CMF 19 BNCOC at Fort Knox enhances standardization of training and allows the Army to keep the school portion of a

soldier's training within TRADOC. The necessary ammunition and equipment is available to support hands-on instruction. A solid instructional base exists, and adequate space is available to house the BNCOC student. A big advantage to students will be in the area of simulation. The Battle Lab, SIMNET, and Test Bed allow the students to become exposed to state-of-the-art simulation training unavailable anywhere outside of Fort Knox. The young soldier will receive a comprehensive and challenging course. This will relieve budget constraints on organizations that previously sponsored academies. To assist Fort Knox in the success of BNCOC consolidation, units ensure that selected soldiers are, in fact, the correct soldiers.

Fort Knox has the ability to train 48 19Ks, and 32 19Ds, per class with 10 classes scheduled for the upcoming year. The class dates for the remaining portion of FY 96 and FY 97 follow:

### BNCOC CMF 19 FY 96

Report Date	Start Date
21 Jul 96	22 Jul 96
11 Aug 96	12 Aug 96
FY 97	
1 Oct 96	2 Oct 96
23 Oct 96	24 Oct 96
5 Jan 97	6 Jan 97
26 Jan 97	27 Jan 97
9 Mar 97	10 Mar 97
30 Mar 97	31 Mar 97
11 May 97	12 May 97
1 Jun 97	2 Jun 97
20 Jul 97	21 Jul 97
10 Aug 97	11 Aug 97

**Note:** The 19D and 19K classes start simultaneously, so only one start date is listed.

Forecasting soldiers for attendance at BNCOC is primarily the responsibility of individual units. Future plans are to forecast soldiers using a centralized method similar to the procedure used to select soldiers for ANCOC. Those soldiers selected must be in a promotable status when they arrive at Fort Knox. They should be in the best possible physical condition, possess no temporary profiles, and meet the other prerequisites necessary for attendance at BNCOC. To ensure that the school fills all seats, a unit should identify a primary and alternate attendee for each course. This will eliminate unit shortfalls and allow the academy to keep a steady flow of graduates moving into the field. In a downsized Army, this will be a key to the success for both the Army and the soldiers concerned. If a unit or soldier is having difficulty getting a school seat, contact one of the following points of contact (POC) for assistance:

- FORSCOM HQ, Mr. Grady Hammock, DSN 367-7035
- PERSCOM, Ms. Dorine Hagarman, DSN 221-8693
- National Guard, Mr. Jim Coats, DSN 327-7339
- G3 Schools (Ft. Knox), SGT Mann, DSN 464-3255

*If you are within the 30-day window prior to a class start date, contact AR School HQ, Ms. Carol Hickok, DSN 464-3585.*

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Recently the gauntlet was passed in several key positions on Fort Knox. CSM Kevin P. Garvey assumed the duty of Commandant at the Fort Knox Noncommissioned Officer Academy on 21 March 1996, and CSM Gerald D. Utterback assumed the duty of Armor School Sergeant Major on 23 March 1996. They are working diligently to ensure the success of the BNCOC consolidation and further the education of armor soldiers.

Fort Knox has the capabilities and the technology to train all the armor soldiers necessary for the force of today and that of tomorrow. It is with great pride and commitment Fort Knox accepts the responsibility and will endeavor to produce the most effective and well trained armor soldiers this nation and the world has ever seen.