

DRIVER'S SEAT

Armor Force NCO Academy Update: New Facilities, Enhanced Courses, Larger Student Load

by CSM David L. Lady, Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army Armor Center

Our Noncommissioned Officer Academy, ably led by CSM Kevin Garvey, has been extremely busy this past year. The staff has moved into renovated facilities; they have rewritten both 19D and 19K ANCOC Programs of Instruction (POI); they have written the M1A2 BNCOC POI; and they have enhanced 63E and 63T POI. All this was accomplished while providing superb instruction to the future vehicle commanders, platoon sergeants, and maintenance team chiefs of our Armor Force. We owe the cadre a great deal, and should all be proud of their accreditation by the TRADOC team earlier this year.

Let me give you the bottom line up front: Send your ANCOC student to the class he is scheduled for by the Army Training Requirements Resources System (ATRRS). The CY 1998 SFC selection list is so large that both 19D (two classes) and 19K (three classes) ANCOC are at maximum student load. NCOs deferred from the first classes will very likely have no place in the subsequent classes. We will not violate instructor to student ratios and put learning at risk. If you defer your NCOs from the scheduled class, counsel them that you are probably deferring them for the entire year. Better yet, don't defer them.

As your sergeants arrive, they will find completely remodeled classrooms, with fiber optic wiring to facilitate the opportunities of TRADOC Classroom XXI initiatives. Student living facilities have been remodeled, and the entire renovation project supports a "campus-like" environment where students can become totally immersed in a challenging and professional leadership environment.

19D and 19K BNCOC POIs were rewritten in 1997, incorporating up-to-date training in such areas as Operations Other Than War, and the lessons of the Army's Advanced Warfighting Experiments. Over this next year certain subjects will be rewritten again, to add training in digitized command and control equipment.

While we are adding digital TTPs, we are not necessarily replacing the analog TTPs. Some units will not have the digitized equipment for several years; Scout and M1A1 BNCOC must meet the needs of the entire force during the fielding of digitized systems.

The first M1A2 BNCOC class will begin in July, 1999. The number of available seats will coincide with the requirements of the modernized force, and with the fielding plan for the M1A2 tank. The target audience is NCOs currently assigned to an M1A2 unit; who will attend the course in TDY and return status. The academy has made provision for soldiers in a TDY enroute status, who will be assigned to an M1A2 unit upon completion of the course. These NCOs must already have completed the M1A2 Tank Commander Certification Course (TC3) at Fort Knox prior to enrollment into BNCOC (and have already been awarded ASI K4). As BNCOC is not an ASI-producing course, NCOs would be at a great disadvantage if they attended A2 BNCOC without the TC3 Course. The A2 course will not be offered as many times annually as M1A1 BNCOC, so units must pay attention to the schedule (See Table 1). Final determination will be made by the academy at "fill day," to ensure that the right NCO is in the right course.

63E and 63T BNCOC have increased emphasis, during the STX, on the planning, set-up, and orchestration of the Unit Maintenance Collection Point (UMCP).

These NCOs will now be able to participate in Quartering Party activities, as well as to secure, feed, support, "jump," and defend the UMCP. They learn much more than just maintaining the unit's equipment. Unit commanders and maintenance officers should take advantage of this training, and make the new maintenance team chiefs responsible for the entire mission during deployments. Let them "run with the ball."

Our SSG(P)s will find totally rewritten POIs as they arrive for ANCOC. The bar has been raised, as our training developers have emphasized the horizontal alignment between ANCOC and the Armor Officer Basic Course. More than before, our NCOs will be taught to succeed as acting platoon leaders. Digital tasks have been added to the course, en-

Continued on Page 43

<u>Course Number</u>	<u>Class Number</u>	<u>Report</u>	<u>Graduate</u>
ANCOC			
250-19D40	001	31 Jan 99	14 May 99
	002	01 Aug 99	16 Nov 99
020-19K40	001	10 Jan 99	09 Apr 99
	002	12 Sep 99	10 Dec 99
BNCOC			
250-1-19D30	002	03 Jan 99	26 Feb 99
	003	24 Jan 99	19 Mar 99
	004	28 Mar 99	19 May 99
	006	18 Jul 99	09 Sep 99
	007	08 Aug 99	30 Sep 99
	008	28 Mar 99	19 May 99
020-19K30 M1A1	003	03 Jan 99	26 Feb 99
	004	24 Jan 99	19 Mar 99
	005	07 Mar 99	28 Apr 99
020-19K30 M1A2	006	28 Mar 99	19 May 99
	008	18 Jul 99	09 Sep 99
	009	08 Aug 99	30 Sep 99
	501	18 Jul 99	16 Sep 99

TABLE 1: CLASS SCHEDULE FOR FY 99

DRIVER'S SEAT

(Continued from Page 8)

ensuring that all graduates are introduced to the Future Battle Command Brigade and Below (FBCB2) hardware and software. Extensive training takes place in the SIMNET facility, challenging every aspect of leading, training, fighting, and maintaining the platoon. A significant period each evening is now spent on the terrain board and with the manuals in order to prepare for the next day's training. Let no sergeant arrive expecting a "gentleman's" course; all must work hard to master all requirements for graduation. Those NCOs with rusty study habits, or not possessing the required educational levels in math, reading, and comprehension, must visit their local educational centers — far enough in advance — and have their educational abilities assessed. Those who score low in the diagnostic exams need to take refresher courses in order to posture themselves for success in NCOES.

The requirement to take the APFT upon arrival is — and will remain — in effect. If and when the Army changes its policy on the APFT as an entrance requirement in NCOES courses, there will still be a requirement to pass the test for graduation. Come prepared to pass the test, and save yourself a lot of trouble.

No more "welcome packets" are being mailed to any students. AARs showed that less than 50% of the NCOs received the correspondence. Instead, prospective students can access updated information through the NCO Academy's Home Page. What subjects will be taught, what to prepare for, what to bring, what are the standards, and who are the points of contact are all on the home page.

<http://www.knox.army.mil/school/ncoa/ncoa.htm>

or

<http://147.238.100.101/school/ncoa/ncoa.htm>

The NCO Academy home page can also be accessed through the U.S. Army home page, the USASMA home page, as well as the Fort Knox and Armor Center home page.

Sergeants, access the course requirements and prepare yourselves both mentally and physically, for weeks of challenging classroom, simulation, and hands-on training. Come ready to be challenged and to excel.

SERGEANT, TAKE THE LEAD