



**FISCAL YEAR 2025**

**3rd Quarter**

# ***NCO ACADEMY*** ***FORT MCCOY***

**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

**ACHIEVEMENTS,  
FAREWELLS,  
PROMOTIONS,  
STATISTICS & MORE**

**APRIL-JUNE 2025**



**CSM Jason D. Kirkman**  
*Commandant*



As the days begin to get longer and we close out 3d Quarter FY25, we are reminded that change is constant. And not just changes in the season, months, or personnel as we begin the large summer move cycle. But also changes in how the NCO Academy, and our Army, conducts business. As Soldiers, we must remain flexible, agile, and adaptive to change. We must continue to strengthen our abilities and hone our craft as instructors, support staff, Soldiers, and leaders. We must strive to reach new heights, push our own limits, and raise the bar to achieve greater levels of success. Continuing to challenge ourselves and never accepting mediocracy is what continues to make NCO Academy Fort McCoy the premier learning institution for the Army. Over this past quarter, we have mastered the M17 weapons qualification, strengthened our land navigation skills, graduated hundreds of Basic Leader and Battle Staff NCOs, and even won a few softball games. Your commitment to excellence is recognized not just here on Fort McCoy but stretches throughout the Army and world. Your reputation as professionals is why we are asked to send Battle Staff and Basic Leader Course instructors to Hawaii and Denmark to help support their missions. I challenge all of you to continue assaulting forward and meet each obstacle with a high level of intensity. I am proud of each of you and what this Academy provides to our Army and honored for the opportunity to serve as your Commandant.



As I take on the role of First Sergeant, I want to express my excitement and commitment to serving alongside each of you. We stand at a pivotal moment, where our collective efforts and dedication will shape the future of our academy and the Soldiers we train. Change is an inherent part of our journey, and it is essential that we embrace it with open minds and resilient spirits. The upcoming summer move cycle presents us with new opportunities to grow, adapt, and refine our approach to training and leadership. It is our responsibility to remain proactive, ensuring that we not only meet the challenges ahead but also exceed expectations in our roles as instructors, support staff, and leaders. Our academy's reputation as a premier learning institution is built on the foundation of excellence and continuous improvement. We must challenge ourselves to push beyond our comfort zones, striving for innovation and excellence in everything we do. Each of you plays a vital role in this mission, and I encourage you to take pride in your contributions, knowing that they have a lasting impact on the Army and the Soldiers we serve. As we move forward, I want to emphasize the importance of servant leadership. My goal is to support you, to listen to your ideas and concerns, and to foster an environment where everyone feels valued and empowered. Together, we can create a culture of collaboration and mutual respect, where each member of our team is encouraged to grow and succeed. I am proud of the incredible work we do at NCOA McCoy. Let us continue to strive for greatness, embrace change, and lead with purpose.



**SFC Jennifer C. Horvath**  
*First Sergeant*





**1SG Keith J. Kinnerson**  
*Outgoing First Sergeant*



To all the amazing team of NCOA Fort McCoy, it has been the privilege of a lifetime to serve as your First Sergeant over this past year. From day one, I've been inspired by the unwavering dedication of this team—instructors and facilitator's who shape tomorrow's leaders, staff who ensure excellence behind the scenes, and students who well, never cease to keep us on our toes! Though my time here was brief, the impact of your professionalism, camaraderie, and commitment to the Army's legacy will stay with me forever. Thank you for trusting me to stand beside you in this critical mission. The work done here doesn't just train NCOs; it strengthens the backbone of our force, and I leave knowing this institution is in the most capable hands.

As I transition to my next assignment, I carry forward the lessons learned from each of you—lessons in leadership, resilience, and the power of a team united by purpose. Continue to push boundaries, uphold standards, and lead with the integrity that defines this Academy. Stay true to the creed that binds us, and never forget the difference you make every day. It's been an honor to wear the same uniform and serve alongside such remarkable professionals. Until we meet again, continue to "Strengthen the Corps!"



I enjoy being a facilitator at the Basic Leader Course because it is a rare opportunity to directly interact with so many future leaders. I know that the hard work that so many instructors dedicate to these students is going to have a direct impact on the future of the Army. This is a significant assignment, and this is why I strive to give my best to these Soldiers each day. I have grown and developed as a leader during my tenure at Fort McCoy Noncommissioned Officer Academy, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the United States in this capacity.



**SSG Anthony E. Ransom**  
*Instructor of the Quarter*





# CHANGE OF RESPONSIBILITY



In a heartfelt Change of Responsibility ceremony, the NCO Academy at Fort McCoy bid farewell to 1SG Keith J. Kinnerson as he stepped down from his role as First Sergeant on 3 June 2025. Throughout his tenure, 1SG Kinnerson displayed steadfast leadership, professionalism, and an unwavering commitment to the development of both cadre and students alike. His impact will be felt for years to come.

As we say goodbye to a respected leader, we also extend a warm welcome to SFC Jennifer Horvath, who steps in as the interim First Sergeant. SFC Horvath is an exceptional NCO whose dedication, competence, and leadership have already earned her the respect of the entire team. Her influence is expected to play a key role in the continued growth and success of the NCOA. We look forward to the next chapter under her guidance.





# Training





# WEAPON QUALIFICATION M17

The NCO Academy successfully completed its annual Individual Weapons Qualification (IWQ) with the M17 pistol on April 24, achieving a 100% qualification rate.

Preparation began on April 16 and 17 with preliminary training at the EST 2000. During these sessions, staff and cadre conducted a live-fire simulation to sharpen their skills. SSG Blake Hale led a hands-on familiarization and refresher, ensuring all participants were confident and prepared.

On April 24, the team moved to the range for the official qualification. The event was marked by full engagement, strong morale, and strict safety throughout. The training concluded with no incidents and maximum results.

It was a highly successful day of professional development, teamwork, and marksmanship proficiency.





## MAP READING

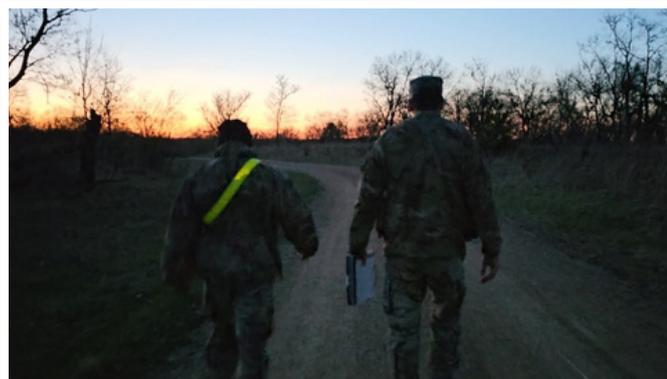
# LAND NAVIGATION

On April 28, 2025, the NCO Academy conducted a comprehensive land navigation refresher designed to reinforce essential soldiering skills. The training began with a classroom-based map reading session that covered key fundamentals such as plotting grid coordinates, interpreting terrain features, calculating distances, and using a compass. These core competencies are vital for both individual proficiency and collective success in field operations.

Following the academic portion, participants transitioned to a practical field exercise conducted under steady rain. The weather added a realistic challenge, requiring soldiers to apply their skills in adverse conditions and demonstrating the importance of adaptability and focus in real-world environments.

The training culminated on April 29 with both day and night land navigation evaluations. Armed with only a map, compass, and protractor, soldiers were tasked with accurately locating points across diverse terrain. The night iteration in particular tested their ability to operate with limited visibility while maintaining precision and situational awareness.

Despite the environmental challenges, the training successfully enhanced confidence and competence in land navigation—solidifying its role as a critical skillset for mission readiness.





# Achievements, Reenlistments, Promotions



From April 4-14, SSG Taylor S. Pyc, BLC small group leader, competed in the Army's Best Squad Competition – a demanding event that tests physical fitness, tactical skill, and team cohesion.

SSG Pyc excelled in multiple individual events, including land navigation, medical and assault lanes, shoot houses, swim events, and a 12-mile ruck with 70 pounds – finishing in under three hours, a feat achieved by only two soldiers.



His exceptional performance earned him the title of NCO Runner-Up of the Year for the 80th Training Command. He now prepares to compete at the U.S. Army Reserve Command level.

The event underscores the Army's "This is My Squad" initiative, focused on building trust, discipline, and unity within the force.



# BEST SQUAD COMPETITION



SSG Pyc is presented with the Army Achievement Medal following his success at the Best Squad Competition





PROMOTIONS

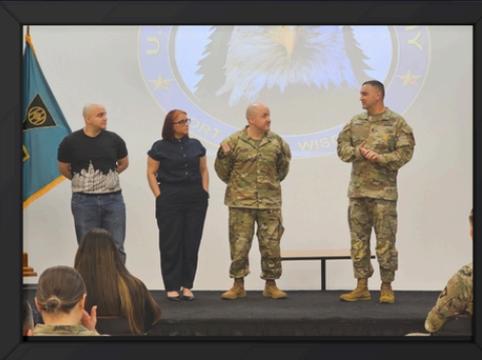
SSG JESUS MARRERO



SSG DENIS MALDONADO



SFC ALEJANDRO RIVERA



One of our very own Senior Small Group Leaders, SFC John Roloson, received a coin from the Wisconsin State Adjutant General, MG Matthew Strub, for his voluntary commitment to the Wisconsin National Guard Challenge Academy. SFC Roloson will serve as a mentor for a recent Cadet graduate for the next 365 days





# REENLISTMENTS

SSG Andy Diaz

SSG Anthony M Wall



**Congratulations to our Air Assault graduates!**



SSG Luis R. Torres

SSG Gerardo Betancourt





MSG Burke



SFC Mendez



SSG Torres



SSG Wall



SSG Lohman



SSG Allen



SFC Medina



SSG Kral



SSG Durgin



SFC Jimenez



**A Historic Honor** 🏆

Congratulations to SFC Marina Ovalles for earning the Master Army Instructor Badge—becoming the 179th in Army history to do so!

From BLC to Battle Staff, she's led with excellence, earned Instructor of the Year in 2022, and now mentors the next generation of top instructors.

A true symbol of mastery and dedication!





# RETIREMENTS





# ***Sergeant First Class Sheila R. Stennis Retirement Ceremony***

On May 30, 2025, the NCO Academy proudly celebrated the retirement of Sergeant First Class Stennis, who concluded an extraordinary 34-year career in the United States Army. As the unit's medic, SFC Stennis was more than a caretaker—she was a source of strength, compassion, and unwavering support. Her decades of service were marked by excellence, resilience, and a deep commitment to the well-being of every Soldier she served. SFC Stennis leaves behind a legacy built on care, leadership, and an unshakable love for the Army. We thank her for her incredible service and wish her all the best in this well-earned new chapter.

## **THANKS FOR YOUR 34 YEARS OF SERVICE!**

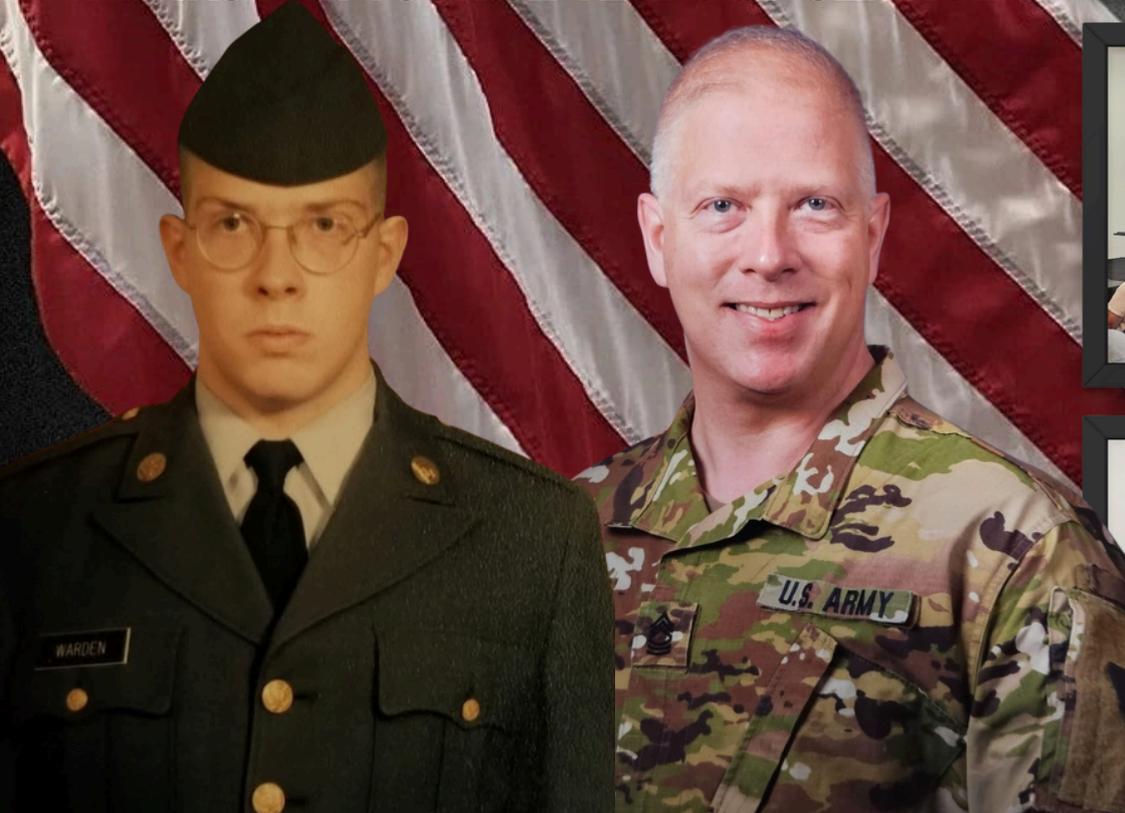




# ***Master Sergeant Robin R. Warden Retirement Ceremony***

Please join us in celebrating the retirement of MSG Warden, a leader whose presence made a lasting difference. As a BSNCOC Small Group Leader, he poured his heart into teaching, mentoring, and guiding every Soldier who stepped into his classroom. His depth of knowledge, unwavering professionalism, and genuine care for others made him not only an outstanding instructor but also an incredible teammate and friend. MSG Warden leaves behind a powerful legacy of service, leadership, and impact that will be remembered long after his final formation. Congratulations on a remarkable career— you've earned every moment of what comes next.

## **THANKS FOR YOUR 32 YEARS OF SERVICE!**





# Farewells & Community Engagement





# SEE YOU DOWNRANGE FIRST SERGEANT



Although 1SG Keith J. Kinnerson's time at the Academy was brief, his impact was significant. Serving as both the First Sergeant and the acting Director of Instruction, he led from the front and set the standard for excellence. He was a constant presence for training, mentoring, and supervising Soldiers. He exemplified the principle that a leader should always be where their troops are.

His dedication, professionalism, and leadership left a lasting impression on the Academy and its mission.



A special thank you also goes out to his wife, Mrs. Erin Kinnerson, whose efforts strengthened the unit's Soldier and Family Readiness Group. Her commitment to building community and support among our families made a remarkable difference in a very short time.

Together, 1SG and Mrs. Kinnerson made a lasting impact. They will be deeply missed and always remembered as valued members of the NCOA Fort McCoy family.



ARMY NCO ACADEMY  
FORT MCCOY

ADJUTANT      FIRST SERGEANT

SMITH      1SG KINNERSON





**SFC Jordan L. Simmons**  
 SFC Simmons started in the S-1 team and later moved into Quality Assurance, where she continued to shine. Her dedication, adaptability, and excellence left a strong mark on our organization. Best wishes on your next chapter!



**SSG Kayla L. Kral**  
 A truly versatile and dedicated member of our team. From serving as a BLC Small Group Leader to supporting QA and excelling as our UPAR. Her hard work, positive energy, and commitment to excellence made a lasting impact..



**SFC Marina L. Ovalles**  
 Dedicated leader that began as a BLC SGL, later served as a BSNCOG SGL, and was recognized as the 2022 Instructor of the Year. She played a key role in mentoring and helping fellow SGLs earn their Senior Instructor Badges.





### SSG Valentine Brunett

We say goodbye to a teammate who began as the unit medic and grew into a trusted BLC Small Group Leader. Known for his dedication, kindness, and professionalism. He leaves behind a lasting legacy and will be truly missed.

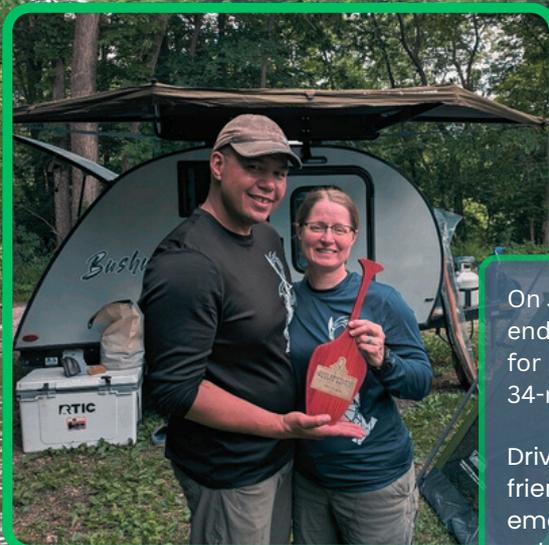


### SFC Charlotte Jimenez

Farewell to an outstanding leader whose impact was felt both in the S-1 shop and as a BLC Senior. Her dedication, professionalism, and care for Soldiers truly made a difference. She will be greatly missed.



## Driftless Paddle Battle



On June 7, 2025, MSG Pardonvarde and his wife Melissa showcased endurance, teamwork, and competitive spirit as they paddled nonstop for nearly six hours to secure first place in the Driftless Paddle Battle, a 34-mile race along the Upper Iowa River in Decorah, Iowa.

Driven by a shared commitment to physical fitness and the thrill of friendly competition, the duo braved the challenging course and emerged victorious among a field of determined racers. Their achievement highlights not only personal grit but also the strength found in partnership—on and off the water.





# BONE MARROW REGISTRY DRIVE

From May 20–22, we proudly teamed up with Salute to Life to host a Bone Marrow Registry Drive. This event was designed to educate the community on the life-saving impact of bone marrow donation and to help grow the national registry of potential donors.

Held on Academy grounds, the drive welcomed Soldiers, civilian personnel, and members of the Fort McCoy community. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with participants taking just a few minutes to complete a cheek swab and enroll in the registry.

This collective effort highlighted the compassion and selfless service that define our community. Each person who registered now stands as a beacon of hope for patients in need of a life-saving match. We're honored to have supported such a meaningful cause.



*Students from Basic Leader Course Class 006-25 perform a cheek swab as part of the bone marrow donor registry drive*





Cadre, staff, and families gather to enjoy the event



Mrs. Olivia Brunett is recognized for her support and creative T-shirt logo designs.

# FAMILY SPRING SWING

**On April 12, 2025, we held our Family Spring Swing event, bringing together Soldiers and their loved ones for a fun-filled day of egg hunts, games, crafts, and delicious food. Laughter filled the air as families enjoyed quality time together, showcasing the strong bonds within our community.**

**Events like this are a powerful reminder of the value of connection and the joy of coming together outside of duty.**

**A heartfelt thank you to the SFRG for making it all possible and for your unwavering support of our Soldiers and their families!**





# Honors & Statistics





# Honor Roll-Up

## BLC

005-25



**Distinguished Honor Graduate**  
SGT Tyleigh J. Burchard



**Honor Graduate**  
SGT Lauren E. Wilgenbusch



**Distinguished Leadership Graduate**  
SGT Getrude A. Dododzah



**Commandant's Writing Award**  
SGT Treasure M. Reyes

006-25



**Distinguished Honor Graduate**  
SGT Dylan B. Glumac-Bereberich



**\* Honor Graduate**  
**\* Distinguished Leadership Graduate**  
**\* Commandant's Writing Award**  
SGT Molly G. Anderson



**Iron Soldier**  
CPL Desmond X. Hall

## BSNCO



**Distinguished Honor Graduate**  
SFC Shawn P. Collins

005-25



**Honor Graduate**  
SFC Stephen M. Messenger



**Distinguished Honor Graduate**  
SFC Ivsian S. Pineirorio

006-25

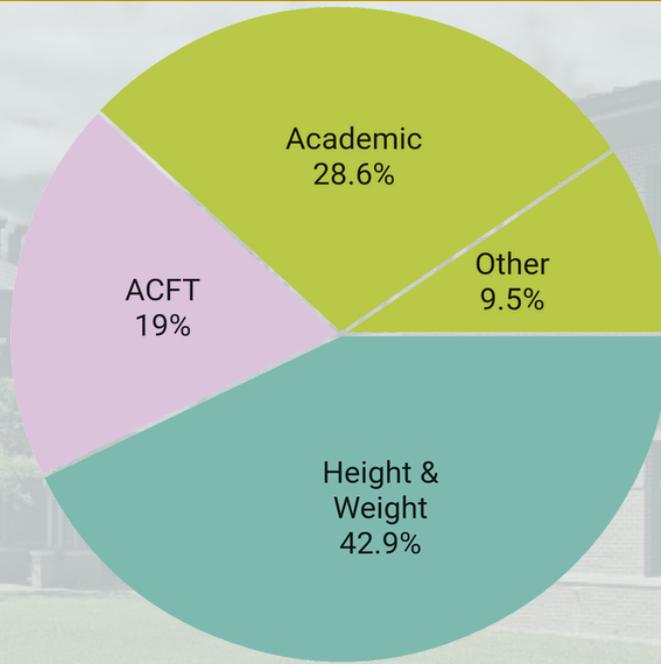


**Honor Graduate**  
SFC Christian J. Little





# DROPS



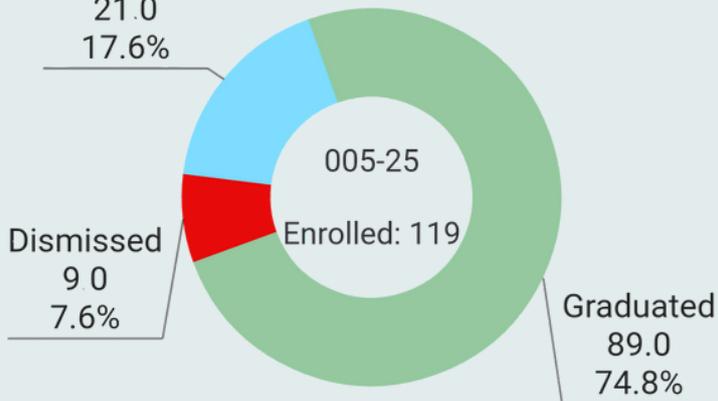
Height & Weight	9.0   42.9%
Academic	6.0   28.6%
ACFT	4.0   19%
Other	2.0   9.5%

# CLASS STATS

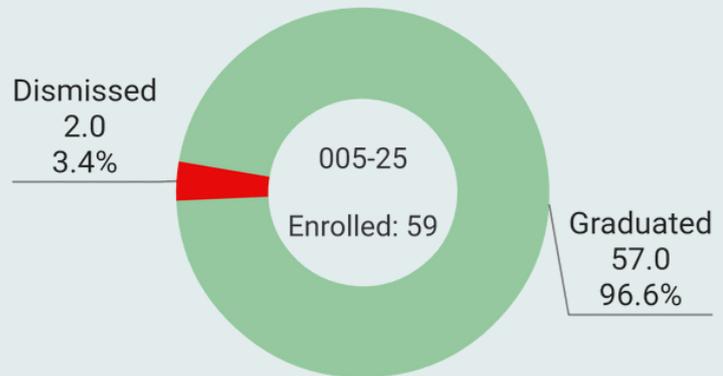
## BLC

## BSNCOG

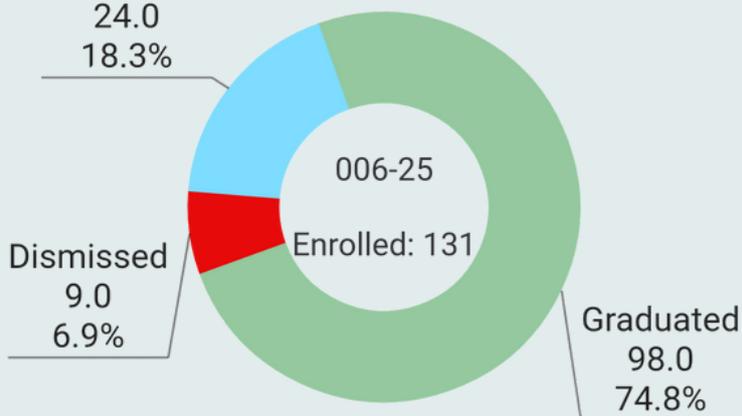
Cmdt's List  
21.0  
17.6%



Dismissed  
2.0  
3.4%



Cmdt's List  
24.0  
18.3%



Dismissed  
1.0  
2%





# BECOME AN INSTRUCTOR

JOIN THE NCO ACADEMY TEAM AT FORT MCCOY BY SUBMITTING YOUR COMPLETED PACKET TO THE POINT OF CONTACT LISTED BELOW. ONCE YOUR PACKET HAS BEEN REVIEWED, THE NCOA TEAM WILL ARRANGE A DATE AND TIME FOR A FOLLOW-UP INTERVIEW TO ASSESS YOUR POTENTIAL AS A VALUABLE TEAM MEMBER.

## PROMOTIONS & SCHOOLS

- 90% Promotion rate from SSG to SFC as a Small Group Leader
- Common Faculty Development – Instructor Course (CFD-C)
- Receive SQI – 8 (Instructor Identifier)
- Instructor Observation Course
- Instructor Writer Course
- Eligible to earn all three levels of Army Instructor Badges (Basic, Senior, and Master)

## REQUIREMENTS

- Possesses mature judgement, military bearing and initiative
- Meets AR 600-29 Standards
- Be able to pass the ACFT
- Holds the ranks of SSG-SFC
- Be able to pass a background check

## PACKET

- Latest Soldier Talent Profile
- Recent ACFT Scorecard
- Recent 5500/01





# Contact Us

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MSG ISAAC PARDONVARDE

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## BSNCOC Course Manager

MSG JEFFREY A. SAGE

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Facebook



NCO Academy Website



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