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The Lankford Leader

PROUDLY SERVING PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION NEEDS
ACROSS COMPONENTS, SERVICES AND NATIONS

The Lankford Leader is a newsletter specifically designed to keep Command Chiefs informed about events, activities, and ideas at your Paul H. Lankford EPME Center.

Recent Graduate Award Winners

As with any educational endeavor, there are those who stand out among their peers. While all of our graduates should stand proud, having met the rigorous demands of Enlisted PME, some have distinguished themselves through individual accomplishments and are deserving of special recognition. The Award Recipients for NCOA/ALS class 11-4 are:

John L. Levitow Award

TSgt Ronald Beasley, 19 Air Supt OPNS SQ
SrA Timothy Rodriguez, 802nd Security Forces SQ

Distinguished Graduate Award

NCOA

TSgt Alejandro Rodriguez, 20th Civil Engineering SQ
TSgt Brian Simmons, United States Air Force
TSgt Tabatha Sanders, Special Analysis SQ, NASIC
TSgt Michael Shively, 645 Aeronautical Systems Grp
TSgt Jeremy Hord, 509th Maintenance Operations SQ
TSgt Ross Ludemann, 509th Communications SQ
TSgt Kristin Martin, 104th Maintenance OPS FLT
TSgt Andrew Walker, 115th Maintenance Squadron
TSgt Jacqueline Duarte, 222d Operations Support SQ
TSgt Nathan Nickel, 115th Medical Group
TSgt Tiffany Brown, 618th Air and Special OPS
TSgt Eugene King, Band of Mid-America
TSgt Lori Padgett, United States Air Force
TSgt Raul Dominguez, DET 925 AFROTC NW RG
TSgt Troy Adamo, 3d Intelligence Squadron
TSgt Adam Haffner, 4th Civil Engineering SQ
TSgt Silvia Ingram, 88th Medical Support Squadron

TSgt Alfonso Martinez, 129th Mission Support Group

ALS

SrA Rebecca Mersand, 158th Operations Support Flight
SrA Anastasios Mantzouris, 109th Logistics Readiness SQ
SrA Ryan Martinez, 149th Communications Flight
SrA David Horan, 302nd Civil Engineering Squadron

Academic Achievement Award

TSgt Jeremy Hord, 509th Maintenance Operations SQ
SrA Rebecca Mersand, 158th Operations Support Flight

Commandant Award

TSgt Kristin Martin, 104th Maintenance Operations Flight
SrA Anastasios Mantzouris, 109th Logistics Readiness SQ

Official class photos and photos of the graduation award recipients are located at the below website.

<http://www.angtec.ang.af.mil/photos/mediagallery.asp?galleryID=7767>





UPCOMING LANKFORD CENTER EVENTS



The guest speakers for the upcoming graduations for ALS/NCOA are as follows:

NCOA 11-5	CMSgt Christopher Coyne	Chief Engagement and Education Branch, I.G. Brown ANGTEC
ALS 11-6	CMSgt Kurt Uelmen	Superintendent NGB A4/RD
NCOA 11-6	CMSAF (5) Robert D. Gaylor	Fifth Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force



Commandant's Corner

Rebluing, Why Do We Say That?

Since shortly after its birth as a separate service, American Airmen have worn the color, blue. Blue represents the sky above earth; a medium the Air Force first aimed to conquer. Blue in our uniforms, in our shield and in our official symbol is also commonly connected to loyalty and courage. Airmen have shown loyalty and courage in every significant conflict since the dawn of flight and continue doing so today. Air Force blue begins entering our lives in basic military training. We learn about being Airmen. We share common experiences, learn attention to detail, and become eager to dedicate ourselves to the mission. We are forged in the furnaces before proceeding to technical training where we learn a skill. Our instructors teach us the professional standards we need to follow in our specific career fields. Here we are shaped and polished. When we report to our first assignment we are blue. Our blue is strong, straight and true. We have

become weapons of our nation— weapons of the highest quality and accuracy.

As we go about our daily lives, on and off duty, in and out of uniform, we face challenges, weather storms, experience occasional failures and meet with other forms of adversity. We listen to others complain. We grow tired of facing the same obstacles at every turn.

Sometimes we run across situations we haven't been trained to handle and get discouraged. Since we are human, these things can wear away at our blue. They can make us dull. As with any weapon or tool, constant use without periodic maintenance can lower effectiveness. Airmen are no different.

Bluing is a process often used by gun manufactures, gunsmiths and gun owners to improve the cosmetic appearance of, and provide corrosion resistance to, firearms. All blued parts still need to be properly oiled to prevent rust (Howe, 1946).

Professional Military Education (PME) is a rebluing process for Airmen: for us. In the course of our studies, activities, and even social events, we improve our cosmetic appearance—reminding one another about the proper wear of the uniform and the importance

of a professional image. We obtain corrosion resistance as we discuss the core values and the junior enlisted, NCO, and Senior NCO responsibilities. We reaffirm our collective dedication to professional standards. This reaffirmation defends us from cynicism, negative thoughts and griping. Just as it does with worn firearms, our rebluing process returns us to the highest quality and accuracy.

In Air Force PME, the rebluing process serves exactly the same purpose it serves with any worn weapons. It improves cosmetic appearance, prevents corrosion, and improves overall functionality. When America takes up arms to defend herself against those who would destroy our way of life, her aim is straight and true because as Airmen, we remain, blue.

Definition and description of bluing cited from *Professional Gunsmithing* by Walter J. Howe, 1946 (ASIN: B0007DYNVM)

FUTURE CLASS START & GRADUATION DATES

NCOA		
Class	Start	Graduation
11-6	27 Jun 11	3 Aug 11
11-7	15 Aug 11	21 Sep 11
11-8	27 Sep 11	3 Nov 11
ALS		
11-6	27 Jun 11	28 Jul 11
11-7	15 Aug 11	15 Sep 11
11-8	27 Sep 11	28 Oct 11
Satellite NCOA Phase I		
11-5	7 Mar 11	26 May 2011
12-1	29 Aug 11	17 Nov 11
Satellite NCOA Phase II		
11-5	31 May 2011	15 Jun 11
12-1	28 Nov 11	13 Dec 11

"Exceed to Succeed"

DONALD E. FELCH

COMMANDANT

PAUL H. LANKFORD EPME CENTER

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