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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 classes 11-7 are:

John L. Levitow Award

TSgt Heather Brown, United States Air Force
SrA Kristopher Robichand, Maine ANG

Distinguished Graduate Award

NCOA

TSgt Mariana Huse, 31st Intelligence Squadron
TSgt Bradley Fox, United States Air Force
TSgt Patricia Bustamante, 20th Maintenance Ops Sq
TSgt RaShaun Albert, AF Material Command
TSgt Christy Compeau, GEO/MASINT Production SQ
TSgt Jeremy Reed, Whiteman AFB
TSgt James White, 509th Security Forces Squadron
TSgt Joseph Cade, Fort Bragg
TSgt Peter Smith, 162nd Maintenance Operations Flt
TSgt Matthew Scott, 15th Air Support Operations SQ
TSgt Thaddeus Hartlaub, 347th USAF Recruiting SQ
TSgt Tracy Passerotti, 4th Civil Engineering Squadron
TSgt Joshua Thacker, 169th Aircraft Maintenance SQ
TSgt Michael Zener, 176th Security Forces Squadron
MSgt Seth Griffith, 19th Air Support Operations SQ
TSgt John Male, 50th Aerial Port Squadron
TSgt Jody Ball, 342nd Training Squadron
TSgt Edwin Schlade, AFELM SOCOM JCU
TSgt Jonathan Sutherland, DET 1, Illinois ANG HQ

ALS

SrA Gregory Hriczo, 910th Airlift Wing
SrA Curtis Cooper, 119th Command/Control Squadron
SrA Christina Sanchez, 177th Maintenance Squadron
SrA Devon Hoffman, 145th Maintenance Squadron

Academic Achievement Award

TSgt Mariana Huse, 31st Intelligence Squadron
SrA Christina Sanchez, 177th Maintenance Squadron

Commandant Award

TSgt Matthew Scott, 15th Air Support Operations SQ
SrA Joshua Amos, 304th Rescue Squadron

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

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





UPCOMING LANKFORD CENTER EVENTS



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

ALS 11-8

CMSgt Timothy Daiker

Command Chief, Air National Guard Readiness Center

NCOA 11-8

CMSgt James A. Cody

Command Chief, Air Education and Training Command

ALS/SatNCOA 12-1

CMSgt Micheal Dalton

State Command Chief, Michigan Air National Guard



Commandant's Corner

Leadership is a Partnership

Followers have a choice. From the most extreme examples where they may be choosing death over compliance to the less dramatic and much more common where they may be choosing lesser consequences over compliance they still choose. Some followers decide whether to follow a leader consciously--knowing what the results of their decision will bring--and some unconsciously. The point remains, our followers (Airmen, employees, students, children, or athletes) decide whether or not they will follow their leaders.

In the book, *Military Leadership*, 6th Edition, Taylor, et. al. describe leadership as "the process of the leader and followers engaging in reciprocal influence to achieve a shared purpose" (Taylor, Rosenbach, and Rosenbach, pg 1). This is a fresh mindset. When I went through the noncommissioned officer preparatory course at Andersen AFB, Guam in 1987, I memorized this version: [Leadership is] the art and

science of influencing and directing people to accomplish the mission. Although similar, these two definitions have some significant differences. One lays all of the responsibility on the leader (to influence and direct) while the other specifically denotes a partnership. Choice. Since 1975, the United States of America has chosen to defend its vital national interests, militarily, with an all-volunteer force. There is no draft. There hasn't been for more than 35 years. Many of the age-old leadership tenets necessary to lead the unwilling are no longer pertinent, but our culture has retained them. Today, we lead volunteers. Every enlisted member in our total force today has had the opportunity to volunteer to serve. With few exceptions, they can choose to stop serving as well. Those we lead must be our partners. We must seek to (1) earn and (2) keep their willing followership. In such an environment, "because I'm the boss and I said so" is not likely to earn or keep volunteers. The art and science we employ in today's enlisted professional military education (EPME) environment is about teaching our noncommissioned officers to become students of human

behavior and performance. It's not about barking orders and expecting blind compliance (although those behaviors and expectations do occasionally surface). We want our graduates to be able to astutely observe, critically think and appropriately react to developing situations as we defend our country. We want them to be able to lead the willing because that is the makeup of our force. Sharing influence and responsibility with our followers is the best way to encourage compliance--a must in every military organization. Today's Airmen all have a choice. You have a choice and I have a choice. Let's engage in a partnership to ensure our mission succeeds. Let's decide together that it's vital we comply with orders, directives and guidelines. Let's decide to honor our commitments, to lead (and follow) with the mission in mind because in the face of our enemies, we all must be partners.

Reference:
Taylor, Robert, William Rosenbach, and Eric Rosenbach. *Military leadership: In Pursuit of Excellence*. 6th. Westview Press, 2009. 1. <http://books.google.com/books/feeds/volumes?q=9780813344393>

FUTURE CLASS START & GRADUATION DATES

NCOA		
Class	Start	Graduation
11-8	27 Sep 11	3 Nov 11
12-2	10 Jan 12	16 Feb 12
12-3	6 Mar 12	12 Apr 12
12-5	1 May 2012	7 Jun 12
12-6	23 Jul 12	29 Aug 12
12-7	17 Sep 12	24 Oct 12
ALS		
11-8	27 Sep 11	28 Oct 11
12-1	10 Nov 11	13 Dec 11
12-2	16 Jan 12	16 Feb 12
12-3	12 Mar 12	12 Apr 12
12-4	7 May 12	7 Jun 12
Satellite NCOA Phase I		
12-1	29 Aug 11	17 Nov 11
12-4	12 Mar 12	8 Jun 12
13-1	20 Aug 12	16 Nov 12
Satellite NCOA Phase II		
12-1	28 Nov 11	13 Dec 11
12-4	11 Jun 12	27 Jun 12
13-1	26 Nov 12	12 Dec 12

"Exceed to Succeed"

DONALD E. FELCH

COMMANDANT

PAUL H. LANKFORD EPME CENTER

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