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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 11-8 are:

### John L. Levitow Award

TSgt Douglas Bowers, 19th Air Support Operations  
SrA Amy Adducchio, 178th Fighter Wing

### Distinguished Graduate Award

#### NCOA

TSgt Rebecca Weiland, 337th Recruiting Squadron  
TSgt Robert Duckwall, 167th Airlift Squadron  
TSgt Eric Schenck, 174th Maintenance Group  
TSgt Tiara Puro, 25th IMA Readiness Mgmt Det  
TSgt Charles Pfeiffer, 22nd Intelligence Squadron  
TSgt Roarke Singer, 271st Combat Command SQ  
TSgt Dean Maguadog, 6th Airlift Squadron  
TSgt Annie Barrett, AVTG AFELM SOCOM  
TSgt Kristine Ghio, 147th Combat Command SQ  
TSgt David Burden, 19th Air Support Operations SQ

TSgt Khalilah Nelson, 20th Aircraft Maintenance SQ  
TSgt Sara Bishop, AFCENT Public Affairs  
TSgt Steven Deyne, Det 205th AFROTC NW Region  
TSgt John Cowart, 164th Air Refueling Wing  
TSgt Christopher Smith, 270th Air Traffic Control SQ  
TSgt Stephanie Field, AFCENT 820  
TSgt Adam Colick, 4th Aircraft Maintenance SQ  
TSgt Melissa Cadle, 437th Security Forces Squadron  
TSgt Reuben Krause, AVTEG JSOC

#### ALS

SSgt Maria Pruitt, 11th Force Support Squadron  
SrA Tyler Russell, 134th Fighter Squadron  
SrA Ashley Thieroff, 193rd Special Operations Wing  
SrA Robert Kurzdorfer, 107th Communications Flight  
SrA David Owen, 151st Communications Flight

#### Academic Achievement Award

TSgt Rebecca Weiland, 337th Recruiting Squadron  
SrA Tyler Russell, 134th Fighter Squadron

#### Commandant Award

MK1 Byron Knepp, United States Coast Guard  
SrA Jerod Simmons, 315th Security Forces Squadron



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

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

## LANKFORD CENTER IMPROVEMENTS

Many organizations experience change. Your Paul H. Lankford EPME Center is no different. For several years, students at the Paul H. Lankford EPME Center have had the luxury of sharing their room with another student. Continuous campus facility renovations and aging building issues have prevented single occupancy. After extensive renovations, these days are coming to a close. The future looks bright here at the Lankford Center with 70 newly refurbished rooms opening in January and with them, the ability to house all NCOA students in separate rooms. There is even the possibility that some students will be housed in one of our newly-remodeled, single occupancy rooms. Others will reside in dual-occupancy rooms, but will not have roommates. Students will receive renovated rooms by Date of Rank. Airman Leadership School students will continue to be lodged in a room with a Wingman. We all look forward to the smiling faces of future NCOA students at the Lankford Center.



# UPCOMING LANKFORD CENTER EVENTS



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

- |                  |                            |                                   |
|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ALS/SatNCOA 12-1 | CMSgt Christopher Muncy    | Command Chief, Air National Guard |
| ALS/NCOA 12-2    | CMSgt Denise Jelinski-Hall | Senior Enlisted Leader, NGB       |
| ALS/NCOA 12-3    | CMSgt James Cody           | Command Chief, AETC               |



## Commandant's Corner *What is Happening With You, Off-Duty?*

As Americans, we are becoming a society reluctant to share with one another. The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) prohibits colleges and universities from disclosing grades and finances to parents paying for their children's education. *Parents*: arguably those with most concern and genuine interest in student success. School employees (counselors and advisors) can access that information, but not mom and dad. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) ensures doctors and other medical practitioners cannot share information about diagnoses, illnesses, injuries, or treatment plans without express, written permission from the patient. Like FERPA, this law applies to children who have reached the legal age of accountability (18) but who may still require and even desire adult help with medical decisions. HIPAA also applies to military members. The clinic can't tell you (supervisor, First Sergeant, Chief) specifically what is wrong with your Airman, but is limited to sharing only what your Airman can or cannot do. These two pieces of legislation are simple examples—there are many more—of our society placing high value on privacy and on protecting privileged information. Such laws are not a bad thing. There are valid and vital reasons to protect personal information. In the age of electronic communications, hackers and other online pirates seek to steal our vital

information and turn it to profits or worse. On occasion, family members may even seek to do harm. Enemies and terrorist organizations can use privileged information as leverage or as weaponry. Keeping our Personally-Identifiable Information (PII) from those who would damage us, our country or our missions is important, but privacy *must not* be an excuse for failing to know our Airmen or what is going on in their lives. Over the past seven classes, I've had numerous conversations with home-station supervisors about Airmen (SrA through TSgt, Active, Guard and Reserve) with personal problems. Sometimes Airmen come to McGhee Tyson with relationship issues (spouse, boyfriend, girlfriend, etc.). Sometimes they come with money or budget concerns, and sometimes with off-duty employer issues. Some are abusing alcohol, and still others know about dying family members or personal health problems, but haven't told anyone. On more than one occasion I've had the Airman's supervisor thank me for bringing these issues to their attention. In a few cases, supervisors have indicated the problem would have been easy to handle if they had only known. Granted, some of these situations are unavoidable. Sometimes Airmen intentionally hide things. Sometimes issues crop up after they leave home. In many situations, however, Airmen are anxious to talk, but have simply never been asked. Fellow leaders: please allow me a few questions: Why don't we ask "nosey" questions of our people? Do we think it's wrong to ask our direct reports about their lives? Can we ask them about money, savings, or budgets? Can we ask about relationships? Not just junior enlisted members either, can we ask a TSgt? Do we assume that no news is good news? That so long as nobody has ever called to complain about them, our Airmen must be managing just fine? Can we inquire about

their personal health—or do we count on the once-a-year online Health Assessment Questionnaire to root out all that ails 'em? Can we ask how they plan to pay for a holiday cruise, when they request leave? Can we creatively ask how much they drank last weekend—even if there aren't any indicators? Can we ask a male TSgt if his wife knows about lunch alone with a female SSGT every Wednesday? Can we? Just yesterday, I sat in an Airman Leadership School classroom and listened as some very young students discussed their supervisory responsibility to ensure the "highest level of readiness" for themselves and their subordinates (AFI 36-2618, Paragraph 4.1.4 and 4.1.3). The *highest* level of readiness: is that even possible using the "stay out of their business unless they get in trouble" method? Students all agreed that as supervisors they would need to know "private" things about their own Airmen in order to help them maintain readiness. Sometimes the only way to find out private things is to ask. Our youngest supervisors decided on their own they will need to be nosey to do their jobs. Shouldn't we be doing the same as senior leaders? Privacy and information protection are vital elements of both individual and national survival, but personal privacy at the expense of helping fellow Airmen—especially those we lead—is a travesty. Seeking to know those elements of Airmen's lives likely to harm them or our mission is not only "okay" but critical. No news is *not* good news and supervisors have every right to ask Airmen about their personal lives. We must ask and we must be prepared to assist if needed. Doing so will make us into strong, influential leaders and will build trust

## 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

and confidence in those we lead. Knowing our Airmen means they must share their lives with us. As American Airmen, we **MUST** not become a society reluctant to share with one another!

**"Exceed to Succeed"**

DONALD E. FELCH

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