



▶ Recent Graduate Award Winners 1

○ ISSUE 9 | ○ June | ○ 2012



▶ Upcoming Lankford Center Events 2



▶ The Paul H. Lankford Center Commandant's Corner 2

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 Class 12-5 and ALS class 12-4 are:

John L. Levitow Award

TSgt Aaron Pence, 122d Maintenance Squadron
SrA George Liandrakis, 106th Rescue Wing

Distinguished Graduate Award

NCOA

TSgt Christopher Bemboom, 131st Bomb Wing
TSgt Lindy Snodgrass, 15th Airlift Squadron
TSgt Joshua Alexander, 509th Operations Support SQ
TSgt Christopher Galbraith, 263rd Combat Comm SQ
TSgt Matthew Hivner, 4th Fighter Wing
TSgt Greg Martin, 20th Security Forces Squadron
TSgt Matthew Hicks, 375th Logistics Readiness SQ
TSgt Dustin Hayden, 20th Fighter Wing
TSgt Angelly Cardoza, HQ AMC/Surgeon General
TSgt Casey Rietdyk, 173rd Fighter Wing
TSgt William Thomas, 258th Air Traffic Control SQ
TSgt Luke Lucas, 375th Civil Engineer Squadron
TSgt James Potter, 347th Recruiting Squadron
TSgt Robert Johnson, 214th Reconnaissance Squadron
TSgt Tersilia Farley, HQ AMC/Inspector General

TSgt Tiegh Tinsley, Nat'l Air and Space Intelligence Center
TSgt John Allen, 3rd Aerial Port Squadron
TSgt Edward Mueller, 375th Logistics Readiness Squadron
TSgt Noah Bolton, 375th Air Mobility Wing
TSgt Jerod Stephenson, HQ Air Mobility Command
TSgt Julie Stephens, AF Technical Application Center
TSgt Jordan Benjamin, 150th Special Operations Squadron
TSgt Patrick Raible, 3rd Aerial Port Squadron
TSgt Brian Murray, 177th Fighter Wing Maintenance SQ

ALS

SrA Derek Gulbrandson, 114th Fighter Wing
SrA Evan Morris, 182nd Airlift Wing
SrA Ryan Henderson, 87th Aerial Port Squadron
SrA Sarah Callies, 114th Fighter Wing
SrA Clinton Holsinger, 122nd Fighter Wing

Academic Achievement Award

TSgt Christopher Bemboom, 131st Bomb Wing
TSgt Christopher Galbraith, 263rd Combat Comm Squadron
TSgt Matthew Hivner, 4th Fighter Wing
SrA Sarah Callies, 114th Fighter Wing

Commandant Award

TSgt Luke Lucas, 375th Civil Engineer Squadron
SrA Derek Gulbrandson, 114th Fighter Wing



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](http://www.angtec.af.mil/photos/me diagallery.asp?galleryID=7767)



UPCOMING LANKFORD CENTER EVENTS



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

Satellite NCOA	12-4	CMSgt Robert D. Gaylor	Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force #5
Satellite NCOA	13-1	CMSgt James Pepin	Vice Commandant, Community College of the Air Force
ALS	12-6	CMSgt Thomas K. Stoudt	Chief, Mission Support Division
NCOA	12-6	CMSgt Timothy Daiker	Command Chief, Air National Guard Readiness Center
NCOA	12-7	CMSgt Carl Collins	ANG Advisor to the Commander, Barnes Center for Enlisted Education



Commandant's Corner *Stay Scared*

I'm scared. Please allow me to explain. In 1984, I entered the Air Force at the age of 17. My parents endorsed a notarized form allowing me to sign my own name and enter military service before I could legally enter into a binding contract. Arriving at Basic Military Training at Lackland AFB, TX, my flight received more instructions in the first 12 hours than I had ever received in the previous 17 years (or so it seemed). There was a lot to remember; a lot to comply with. I found myself routinely afraid of doing something wrong. I was afraid I would forget to tuck the laces into my shoes for night display, remove a tag from one of my shirt pockets, or place my toothbrush in its proper location or at the proper angle. I was afraid I wouldn't wake up (there was never really a danger of that). In short, I was afraid to fail. This was a healthy fear and it did not prevent my successful graduation. Some of this fear of failure has remained with me throughout my career.

In technical training, we were told we couldn't fail a block test or we would be washed back in school—and perhaps even separated from the service. I believed it would happen. When

we had homework, I completed it. When I needed help, I asked for it. One fellow classmate was fearless. He decided not to study. We invited him to join us many times, but he insisted we needed to relax and enjoy life. He spent time in the Colorado Rocky Mountains and in the many bars right outside the gate at Lowry AFB. When he failed his 2nd block test, he was transferred to a less challenging career field, and was eventually processed out of the Air Force. He wasn't afraid of failure.

At Holloman AFB, NM, my first assignment, we were briefed on the unit's CHECKERED FLAG tasking at Camp New Amsterdam, Holland. Our mobility officer told us to always keep a bag packed. She gave us a list of what should be in the bag. I was afraid my mobility bag would get inspected and might be found lacking, so I made sure it was always ready for deployment. A few of my fellow Airmen claimed the bag would never get looked at. Some of them had been at the base for some time and had heard the same briefings over and over. They said I should "relax a little." After all, they reasoned, this isn't tech school anymore. They were fearless. Some stuffed their bags with extra towels, boots, etc. in order to make them look packed. One night, our wing commander had 2 C-141s on the ramp. We went through the mobility line and got paid (real money). We got shots from the medical technicians in our line (real shots). We were issued our maroon, military

passports. We boarded the aircraft and flew around the base a few times before landing and reversing the process. It was then that I realized some of my peers were more scared than I was—because they had not been afraid at the appropriate time. Several times in 27 years, I've seen people decide to "relax," "chill," or "take it down a few notches," and, as a result, fail. Anyone who knows me will tell you I'm an intense person. I believe some of that intensity comes from a healthy fear of failure.

Today, I'm no longer afraid of consequences as often as I was early in my career; I am most concerned with letting down those who have placed a lot of trust and confidence in my ability, my preparedness, and my performance. I'm afraid to let down those I've been tasked to lead. I'm afraid to let down my bosses and commanders. Most of all, I am afraid to let down the American people, who count on me to do my job to the best of my ability every, single day so they can feel safe in their homes. This is not a debilitating fear. I don't believe it makes me weak or vulnerable. I am not afraid to execute or to make hard decisions. I believe healthy fear helps make me what I need to be, what I have been tasked to be: a leader. As Airmen, we should all have that piece of us that keeps us just a little on edge. We should think of

FUTURE CLASS START & GRADUATION DATES

NCOA		
Class	Start	Graduation
12-6	23 Jul 12	29 Aug 12
12-7	17 Sep 12	24 Oct 12
13-2	05 Nov 12	12 Dec 12

ALS		
12-6	18 Jun 12	19 Jul 12
13-1	01 Oct 12	01 Nov 12
13-2	14 Jan 13	14 Feb 13

Satellite NCOA Phase I		
13-1	20 Aug 12	16 Nov 12
13-5	11 Mar 13	07 Jun 13

Satellite NCOA Phase II		
13-1	26 Nov 12	12 Dec 12
13-5	10 Jun 13	26 Jun 13

the many responsibilities we have and sometimes...occasionally... feel overwhelmed. Much is expected of us and much is placed upon our shoulders. Allowing ourselves a healthy fear of failure can prevent us from falling short of the mark. It can prevent us from letting down the people we've sworn to protect from all enemies, foreign and domestic. Are you at least a little bit scared? I hope so!

"Exceed to Succeed"

DONALD E. FELCH

COMMANDANT, PAUL H. LANKFORD EPME CENTER

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