



## *NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER ACADEMY* *HISTORY*

Fort Hood NCO Academy is the largest training site for the Warrior Leaders Course (WLC) in the free world. Four thousand, eight hundred and eighty Soldiers are trained each year in preparation for duties as a Noncommissioned Officer.

The Fort Hood NCO Academy was directed to establish a leadership orientation course in 1957. The Fort Hood Noncommissioned Officer Academy became operational in 1973 near the Copeland Center. The reorganization of the Academy in June 1987 aligned all Noncommissioned Officer Education System (NCOES) under the NCO Academy that provides NCOES training to qualified Soldiers according to AR 351-1.

In 1997, through the advancements of technology, the first distant learning class was taught at Fort Hood, Texas using video tele-training (VTT) techniques across the airwaves in an interactive session. The common leader portion of ANCOC was taught to reserve component Soldiers.

On 6 April, 1998, The United States Army, III Corps and Fort Hood, NCO Academy was accredited by Headquarters, Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) for the Primary Leadership Development Course.

On 9 April, 2001, The United States Army, III Corps and Fort Hood, NCO Academy was accredited by Headquarters, Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) for the Primary Leadership Development Course.

On 2 June, 2002, The NCOA moved to its current location, Fort Hood Soldier Development Center, building 33009.

On 10 May, 2004, The United States Army, III Corps and Fort Hood, NCO Academy was accredited by Headquarters, Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) for the Primary Leadership Development Course.

On 8 August, 2005, the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy (USASMA) directed a name change from Primary Leadership Development Course to the Warrior Leadership Course (WLC) based on our contemporary operational environment and the assimilation of the warrior spirit into our culture.

On 17 May, 2007, The United States Army, III Corps and Fort Hood, NCO Academy was designated the coveted Institution of Excellence by Headquarters, Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) for the



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Primary Leadership Development Course. A designation of Institution of Excellence is the highest accreditation level possible.

28 January 2010 to 1 July 2010, the Academy underwent numerous improvements and enhancements. CSM Tedd J. Pritchard assumed responsibilities of the Academy on 28 January 2010 and proposed a design of the NCO Academy crest. After some modifications and approval from the III Corps CSM, Arthur L. Coleman Jr., the Academy crest was posted throughout the Academy. The Academy enhanced the barracks, offices, hallways and classrooms were sponsored by Brigades' on Fort Hood.

On 29 May, 2010, the NCO Academy redesigned the Situational Training Exercise (STX) to meet the needs of the Contemporary Operational Environment (COE). Several terrain walks were conducted by the Cadre at the Hargrove MOUT site and full implementation occurred shortly thereafter.

1 June, 2010, by permanent order 126-3, Head quarters United States Army Forces Command (FORSCOM), dated 6 May 2010, the Fort Hood NCO Academy was assigned to Head quarters United States Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). The realignment was designed to place NCO Academies, as directed by the Department of the Army, under the one Army schools systems of command to ensure Training, Leader Development and Education are consistent across the Force; maximize the utilization of scarce resources; and ensure that NCOAs are located to best serve the Army (AC/RC) and NCO Corps.

Other information - By mid-1971 Army Chief of Staff General William Westmoreland was unhappy with the progress of the modern volunteer Army and asked then retired Bruce Clarke to travel the Army and find out what could be changed to make it more attractive. On a visit to Fort Hood, Clarke arrived in time for its NCO Academy to close its doors, a repeat of the same story at other installations. Clarke conducted a survey and discovered that there were only four NCO Academies remaining in which to train 100,000 noncommissioned officers. In his report back to Westmoreland, Clarke lamented that "we are running an army with 95% of the NCO's untrained!" NCO academies across the nation were reopened, and Westmoreland approved the Basic and Advance noncommissioned officer courses, and by July the first Basic course pilot began.