



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION (LIGHT INFANTRY) AND FORT DRUM**  
**NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER ACADEMY**  
**FORT DRUM, NEW YORK 13602**

ATZB-NB

09 Sep 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR STUDENTS

SUBJECT: Fort Drum NCOA Basic Leader Course (BLC), Welcome Letter

1. Congratulations on your selection and welcome to the Fort Drum Noncommissioned Officer Academy. Your selection indicates the Army's trust and confidence in your potential leadership ability to serve in positions of greater responsibility. Our mission, while you attend the Fort Drum NCOA, is to provide challenging academic and performance-based assessments in a learner-centric environment with the goal of developing critical and creative thinkers capable of solving problems and building teams to win decisively in a complex world.

2. BLC is a 22-academic day course consisting of 169 academic hours focusing on six NCO Common Core Competencies. The NCO Common Core Competencies are Readiness, Leadership, Training Management, Communications, Operations, and Program Management. BLC is designed to build basic leader and trainer skills needed to lead a team size element, while providing the foundation for further development along the PME learning continuum.

3. Students attending BLC must meet the following course prerequisites:

- a. Have no Suspension of Favorable Personnel Action (Flags) pending.
- b. Specialists must be in a promotable status on their Soldier Talent Profile (STP)
- c. Must be a graduate of Structured Self Development I (SSD I) or Distributed Leader Course I (DLC I) and have completion certificate available.
- d. Must meet height and weight standards in accordance with Army Regulation 600-9. Soldiers who score a 540 with 80pts per event on the BLC ACFT are exempt. Per Army Directive 2022-06 (Parenthood, Pregnancy, and Postpartum), Postpartum Soldiers are exempt from HT/WT for a period of 365 days but must have a current HT/WT on record. Soldiers may submit a Supplemental Body Fat Assessment Via the Dual-Energy X-Ray Absorptiometry (DXA), Inbody 770 (Bioelectrical Impedance Analysis), or Bod Pod® (Air Displacement Plethysmography) (5500/5501 and printout) result from an authorized facility that is no older than 30 days. Soldiers who do not meet the standard will be scheduled at the Army wellness center for a Bod Pod assessment.
- e. IAW Army Directive 2022-06, Post-Partum students are required to submit their "Volunteering to Attend Basic Leader Course (BLC) while in a Postpartum Status" memo prior to enrollment into the course. Failure to provide clearance memo prior to or at 0630 on day 0 will result in a denied enrollment.

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f. Temporary Profiles are NOT permitted, to include pregnancy, except for Operational Deployment.

g. Cyber awareness training and acceptable use policy updated within 6 months.

h. NIPR net access and Microsoft 365 throughout the course.

i. **Complete packing list.** Fort Drum BLC conducts Land Navigation and leader stakes in a field environment during inclement weather.

4. You are to report to the Fort Drum NCOA, Building 4870 George Ave. at 0630 in OCP's. Soldiers attending the course will have all required documents on day 0.

5. TDY Soldiers: **TDY students will report NLT 2359 on DAY ZERO to building 4870 George Ave, Fort Drum, NY 13602.** If you are flying, the closest airport is the **Watertown International Airport (25 minutes) or Syracuse Hancock International Airport (1hr 14 minutes).** Students are responsible for their own transportation. The Fort Drum NCOA will provide lodging to TDY students. All Students arriving TDY will call staff duty at (315) 778-8187 once they have arrived to check in with Operations to be issued a barracks room. Linens will be provided but students may bring their own. Upon completion of the course, students will return to their permanent duty station; students should not plan on flying out before 1700hrs on the day of graduation.

### **Fort Drum NCOA ACT Community Website**

<https://actnow.army.mil/communities/service/html/communityview?communityUuid=8a1b9b50-bed8-454c-b0f7-54100620fb4f>

### **NCO Telephone Numbers**

Chief of Training  
(315) 772-3110

Chief of Operations  
(315) 772-3128

SDNCO  
(315) 778-8187

10. On behalf of the Commandant, and the staff of Fort Drum NCOA, congratulations on your selection. We look forward to your participation in this especially important event. Your experience in the course and critical feedback is invaluable to our effort in delivering the best outcome-based education for future Sergeants.

11. The point of contact for this action is MSG Joseph Barnhart at (315) 772-5572 or joseph.g.barnhart.mil@army.mil

CHRISTOPHER J. FOLEY  
CSM, USA  
Commandant