

Photo by Elizabeth Wessels

Leading the Way

Throughout our nations's history, the U.S. Army's Noncommissioned Officers (NCOs) have had a special trust: While carrying forward the best traditions of the past, they help to shape an Army of Excellence for today and tomorrow.

Today's NCOs lead the way! They serve as small unit leaders, whether that unit is an engineer squad breaching an enemy minefield or a clerical staff at a corps headquarters. NCOs also serve as trainers, ready to teach soldiers everything they must know—from the proper wearing of the uniform to marksmanship. They must understand military professionalism and be able to pass along to others whatever knowledge is required to accomplish the mission. Additionally, NCOs guard our standards. When NCOs guard standards for their subordinates, they act as role models for future guardians of standards. And when NCOs seek to improve themselves professionally, they act as role models for future professionals. The following articles show how NCOs successfully learn, train, and enforce standards—how they perform their duties on a daily basis.

It is an honor for me to be part of the Army's NCO Corps—and I salute the proud men and women who help shape our Army of Excellence.

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