

COMMANDANT'S WELCOME

Welcome to the John W. Kreckel 101ST Airborne Division Noncommissioned Officer Academy.

First I would like to say congratulations! Your selection to attend this course is a clear validation of past performance, yet more importantly your potential for greater roles of leadership and influence within your unit and ultimately the Army. The NCOs and Soldiers of your unit are counting on you to be the next trainer, coach, mentor and leader.

The mission of the John W. Kreckel Noncommissioned Officer Academy is to train future Noncommissioned Officers (NCOs). This is the first institutional leadership training in the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development System (NCOPDS); it is designed to transition volunteer Soldiers to professional leaders. This course focuses on leadership by teaching the core duties, responsibilities, and authority of the NCO.

As a graduate from the Basic Leader Course (BLC), you will be expected to enforce standards , supervise and inspect using pre-combat checks, train individual skills and crew drills, maintain equipment, and counsel Soldiers using the teach, coach and mentor philosophy. You will be expected to live and enforce the Army values, and Warrior Ethos. Finally, you will be expected to provide leadership and loyalty to subordinates, peers, and superiors in all environments and conditions.

This Academy is dedicated to creating a training environment focused on discipline, leadership, and teamwork. Task, conditions, and standards will be clearly articulated and enforced. Your instructor will provide honest feedback on performance so you will understand your strengths and weakness as a leader. Ultimately, my cadre are here to be your trainers, coaches, and mentors; they are dedicated to that leadership process.

Once again, congratulations on your selection to attend the Basic Leader Course; I am confident that if you show up on day one with a positive attitude, willingness to learn from peers and instructors, and work as part of a team, you will learn something about yourself and leadership.

"TRAIN TO LEAD!"

**CAREL A.TATE JR.
CSM, USA
Commandant**