



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT BLISS NONCOMMISSIONED ACADEMY
1190 SGT E Churchill St.
FORT BLISS, TEXAS 79918-8000

ATSS-CDA

25 April 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR STUDENTS

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

1. Congratulations on your selection and welcome to the Fort Bliss 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 Bliss 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 30-academic day course consisting of 220 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. Unit Commanders are encouraged to develop an Order of Merit List (OML) for Soldiers who qualify for BLC and maximize ATRRS reservations for course attendance.
 - a. Soldiers who attempt to walk on to a BLC class will be considered in the following order:
 - (1) Priority 1: Soldiers who currently hold the rank of Sergeant.
 - (2) Priority 2: SPCs/CPLs who have attended the promotion board and hold a promotable status.
 - (3) Priority 3: SPCs/CPLs who do not hold a promotable status.
 - b. All walk-on Soldiers must report with a complete hard copy of their enrollment packet.
 - c. The Commandant will ensure priority consideration for National Guard and Reserve (Compo 2 and 3) Soldiers in a TDY status for class seats as appropriate.
 - d. Soldiers attending BLC must have completed DOD cyber awareness training within 12 months of the class start date.

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e. Additional requirements:

(1) Must be able to pass an Army Fitness Test (AFT) and meet height and weight standards IAW AR 600-9. Students will be administered the new Army Body Fat Assessment for the Army Body Composition Program. Under the new Army Body Fat Assessment policy, if you fail both the one-site tape test and confirmation tape test, you must choose during your formal counseling whether to request a supplemental body fat assessment. If you decline, the decision is final. If you choose to proceed, passing the supplemental assessment is required to remain in the course. The AFT retest-screening will be administered no earlier than 7 days from the initial test. If a student passes the re-screening, the highest rating they may receive on the 1009A for Presence and Comprehensive Fitness is a MET STANDARDS. Pacers are allowed during the AFT. Pacers are required to wear the same uniform as their Soldier (civilian attire is not authorized).

(2) Have a minimum of 9 months Time in Service (TIS) remaining from the date of graduation.

(3) Have no suspension of favorable personnel actions (flags) or pending flags.

(4) Arrive fully capable of performing supporting individual tasks and tasks required at the previous lower-level course, e.g., basic training, SMCT Skill Level 1.

(5) Complete NCOA packing list.

(6) Ensure that you have a current record AFT with a passing score within 60 days of the reporting date.

(7) The NCOA will deny enrollment to Soldiers failing to meet any of the above prerequisites.

(a) All Soldiers must bring an automated TASS Unit Pre-Execution Checklist (PEC), TRADOC Form 350-18-2-R-E with them. This form is available for download from the TRADOC website at: <http://adminpubs.tradoc.army.mil/forms.html>.

(b) ATRRS enrolled Soldiers have 72 hours to provide all required missing documents and NCOA packing list items. Soldiers who fail to provide the required missing documents and/or items within the established timeline will be dis-enrolled and returned to their unit.

(c) Common Access Card (CAC): All Soldiers attending BLC are required to have a CAC. This is a requirement that will allow students to utilize classroom computers and allow students to sign 1059s, upon course completion.

(d) Student qualifications on prerequisite tasks are an individual and unit commanders' responsibility. Upon arrival, Soldiers must possess the capability of

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performing supporting individual Skill Level 1 tasks.

4. Students attending BLC must meet the following enrollment requirements:

a. Soldiers with medical profiles due to an operational deployment will be permitted by their immediate commander to attend appropriate courses (to include PME) within the guidelines of their profile. Soldiers must arrive at the course of instruction with a copy of their current profile and memorandum signed by their commander stating the profile has been continuous and is a result of injuries sustained due to an operational deployment.

b. Soldiers with temporary profiles of long duration (more than 6 months) may also take an alternate test if approved by the commander. Soldiers on temporary profiles will not take the AFT but will recover and recondition prior to taking the AFT. Test/event modifications are not available for temporary profile Soldiers. Soldiers with medical profiles due to injuries occurring during an operational deployment can attend training courses, to include PME, within the guidelines of their profile. Soldiers must arrive at the courses of instruction with a copy of their current profile and a memorandum signed by their commander stating the profile has been continuous and is a result of injuries sustained due to operational deployment.

c. Soldiers with medical profiles due to non-operational deployment injuries can attend courses within the guidelines of their profile if they can meet all physical requirements of the course, to include any physical fitness graduation requirements and if there are no recurring physical or operational therapies needed for recovery that would cause the Soldier to miss training. The Soldier's PCM must concur on the profile with the Soldier's ability to meet the physical requirements of the designated course.

d. Soldiers with a permanent designator of 2 in the physical profile must include a copy of DA Form 3349 (Physical Profile) as part of the course application. They will be eligible to attend courses (to include PME) and train within the limits of their profile, provided they can meet course graduation requirements. Soldiers with a permanent designator of 3 or 4 in their physical profile must include a copy of DA Form 3349, and the results of their MOS Administrative Retention Review as part of the course application.

e. Soldiers who have been before a MOS Administrative Retention Review and retained in their MOS or reclassified into another MOS are eligible to attend appropriate courses (to include PME) and train within the limits of their physical profile (DA Form 3349). Commandants will not dis-enroll or deny enrollment of Soldiers into the course based on physical limiting conditions on their physical profile, IAW MOS Administrative Retention Review adjudication.

f. While attending the course, the Soldiers will be administered a height and weight screening to include a supplemental body fat screening. **Failure to ask for or meet the supplemental screening will result in the dismissal from the course and receive a DA Form 1059 annotated in PART III block (a) "Failed to Achieve Course Standards." The unit may take further action based on the initial and conformation tape by initiating a flag and enrolling the learner into the Army Body Composition Program.**

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complete hard copy of their enrollment packet at the 0600 formation. **Unit PT shirts are NOT authorized at formation or while attending BLC. Uniform for sponsors is ACUs. The sponsor will stay until completion of enrollment.**

6. Additional Information: TDY Soldiers: The Fort Bliss NCOA will not be providing lodging for TDY students until further notice; the Fort Bliss NCOA Barracks are closed. All Students arriving TDY will call staff duty at (915) 955-2460 once they arrive at the El Paso International Airport (ELP). Students are responsible for transportation to their lodging. Make plans to arrive early to become familiar with Fort Bliss and the NCOA location. If you are flying, the closest airport is El Paso International Airport (ELP). Upon completion of the course, students will return to their permanent duty station; students should not plan on flying out before 1500hrs on the day of graduation.

7. For additional information and resources please visit the following websites for assistance prior to attending the Fort Bliss NCOA:

Fort Bliss NCOA website: <https://www.ncolcoe.army.mil/Organizations/Fort-Bliss-NCO-Academy/>

Fort Bliss NCOA NCO Worldwide Page:
<https://www.ncoworldwide.army.mil/Academics/Basic-Leader-Course/>

NCO Telephone Numbers:

Chief of Training
(915) 568-4744

Chief of Operations
(915) 568-2160

SDNCO
(915) 744-8101

On behalf of the Commandant, and the staff of Fort Bliss 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.



STEPHEN D. BOULERIS
CSM, USA
Commandant