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The Lankford Leader

PROUDLY SERVING PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION NEEDS
ACROSS COMPONENTS, SERVICES AND NATIONS

The Lankford Leader is a newsletter specifically designed to keep Command Chiefs informed about events, activities, and ideas at your Paul H. Lankford EPME Center.

Recent Graduate Award Winners

As with any educational endeavor, there are those who stand out among their peers. While all of our graduates should stand proud, having met the rigorous demands of enlisted PME, some have distinguished themselves through individual accomplishments and are deserving of special recognition. The award recipients for Satellite NCOA Class 13-1 and NCOA Class 13-2 are:

John L. Levitow Award

13-1

TSgt Bradford Green, 122nd Fighter Wing

13-2

TSgt Shawn Hartel, 54th Airlift Squadron

Distinguished Graduate Award

13-1

TSgt Karyn Brown, 104th Fighter Wing

TSgt Jody McKee, 134th Air Refueling Wing

TSgt Joseph Phair, 344th Training Squadron

TSgt Jarrod Lewis, 122nd Fighter Wing

TSgt Gary Goldsberry, 122nd Fighter Wing

TSgt Harry Grow II, 151st Air Refueling Wing

TSgt Calvin Mayotte, 122nd Fighter Wing

SSgt Robert Swenson, 127th Wing

TSgt Noel Hachtel, 326th Training Squadron

TSgt Jared Bright, 108th Air Refueling Wing

TSgt Richard Goins, 122nd Fighter Wing

TSgt Yanira Gonzalez, 113th Wing

13-2

TSgt Stephen Froeber, 173rd Operations Support

TSgt Kasie Pond, 15th Operational Weather Squadron

TSgt Mark Brown, 375th Communications Squadron

TSgt Linda Jessie, USAF

TSgt Timothy Yablonsky, 15th Operational Weather Sq.
TSgt Emika Taylor, AMC Logistical Support Squadron
TSgt Jennifer James, Band of Mid America
TSgt Christopher Therrian, 509th Aircraft Maint Sq.
TSgt Stephen Watkins, 183rd Maintenance Squadron
TSgt Charity Orriss, 308th Rescue Squadron
TSgt Amy Thomas, 159th Fighter Wing
TSgt Anthony Seabrooke, 4th Operations Support Sq.
TSgt David McNeely, 152nd Security Forces Squadron
TSgt Audrey Garland, 345th Recruiting Squadron
TSgt Jody Hershbine, 187th Maint Operations Squadron
TSgt Christopher Benoit, 104th Maintenance Squadron
TSgt Mitchell Mason, SOCOM
TSgt Kiana Mobley, 375th Force Support Squadron
TSgt Todd Cheney, 20th Reconnaissance Squadron
TSgt Nickolas Whiteman, 180th Logistics Readiness Sq.
TSgt Matthew Coltrin, 509th Maintenance Squadron

Academic Achievement Award

13-1

TSgt Jarrod Lewis, 122nd Fighter Wing

13-2

TSgt Anthony Seabrooke, 4th Operations Support Sq.

Commandant Award

13-1

TSgt Noel Hachtel, 326th Training Squadron

13-2

TSgt Nickolas Whiteman, 180th Logistics Readiness Sq.



Official class photos and photos of the graduation award recipients are located at the below website. Please allow two weeks for PA release/upload.

<https://www.facebook.com/ANGTECTV?ref=hl>



UPCOMING LANKFORD CENTER EVENTS



The guest speakers for the upcoming graduations for ALS/NCOA/Satellite NCOA are as follows:

ALS	13-2	TBD	
NCOA	13-3	TBD	
ALS	13-3	Chief Master Sgt. Denise Jelinski-Hall	Senior Enlisted Leader to Director NGB
NCOA	13-4	Chief Master Sgt. Denise Jelinski-Hall	Senior Enlisted Leader to Director NGB



Commandant's Corner

Lessons around the Fire

The year was 1979. Our small Boy Scout Troop had been at Camp Decorah, near Galesville, Wis. for three days. Although we were still enjoying the experience, the woods lacked some conveniences of home. We'd been living two-to-a-tent with barely enough room to swing our little legs off of our cots at the same time. When dressing each morning, one of us would duck out the back flap, trying to avoid getting coated in cold dew, and stand under the pines, while the other hastily donned clothing in the two-foot gap between cots. The tents had no floorboards, so we hopped on one leg and brushed the sand off of our toes before putting sox on. This imperfect process left us with the constant feeling of "grit foot." Showering involved a quarter-mile hike on narrow, winding paths, through the woods to an out-door pipe near the trading post. The pipe, shared by at least three other campsites, consisted of overhead spigots spraying cold water. Naturally, being boys, we had been artfully avoiding that particular experience. On Wednesday night, our Scoutmaster had lined us all up, ensured we had the necessary equipment and supplies, and force-marched us to the showers. Although he claimed to be acting on orders from our mothers, I now

suspect our combined fragrances played a larger role in his decision. En route back to our campsite, we immediately became coated in sweat, dust, and pine needles so by the time we haphazardly crammed our shower gear back into our tiny tents and arranged ourselves around the campfire; we were all irritated, exhausted, mosquito-bitten, chaffed, grumpy and homesick. That's when I first experienced virtuosity in leadership!

Brother Gary Countryman, our Scoutmaster, was a US Navy veteran, a hobby farmer, ham radio operator, model railroad enthusiast, and a long-time employee of the local telephone company. That night, he demonstrated to us the kind of intuitive leadership that makes any organization exceptional. As we sat on logs, staring into the glowing, dancing embers of the fire and glumly contemplating the next three days, he helped us sort through our moods, in words we could all understand. "Bro. C," as we addressed him, told us that Wednesday marked our halfway point. He said we were getting on one another's nerves, missing our homes and families, and not thinking clearly. With coals popping and crackling, he told us to close our eyes and breathe deeply, taking care to notice how the smells of campfire smoke and fresh pine boughs mingled together. He then asked us to tilt our heads back and open our eyes as he pointed to the orange, rising sparks dancing together with pinpointed stars in the tree-ringed gap above our fire pit. This great leader asked us to listen carefully to the sounds of the woods, the fire, and

the slow, swoosh of an occasional car on the nearby, county road. As we slowly forgot about ourselves and our discomfort, we were able to understand, even as young boys, how unimportant our minor inconveniences really were. I learned that night, at the tender age of 13, to take myself out of the moment—to ignore personal discomforts—and to focus on those things around me that were truly important: friendships of fellow Scouts, new skills we were learning together, and the adventures we were having. As Senior Noncommissioned Officers, it is our responsibility to, "...be an active, visible leader" (AFI 36-2618 Paragraph 5.1.6). Doing so requires us to carefully observe, proactively coach, counsel and explain to our Airmen what they are feeling, and sometimes why they feel the way they do. A few moments spent describing the climate can bring awareness, alter attitudes and improve performance. This type of active leadership leads to exceptionalism: a vital component in readiness and mission accomplishment! Exceptionalism comes first, from self-awareness, then from selflessness. Our Airmen achieve significant self-awareness through our coaching and mentoring. Often when we take time to point out to them those things that are most important: friendship of fellow Airmen, new skills they are learning together, and the valuable experiences we all have, inconveniences and personal differences become significantly

FUTURE CLASS START & GRADUATION DATES

NCOA		
Class	Start	Graduation
13-3	08 Jan 13	14 Feb 13
13-4	26 Feb 13	04 Apr 13
13-6	16 Apr 13	23 May 13
ALS		
13-2	14 Jan 13	14 Feb 13
13-3	04 Mar 13	04 Apr 13
13-4	22 Apr 13	23 May 13
Satellite NCOA 13-5 Phase I/II		
I	11 Mar 13	07 Jun 13
II	10 Jun 13	26 Jun 13
Satellite ALS 13-5 Phase I/II		
I	4 May 13	9 Jun 13
II	10 Jun 13	26 Jun 13

less important. It took decades for me to fully understand the leadership Bro. C had demonstrated. He had a crystal-clear, operational understanding of leading people, an institutional Air Force competency. He knew what it took to develop and inspire others (Table A.3.1). He knew exactly where, in the week we would start to grate on one another and he knew to smoothly put a stop to it before it began. As leaders, it's not enough to be aware of our own discomforts, attitudes and tendencies, we must also think hard about what our team is going through, what they are experiencing, and how those experiences might impact unit performance. We learn how to do that from many, different sources. After 33 years, I still remember the lessons I learned around the fire.

"Exceed to Succeed"

Chief Master Sgt. Donald E. Felch

COMMANDANT, PAUL H. LANKFORD EPME CENTER

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