
Regimental Command Sergeant Major



Command Sergeant Major Charles R. Kirkland



What a great time to assume the privileged responsibility of serving as your 10th Regimental Command Sergeant Major! In a keynote address at the 2008 Association of the U.S. Army Annual Meeting, the Secretary of the Army, Mr. Pete Geren, declared 2009 “The Year of the NCO”—a direct reflection of the hard work, dedication, and professionalism that our NCOs have displayed over the years. Given the projected changes to our Noncommissioned Officer Education System, promotion systems, and use as a professional Noncommissioned Officer Corps, “The Year of the NCO” is also a forward-leaning theme. The focus is to capitalize on a tremendous Army asset and make it better. I want to personally thank our professional NCOs within the Regiment for contributing to this honor and, in the words of Mr. Geren, “. . . providing the glue that holds our force together, enabling us to accomplish the seemingly impossible, each and every day.”



Here at the Maneuver Support Center Noncommissioned Officer Academy, our Advanced Leaders Course (ALC) (formerly the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course) and Senior Leaders Course (SLC) (formerly the Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course) have been restructured. The changes were made to better prepare our NCOs for future leadership responsibilities using the select-train-promote methodology. Platoon level tasks will now be taught in ALC, and company level tasks will be taught in SLC. As we go through the first iterations of these courses, student and field input will be solicited and thorough after-action reviews will be completed so that we can fine-tune the programs of instruction to ensure that NCOs get the very best training that we can provide.

The focus of ALC, SLC, and the Warrior Leadership Course is shifting so that NCOs are concentrating on the basics of leading in garrison environments as well as in combat. Hopefully, the theme “The Year of the NCO” will serve as a reminder to the leaders across our Regiment that the deliberate mentorship of our NCOs is vital to the future of our force.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible during the 2009 Military Police Corps Regiment Anniversary Week here at Fort Leonard Wood. Check our Web site at <http://www.wood.army.mil/usamps> for updates and information. The Warfighter Competition will tentatively kick off on 16 September, so start your selection process and prepare your teams now so that we can hold a world-class competition for our young warriors. I would like to encourage maximum participation from all three components this year. We all work hard on the battlefield, so why not take advantage of this opportunity and also play hard here at the home of the Regiment? A little friendly competition and fellowship go a long way!

In closing, I want to encourage all of you to stay safe while at home and abroad. Exercise common sense. Ensure that you pay personal attention to your families and friends, and please take care of one another. And don't hesitate to enjoy yourselves.

Of the Troops! For the Troops! NCOs Lead the Way!