

**Maneuver Support Center of Excellence
Noncommissioned Officers Academy
Military Working Dog Handler Senior Leader Course Syllabus**

Course Description: The Military Working Dog (MWD) Handler Senior Leader Course provides 31K Noncommissioned Officers with the operational and analytical skills required to successfully serve as MWD Kennel Masters and Operations Sergeants. The course enhances the student's ability to lead, train, and direct subordinates in all aspects of military policing. The course is 35 academic days long, covering 312 hours of training.

Course Purpose: To provide selected Staff Sergeants (promotable) and Sergeants First Class with the technical, tactical, and leadership/trainer qualities necessary to be successful in a Force Projection Army as kennel masters and operations sergeants.

Course Scope: This course will stress technical, tactical, leadership and procedural skills, knowledge's, and abilities to be a successful Military Police Military Working Dog Handler and a leader of other handlers. General military knowledge and MOS skills are emphasized. Instruction focuses on Military Police MWD Handler functions as well as Maneuver and Mobility Support Operations, Area Security, Police Intelligence Operations, Corrections and Detention Operations, and law enforcement operations. Further, the scope of training involves some advanced tactics, techniques and procedures in leading their MWD and subordinate handlers through different search operations whether it be explosives, narcotics or personnel.

Course Prerequisites: Active Army or Reserve Component SFC or SSG(P). Selected by HRC (Active Army) or recommended by unit commander (Reserve Component). Qualified in MOS 31E. Meets requirements outlined in AR 350-1 (18 December 2009), para 3-12. Soldiers must take and pass an APFT (standard or approved alternate) as an end of course graduation requirement, IAW AR 350-1, para 3-9. Soldiers attending SLC must meet the height and weight standards in AR 600-9. Soldiers must have completed BNCOC or ALC prior to attendance per DA PAM 350-4. All Active Component (AC) and Active Guard Reserve (AGR) officers, warrant officers and NCOs who reach the age of 40 will receive their over 40 physical, to include a cardiovascular medical screening program (CVSP) prior to arrival at OES, WOES, NCOES or functional professional development courses. All other soldiers who have reached the age of 40, whose last periodic physical was within the last 5 years, will receive a CVSP in conjunction with their next periodic physical examination, per TRADOC REG 350-10, para 2-6. Soldiers attending SLC will incur a six month service-remaining obligation upon graduation IAW AR 614-200, Enlisted Assignments and Utilization Management, 4-6, g, 2 (26 February 2009). Temporary messages from DA may eliminate or waive some prerequisites of the course. However, these changes will not be noted in the CAD until published in updated and applicable regulations and publications.

NOTE: Effective 1 June 2013, Structured Self Development 3 (SSD-3), is a

**Maneuver Support Center of Excellence
Noncommissioned Officers Academy
Military Working Dog Handler Senior Leader Course Syllabus**

prerequisite to attend the Senior Leader Course (SLC) Reference SSD ALARACT 216/2012.

Course Content: The MWD Handler Senior Leader Course is taught in three academic modules:

1. Module A: General Staff, Tactics and Operations
2. Module B: Sustaining Operations
3. Module C: Military Working Dog Operations

Evaluation Criteria: All students attending the MWD Senior Leader Course will be evaluated in accordance with NCOA Pamphlet 623-3, Individual Student Assessment Plan. Students will be evaluated on 11 performance-oriented assessments and three written examinations. These evaluations will be captured on the DA Form 1059, Academic Evaluation Report, in five areas:

1. **Written Communication:** Your rating in this area will be based on the average of your collective scores for the following performance-oriented assessments:

a. You will complete and submit **three formal memorandum's** in accordance with AR 25-50 for evaluation based on a topic that will be assigned to you by your SGL.

b. You will develop and submit a **written operations order** in accordance with FM 6-0 and various other doctrine based on a situation that will be assigned to you by your SGL.

2. **Oral Communication:** Your rating in this area will be based on the average of your collective scores for the following performance-oriented assessments:

a. You will **lead a student discussion** on a lesson that will be assigned to you by your SGL.

b. You will present an **oral operations order** in accordance with FM 6-0 and various other doctrine based on a situation that will be assigned to you by your SGL.

c. You will present a **military briefing** to your classmates in accordance with FM 6-0 on a military related topic of your choosing.

**Maneuver Support Center of Excellence
Noncommissioned Officers Academy
Military Working Dog Handler Senior Leader Course Syllabus**

3. **Leadership Skills:** Your rating in this area will be based on the average of your collective scores for the following performance-oriented assessments:

a. You will lead your platoon in *Physical Readiness Training* in accordance with FM 7-22.

b. You will conduct an *in-ranks inspection* of your platoon in accordance with TC 3-21 .5

c. Your overall leadership abilities will be assessed at the end of the course by your SGL. This assessment covers your ability to be a leader of character, a leader of presence, and a leader with intellectual capacity as well as your core leader competencies.

4. **Contribution to Group Work:** Your rating in this area is based on your overall contribution to group work throughout the course. This evaluation covers your performance inside and outside the classroom, as well as any special projects or details you have been a part of.

5. **Research Ability:** Your rating in this area will be based on the average of your collective scores for the following written examinations. These written examinations assess your ability to research information using technology at the end of each module:

a. General Staff, Tactics and Operations Examination

b. MWD Examination 2

c. MWD Examination 3

Additional Training: In addition to the evaluated training requirements, students will be involved in several collaborative training events that will challenge the knowledge and skills they developed throughout the course. These collaborative training events include a mission analysis exercise and a command post exercise. In each exercise, students will be required to fill a staff position generally found at the battalion and brigade level, interpret, analyze information and present that information to a commissioned officer.

Instructional Philosophy for the MWD Senior Leader Course: In a society accustomed to instant gratification it is tempting to assume that learning can be packaged and presented in a ready to use, no tools necessary fashion, relieving the student of the mundane, time consuming task of actually mastering the material. That will not be a method employed here. The primary goal of this course is to develop Noncommissioned Officers who can identify, analyze, and solve problems. To develop these higher order levels of thinking, students must

**Maneuver Support Center of Excellence
Noncommissioned Officers Academy
Military Working Dog Handler Senior Leader Course Syllabus**

immerse themselves in the material and struggle with abstract, ambiguous concepts. The initial phase of learning begins with confusion and ambiguity, progressing to clarification, followed by mastery of the concepts to intuitive understanding. It is the Small Group Leader's responsibility to nurture the student along this path by exposing the student to a body of knowledge that is meaningful, relevant, and interesting.

Within this context the Small Group Leader directs the student along a path of self-learning and study. Instead of learning being a transfer of knowledge from the Small Group Leader to the student, under a guided learning approach the student takes ownership of the learning process. As the level of mastery increases, the student will gain confidence to take on more demanding intellectual tasks and extend the learning beyond what's needed to pass the course.

Methods of Instruction: Small Group Leaders will lead using the Experiential Learning Concept method of instruction in support of the Army Learning Model. Case studies, background reading, independent research and group work will all be used to develop the topics and enhance the student's understanding of the course material. **Class discussion will be a major component of the course.** While working together in various sizes of group may be required, **there is no substitute for self-study.** Students should expect to spend significant time in class preparation. In addition, Students are encouraged to review all supporting doctrine, Center for Army Lessons Learned resources, and AKO resources to explore topics of interest in more depth. Because of the flexible nature of the course and the constantly changing state of Army and Military Police doctrinal guidance, the Small Group Leader will ensure that students are applying their knowledge to the most current of situations. The primary means of communication between the student and the SGL outside of the classroom will be through use of the Blackboard System.

Student Responsibilities: All sergeants attending the MWD Senior Leader Course are considered to be senior leaders and are expected to act accordingly:

1. Be properly prepared for training and complete all classroom and homework assignments on time
2. Meet or exceed all course graduation requirements as outlined in the **ISAP.**
3. Completely refrain from conduct, both on and off duty, which is immoral, illegal, unethical, or likely to bring discredit upon the Army.
4. Understand and comply with the guidelines set forth in the **ISAP**, SOPs, Army Regulations, and Fort Leonard Wood Regulations.

**Maneuver Support Center of Excellence
Noncommissioned Officers Academy
Military Working Dog Handler Senior Leader Course Syllabus**

5. Maintain high standards of appearance, bearing, and professionalism at all times to include, daily inspections, social committee events, community service projects and the graduation ceremony

6. Meet and sustain the APFT and Body Composition requirements in accordance with AR 350-1, AR 600-9, and FM 7-22.

Record APFT and Army Body Composition Standards: All Noncommissioned Officers attending MWD Senior Leader Course, in either a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) or Temporary Duty (TDY) status, will be administered a record APFT and body composition screening as a mandatory course graduation requirement.

Dining-In and Community Service: All Noncommissioned Officers attending the MWD Senior Leader Course will conduct a dining-in and a community service project. Both of these events are planned, coordinated and executed by the class under the supervision of the Senior SGL.

Other events: All Noncommissioned Officers attending the MWD Senior Leader course will attend a MSCoE NCO Call, MSCoE CG Mixer and may have the opportunity to participate on the installation flag detail. These are all positions of honor and are examples of events that senior leaders are expected to attend.