



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEBRASKA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
1ST BATTALION, 209TH REGIMENT (NCOA)
220 COUNTY ROAD A
ASHLAND, NE 68003-6000

NGNE-RTI-A

09 January 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR Students attending the Basic Leader Course (BLC) at the 1-209th Regiment Non-Commissioned Officer Academy (NCOA)

SUBJECT: Basic Leader Course Welcome Letter

1. Congratulations on your selection to attend Basic Leader Course (BLC) at 1-209th Regiment (NCOA). Your selection places you among the best qualified from your unit and it indicates the confidence that your leadership has in your ability to grow as an NCO and serve in positions of greater responsibility.
2. The NCOA is committed to providing you with an excellent training experience. We intend to enhance your ability to motivate, train, and lead Soldiers. This academy has no challenges or obstacles that you cannot overcome. You should prepare yourself with a positive mental attitude and the confidence that you can and will graduate. We will provide you the training and motivation to accomplish this task. I have instructed my cadre to teach, coach, and mentor you in every way. We will place you in a challenging environment and it will be up to you to achieve and maintain graduation requirements.
3. This NCOA provides instruction for the first level in the Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development System (NCOPDS). BLC is an MOS non-specific course designed for Soldiers in the grade of Specialist and Sergeant. The course is designed to teach the first-line supervisor's skill set of lead, train, and fight to win the Nation's wars. BLC is the foundation of leadership success and prepares you for the next level of leadership.
4. Again, my congratulations and I welcome you to the NCO Academy at Camp Ashland. We strive to provide you with a challenging and rewarding experience. We are committed to excellence in training and assisting you in your successful completion of your course. This is our contract with you, the NCO Corps and the United States Army.

"One Team, One Fight"

LUCAS J. SMITH
CSM, NEARNG
Commandant