The NCO Leadership Center of Excellence
DLC HEARS YOU

"History is a guide to navigation in perilous times. History is who we are and why we are the way we are." **David McCullough**

WELCOME TO THE THIRD INSTALLMENT OF DLC HEARS YOU!

As we analyze your feedback from the surveys with the intent of providing a reply, a virtual conversation per se, we ask that you take those same inputs and questions to your subordinates, peers, and superiors. Dynamic dialogue within your formations is sure to yield not only the answers you seek, but generate more questions, more dialogue, and more answers.

In this issue, we address comments regarding the history lessons; DLC 113 Perspectives and Contributions of NCOs Throughout History, DLC 201 NCO History of the 1700s, and DLC 301 NCO History During the 1800s.

DLC TIP

DLC courses require compatibility mode Off in Internet Explorer. To turn Off:

1. Click on Tools in Internet Explorer or (ALT + x)

2. Select Compatibility View Settings

3. Ensure army.mil is not listed under websites you've added

4. If it is select army.mil and click remove

5. Ensure Display intranet and use Microsoft compatibility is not checked.

RELEVANT OR NOT?

"Providing a topic about the history of NCOs was quite helpful. Allowed me to become knowledgeable about the military and why we do what we do."

"Take the history out. Times change, people change, tech changes. Focus on the present and the future."

The survey comments were easily separated into two groups. The first group is those who absolutely believe history is awesome and relevant. Hello to all you history enthusiasts! The second are those who do not believe history is relevant to leading in today's Army.

""The Master said, "A true teacher is one who , keeping the past alive, is also able to understand the present." (Analects 2.11)" - Confucius

RELEVANT BUT...

"The lesson on NCO History during the 1700s went too in depth."

"More detail on what wars had a greater impact on the NCO Corps needs to be included."

Additionally, there were two sub-groups of the first group. Those who thought there was too much detail and those who thought there was not enough. The truth of the matter is neither side is wrong, but we must put the content into context. The history lessons are an introduction and overview designed to interpret how NCOs have helped shape the Army of today. The depth of what you are expected to know is found in the Action, Condition, and Standard at the beginning of each lesson.

NOT RELEVANT

"NCO history is knowledge we should know, but not relevant currently in the Army."

"NCO history is that portion, in my own opinion, that is not needed for today's NCOs, or for career development."

We understand how difficult it is to establish a relationship between past experiences of the NCO and how they are relevant today. It may help to know that a Soldier's responsibility to learn history is codified and if we refer to the Military History and Heritage Education Program (MHHEP) goal, we start to understand why history is important.

"The goal of the MHHEP is to ground Soldiers and leaders in military history and heritage so they can use historically-informed critical and creative thinking/reasoning skill as the basis for complex problem-solving and decision-making." (TR 350-13, para. 3-1, p. 15)

Although the MHHEP passage is broad, there is a plethora of philosophical ideas as well, the crux of which is creating that bridge between yesteryear and today. One such idea to help make that mental leap is by our very own Dr. Dague, NCO Corps Historian.

"It's important to learn about the history of the non-commissioned officer in the United States because being a noncommissioned officer in the United States Army is a profession. And one of the things that learning about history of the NCO Corps does is that it tells you who you are as a professional. History is about who you are and what you can achieve and what is expected of you and how you can excel. It's about the identity that you assume when you put those stripes on."

We hope you've enjoyed this issue. Read 'Supporting Today's NCO Corps with Yesterday's Past'.