



CSM Column
February 2009

During a recent speech the USASMDC/ARSTRAT Commander, LTG Campbell, discussed the tremendous responsibilities we place upon our Soldiers in this era of "Persistent Conflict." LTG Campbell noted that today's battlefield "is a collage of factions, cultures, chaos, and fleeting advantages... where Non-Commissioned Officers and Junior Officers operate independently... that it is at the squad, company and battalion level where these wars are won."

The Sergeant Major of the Army (SMA) Kenneth O. Preston further noted the importance of the NCO to the Army when he stated on January 8 that "the noncommissioned officer is the glue that has held the Army together over the last eight years." In an effort to acknowledge the vital role the NCO has played within the United States Army since its founding in 1775, the Secretary of the Army has established 2009 as the "Year of the NCO."

As noted on the Army's Year of the NCO web page, (<http://www4.army.mil/yearofthenco/home.php>), "throughout 2009, the Army honors NCOs through initiatives and events that:

- Enhance awareness and public understanding of the roles and responsibilities of today's NCO.
- Enhance and accelerate the development of NCOs through education, fitness, and leadership development initiatives.

We invite you to join the celebration of one of America's greatest assets, the NCO Corps, the "backbone of the American Army."

During 2009, I'll use my column to share with you things we are doing within USASMDC/ARSTRAT to support these initiatives and events, and I'll be sharing information about our NCOs and their impact upon mission success throughout our global command.

This month, I'd like to showcase the accomplishments of the following Colorado Springs NCOs. These Soldiers are actively working to enhance awareness and public understanding of the roles and responsibilities of today's NCO.

- SSG Stephanie Weber (HHC, 1st Space Bn) – fosters community partnership throughout the Pikes Peak region through her work as the Battalion BOSS (Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers) Representative. SSG Weber partners with the Fort Carson BOSS team and is fully engaged with Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, and the DAV (Disabled American Veterans).
- SGT Hernan Ramirez (HHC, 1st Space Battalion) coaches Youth Football and Basketball, works numerous volunteer hours for a local non-profit organization that provides grants to underprivileged children for college, and spearheaded a drive to provide computers to students who could not afford one.
- SGT James Harris (D Detachment, 1st Space Company, Misawa Japan) - taught Modern Army Combatives to 15 Airmen and Sailors at Misawa AFB and certified them Level 1.
- SSG Nicholas Brown (HHC, USASMDC/ARSTRAT) has been the Command's Tax Center NCOIC for the last 3 years. He's helped prepare more than 750 Federal Tax Returns for Service Members, accounting for more than 1.6 million dollars in tax refunds and saving them \$161,334 in tax preparation fees. He's also volunteered more than 550 hours assisting fellow Soldiers, Airmen, and retirees on Peterson AFB and Fort Carson.

Each of these outstanding NCOs actively work to foster a professional and caring image for the Army's Noncommissioned Officer Corps. While doing so, some have helped the community better understand the roles and responsibilities of today's NCOs.

Finally, I'll acknowledge the efforts of the HHC, 1st Space Battalion. This team of Army professionals has adopted Palmer Park in Colorado Springs since 2005. These Soldiers and their families have spent countless hours improving the park through playground renovations, painting, litter pick-up etc., greatly improving the Army's public image as a direct result of their actions. Hooah!!!

Please take the time to visit the Army's official web page for the Year of the NCO at <http://www4.army.mil/yearofthenco/home.php> for more Army-wide examples.