



With the arrival of 2010, the "Year of the NCO" officially ended. As CSM Vincent Camacho, Command Sergeant Major, 101st Airborne Division noted, "this year did two things for the NCO Corps:

- 1) It made us very proud of who we are and codified the NCO Corps.
- 2) It put added pressure on the corps because, since it's The Year of the NCO, we can't fail. It forced us to take it to the next level as NCOs to uphold the standards."

I believe the Year of the NCO web page got it right when it noted:

"With more than 200 years of service, the U.S. Army's Noncommissioned Officer Corps has distinguished itself as the world's most accomplished group of military professionals. Historical and daily accounts of life as an NCO are exemplified by acts of courage, and a dedication and a willingness to do whatever it takes to complete the mission. NCOs have been celebrated for decorated service in military events ranging from Valley Forge to Gettysburg, to charges on Omaha Beach and battles along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, to current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq."

Recognition of our capabilities was great; it's always good to be recognized for our accomplishments. As CSM Camacho also noted, it served to make us strive to live up to the recognition and accolades being heaped upon us. So, where do we go from here? Do we, the NCOs, quietly slip back into the shadows or do we continue to press on, to continue to strive for the levels of excellence for which we've been lauded?

I submit that we must continue to meet the goals and objectives of the "Year of the NCO." We must strive to enhance the awareness and public understanding of the roles and responsibilities of today's NCO, while continuing to accelerate the development of NCOs through education, fitness, and leadership development initiatives.

A great way to meet these objectives is to publish our knowledge and expertise in the form of articles for Army Space Journal and other professional publications. Given the large number of space professionals within the USASMDC/ARSTRAT NCO Corps, it's disheartening to note that we make little effort to share our hard earned knowledge and expertise with other NCO readers of Army Space Journal. I urge each of you to take the time to write and submit articles for publication in both the Army Space Journal and in other professional publications.

I also ask that you consider developing presentations for our upcoming Senior Enlisted Leader Training Conference on 21-26 March 2010. Your input and active participation at this and other leadership events is crucial if we are to continue meeting the goals and objectives of the "Year of the NCO."

Finally, I'd like to congratulate each of you for making it through the holiday season with no major injuries or mishaps. It's always great to start the New Year with everyone safe. As we move forward into 2010, I ask that each of you remain vigilant for both your own safety and for the safety of those around you. I'd also ask that you take the time to review and understand the USASMDC / ARSTRAT FY2010 Safety and Occupational Health (SOH) Implementation Plan and Staff Inspection Checklist.

The safety and well being of all USASMDC/ARSTRAT personnel and their families is important to mission success and to the continued excellent esprit de corps currently enjoyed within our outstanding command.

*SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!*