

All BNCOC graduates to get 40 promotion points

by SSG Marcia Triggs

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) — Soldiers who successfully complete BNCOC began receiving 40 promotion points Aug. 1.

Soldiers no longer receive four promotion points per BNCOC-course week. This change lessens administrative mistakes and levels the playing field for BNCOC graduates with similar military occupational specialties, personnel officials said.

“Clerks no longer have to do the math,” said SGM Louisa Scott, the chief of Enlisted Promotions, Total U.S. Army Personnel Command.

Under the current system, when soldiers complete both phases of BNCOC — common core and military occupational specialty specific — they submitted two forms of the Department of the Army 1059 to their Personnel Support Branch for points, Scott said.

Then the PSB clerk decided how many points a soldier got, Scott said. For example, if phase one was five weeks and three days and phase two

was two weeks and two days one clerk may have given 32 points for eight weeks, but another clerk may have given 28 points for seven weeks.

By implementing a 40-point standard there’s no room for interpretation, Scott said.

Some soldiers may have the perception that they are losing points because their particular BNCOC is longer than 10 weeks, said SGM Gerald Purcell, personnel policy integrator with the Army’s G1. “That’s not true. The point system will be applicable to every soldier in the MOS, and the cut-off score will reflect that,” he said.

Soldiers still compete against others in their MOS, and everyone in that MOS has the same 40 points, Scott added.

The soldiers most greatly affected are ones who are in MOSs that have merged, such as some in the medical field, and those that are planning to merge under the implementation of

ADS XXI initiatives, which was designed to consolidate MOSs with similar functions, Purcell said.

It’s been proposed to merge light-wheel vehicle mechanics (63B), heavy-wheel vehicle mechanics (63S) and wheel-vehicle repairers (63W). While the wheel-vehicle repairers would lose 32 points if the merger goes through, each of the soldiers, who would be competing between one another for promotion, would receive the same number of promotion points for BNCOC completion. This eliminates inequities based solely on their BNCOC course length, Purcell said.

“We’re treating BNCOC as an equal element. So as we merge similar MOSs, no one is at a disadvantage,” Purcell said.

In July all Personnel Support Battalions began converting the BNCOC points, and adjusting promotion points. Soldiers will not have to do anything, Purcell said.

Troops-to-teachers legislation extends to Reservists

By Diane M. Dove, Office of the Chief, Army Reserve

WASHINGTON (OCAR News Release) — Members of the Army Reserve and Army National Guard are now eligible to participate in the *Troops to Teachers* program, a program which has been offered only to active-component soldiers.

Reservists can qualify if they have accrued 10 or more years of service and agree to serve three additional years.

The *Troops to Teachers* program extends financial assistance to eligible individuals to help them offset their education expenses.

Extending financial assistance to Reservists is one of the most significant changes to the eligibility criteria. Other eligibility categories for financial assistance are outlined in *Troops-to-Teachers Eligibility Criteria*.

President Bush signed the legislation authorizing the institution of *Troops to Teachers* into law on Jan. 8, 2002. Congress also appropriated \$18 million to provide financial assistance to eligible individuals pursuing teacher certification programs, and to individuals accepting employment as

teachers in “high needs” schools.

Eligible individuals can register for *Troops to Teachers* by submitting the registration form, which soldiers can get by downloading from the website at <http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/tt>.

The Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support, DANTES, is in the process of preparing promotional materials.

Points of contact at DANTES for more information are John R. Gantz, at (850) 452-1320 or DSN 922-1320, or Peter Peters at (800) 231-6242, ext. 117, or by e-mail at: ttt@voled.doded.mil/.

'Digital senders' speeding actions in Afghanistan

Courtesy U.S. Army Personnel Command

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (Army News Service)— Processing awards and other personnel records in faraway places is getting easier with the help of “digital senders,” according to personnel officials supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

A digital sender from Fort Bragg, N.C., is up and running in Uzbekistan, another is being set up in Afghanistan and a third one for the theater is planned, according to LTC Dick Kuehl, commander of the 18th Personnel Support Battalion.

To date, the Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center in Indianapolis has received 194 documents and 127 NCO evaluation reports from Afghanistan.

A digital sender looks like a fax machine and acts similarly in transmitting awards, evaluations and other documents directly into a soldier's official military personnel file, officials said.

A personnel section can send a Bronze Star award citation from the field one day and see it online the following day.

COL Howard Olsen, the EREC commander, will increase the number of senders in the Army to 100 by the end of the year, he said.

“We have funding to buy 30 more digital senders,” Olsen said. “EREC has sent memorandums to a number of major installations throughout the Army offering to pay for a second digital sender, if the installation commander agrees to purchase the initial sender for their command.”

Olsen told personnel officials at the 2002 personnel leaders meeting in May that EREC will prioritize the list of those commands who respond positively to the offer and purchase senders in a manner that will maximize coverage Armywide.

Currently, there are 30 digital senders at Fort Lewis, Wash.; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Korea; Germany; and Afghanistan.

A sender from Germany arrived recently in Kosovo to support 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, soldiers deployed to Kosovo from Schweinfurt. And another is enroute to Kuwait to support soldiers there.

Web-based program schedules NCO schools

Courtesy U.S. Army Personnel Command

WASHINGTON (Army News Service)— A new web-based program now gives NCO Education System managers greater access to training information.

The Army Training Requirements and Resources System Analysis Program will provide authorized ATRRS users the capability to rapidly obtain information on the web to manage NCOES training.

“This program is a great leap forward,” said SGM Willis McCloud, training division sergeant major for the Enlisted Personnel Management Division.

A program that was once based on complicated codes was reformatted so soldiers can easily navigate the system without having a working knowledge of database codes.

“The system is talking (soldier's) language,” McCloud said. “It's moved from code-based to a web-based system.”

ATRRS is being used by the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command Basic and Advanced NCO Course managers to coordinate scheduling.

“The program was created to manage NCOES,” said McCloud. “Additionally, the (new system) will help reduce the number of conditionally promoted soldiers who have not met NCOES requirements.”

Information within the program is also useful for projecting changes to training requirements.

MACOM training NCOs can view the training status of their soldiers and disseminate it down through their organizations, officials said. This tool enables the chain of command to

be informed of soldiers' training schedules.

Once logged-in with ATRRS ID, password and access code, users can obtain data for a soldier's last five classes, said McCloud.

“ATRRS tells if the soldier is not scheduled, why and what he can do to correct it,” McCloud said.

ATRRS managers can select two methods to view the soldier's information by viewing NCOES data or class management by MOS. The latter will provide the capability to view class statistics by MOS for ANCOC and BNCOC classes that started during the previous three months and those that are scheduled to start within the next six months.

In addition to ANCOC and BNCOC information, data can be obtained for the Primary Leadership Development Course and the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy resident and non-resident courses.

The program launched on April 15 with the web address <http://www.atrrs.army.mil/channels/ncoes>.

Editor's Note

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