

# JOINT NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER WEEK



05-09 MAY 2025





# WELCOME

Hampton Roads is vital to our national defense due to its significant joint Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard presence. It is also home to the only two North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) commands within North America. The area's diverse military community supports a strong defense ecosystem, including critical infrastructure for naval operations, submarine production, defense manufacturing, and Army doctrine development. With a local population of roughly 1.6 million individuals, the joint force impacts roughly 20% of the population through currently serving, veteran, retiree, or family member populations.

Hampton Roads is home to 65 Navy ships homeported at Naval Station Norfolk, the most extensive naval base in the world, the U.S. Fleet Forces Command (USFFC). USFFC, a four-star command, is the Navy's lead for organizing, manning, training, and equipping naval forces to support the Joint Force. Joint Base Langley-Eustis is home to two four-star commands, the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) and Air Combat Command (ACC). TRADOC is the Army's lead for training, educating, and developing Army personnel supporting the Joint Force. ACC is the Air Force's lead for organizing, training, and equipping combat-ready Airmen to control and exploit the Air, Cyberspace, and Electromagnetic Spectrum in support of the Joint Force.

The large military presence and strategic impact within Hampton Roads greatly impact the state of Virginia's annual gross domestic profit (GDP), as 11.8% of the state's total GDP is reliant on military spending. Hampton Road's reliance is significantly higher, as 39% of the economy and 36% of jobs in the area are supported by the military.

With the uniquely significant military presence throughout the Hampton Road's area, Joint Base Langley-Eustis hosted the annual Joint Non-Commissioned Officer week from 5-9 May, 2025 where junior enlisted service members were invited to build esprit-de-corps, collaborate, and celebrate their transformation from junior service member to enlisted leader with their teammates throughout the Joint Force. The relationships and collaboration formed throughout this week will strengthen their service bonds and bolster Joint Force readiness and lethality, ensuring that we are the world's premiere fighting force on the ground, in the water, and in the sky.

All photos courtesy of U.S. Army SFC John Miller unless otherwise denoted

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# JNCO WEEK

JBLE hosts week long event with NCOs from multiple services



**JOINT BASE LANGLEY- EUSTIS, Va. –** Throughout a week filled highlighting the Department of Defense's (DoD) history and heritage 155 new non-commissioned officers (NCO) across all services emerged at the end. These NCO's or Petty Officers are trusted and empowered leaders in the Profession of Arms-the Backbone of the world's premiere fighting force.

This ceremony commemorated a rite of passage for all participants as it transcended their career achievements, to date, and their transition from entry-level service members into leaders while earning the title of NCO or Petty Officer.

"You are responsible and accountable for the development and welfare of your subordinates. You teach, coach, and mentor them. As a steward of the institution, you enforce its standards and are its ambassador to the world", SgtMaj Bryan Battaglia, 2nd Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff.

The purpose behind the week-long event was to collaborate across the services and build esprit-de-corps between the brave Americans that defend our nation's security. Events throughout the week like a Leader Professional Development (LPD) with the Sergeant Major of the Army (SMA), Michael Weimer, and a Staff Assisted Visit (SAV) to Yorktown Battlefield provided the Department's junior NCOs an in-depth look through the history and heritage of our nations origin and where we are today.

"I believe the most important quality a leader can have is to care – to genuinely care about their people and to be deeply committed to the mission and the work we do", said, 17th SMA, Michael Weimer.

While a celebration of these enlisted members careers to date, this week also challenged them physically and mentally with an Army-led Holistic Health and Fitness, or H2F, training session and ruck assessment throughout the week. H2F is the Army's modernization effort for how it prepares Soldiers for the rigors of Large-Scale-Combat-Operations (LSCO).

"The Army is transforming how our Soldiers prepare to fight and win our nations wars, but, when we go to fight, we don't go alone", said CSM Michael McMurdy, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Senior Army Element Commander of Joint Base Langley Eustis. "We wanted to provide a demonstration to our sister services on how we are changing the way we holistically prepare to fight so they know, the Army's always ready to answer the call".

The week-long celebration ended on May 9th as 155 Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, Sailors, and Coast Guard were inducted at the Jacob's Conference Center. Along with the guest speaker for the induction ceremony, Command Master Chief Kyle R. Pulk, each service was represented by a senior NCO to present their services inductees with their induction certificate.

Serving as the senior NCO for the 23 Marines that were welcomed into the NCO Corps was Sergeant Major (SgtMaj) Kelvin Avelar the Command Senior Enlisted Leader for the Marine Corps Security Force Regiment located in Yorktown, Virginia.

The senior NCO for the seven Sailors that joined the NCO Corps was Master Chief Petty Officer (MCPO) Donavon Gray, Command Master Chief Information Warfare Training Command, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

The senior NCO for the 16 Coast Guardians that joined the NCO Corps was Senior Chief Petty Officer (SCPO) Kristin Gray.

The senior NCO for the 16 Airmen that joined the NCO Corps was the 633rd ABW Command Chief. Chief Master Sergeant (CMS) David A. Kolcun.

The senior NCO for the 93 Soldiers that joined the NCO Corps was Sergeant Major (SGM) Kent M. Condon



**JUNIOR NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS** salute the flag during morning Reveille, a bugle call that signals the start of the duty day, prior to kicking off JNCO week with a H2F session at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, VA on May 05, 2025.



Above photo courtesy of U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Ian Sullens



# H2F SESSION

## HOLISTIC HEALTH AND FITNESS HOST PHYSICAL FITNESS SESSION

Joint Noncommissioned Officer (JNCO) Week kicked off with a physical fitness session led by Army Holistic Health and Fitness (H2F) personnel. H2F is the U.S. Army's comprehensive program designed to enhance Soldier readiness by focusing on multiple dimensions of health. Afterwards U.S. Army Major Stephanie Meno, the Army Nutrition Domain Lead for the H2F Directorate, Center for Initial Military Training, led a group of joint service members through a Tactical Mobility Active Recovery and Mindfulness (TMAR-M) routine. TMAR-M is a holistic approach to recovery that combines physical restoration with mental well-being. It's designed to help Soldiers proactively manage stress, prevent injuries, and optimize performance. It's often taught as a leader-empowering recovery sessions led program, NCOs to facilitate with their teams.





# LEADER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Staff Sgt. Samuel Matlock, 2024 U.S. Army Active Component Drill Sergeant of the Year (DSOY), engages services members during a leader professional development (LPD). LPDs encompass training and educational opportunities designed to enhance leadership skills and knowledge. These programs, which can range from formal courses to mentorship, aim to prepare leaders to effectively guide their teams and achieve organizational success. Afterward the junior NCOs were visited by the Sergeant Major of the Army (SMA), Michael Weimer who spoke to them about leadership and the importance of joint service capabilities.



"I think early trust is key to successful training – it allows me to get the most from my trainees and fosters a clear understanding of effective leadership."  
**DSOY Staff Sergeant  
Samuel Matlock**



"I believe the most important quality a leader can have is to care – to genuinely care about their people and to be deeply committed to the mission and the work we do."

**Sergeant Major of the Army  
Michael Weimer**





# UNIT CAPABILITY DEMOS

128th Aviation Brigade | 7th Transportation Brigade (Expeditionary)



All photos on this page courtesy of Mr. Hunter Rhoades



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# YORKTOWN

## BATTLEFIELD STAFF RIDE

Dr. Joe Rainer, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command deputy chief historian, discusses historical events that took place during the Revolutionary War, during a staff ride at the Yorktown, Virginia, battlefields May 06, 2025. A Staff Ride is a professional development event where the Joint Service NCOs were able to learn about a historical military operation, while visiting the actual battlefield to analyze the decisions made and the challenges faced. The goal is to foster critical thinking, improve teamwork, and

apply lessons learned to enhance current operational effectiveness.

Yorktown Battlefield, located at the eastern end of the Colonial Parkway in York County, marks the site of the decisive British defeat during the Revolutionary War. Key locations include the Thomas Nelson House (circa 1724), utilized as Cornwallis's headquarters during the final engagement, and the Moore House, where surrender negotiations commenced in 1781. Both the Nelson House and the historic siege earthworks underwent restoration in 1976.

The park is proximate to the state-run American Revolution Museum at Yorktown and the Yorktown Riverwalk Landing. These facilities provide additional context and support for understanding the strategic importance of this battlefield.





# JOINT NCO INDUCTION CEREMONY

U.S. military service members from the Air Force, Army, Marines, Navy, and Coast Guard participated in a joint NCO induction ceremony on Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, May 9, 2025.

Each branch of the U.S. military recognizes the transition to non-commissioned officer (NCO) status with a dedicated ceremony, though traditions vary. The Army holds a highly formal induction rich in history and symbolism, prominently featuring the passing of the NCO sword and reciting the NCO Creed. The Marine Corps also has a formal induction, emphasizing its unique heritage with the reading of the NCO Sword history and reciting the Marine Corps NCO Creed, reinforcing its distinct traditions. The Air Force's formal ceremony focuses on leadership responsibilities, segmented by NCO Tier. In the Navy, advancement to Petty Officer Third, Second, and First Class is recognized through departmental ceremonies and traditions emphasizing the increased responsibilities of these junior leaders. Finally, the Coast Guard maintains a formal induction similar to other branches, emphasizing the vital leadership role of its Petty Officers. Across all services, these ceremonies celebrate the new NCOs, honor the NCO Corps, and instill a sense of pride and responsibility.



More than just a recognition of past achievements, this ceremony symbolized the participants' transition into leadership. They earned the respected title of Petty Officer (in the Navy) or NCO, marking a significant rite of passage. These NCOs and Petty Officers embody the trust and empowerment expected of leaders in the Profession of Arms, serving as the backbone of the world's premiere fighting force.



## OTHER EVENTS FROM JNCO WEEK

The service members participated in several other events during the course of JNCO Week. These events included:



AIR FORCE DEMO

COAST GUARD DEMO

All photos on this page courtesy of U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Ian Sullens





**U.S. ARMY**