



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

6 January 1989

THE 1989 ARMY THEME
THE NCO

proceeds
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(under preparation)

The NCO is the Army Theme for 1989.

Soldiers who wear NCO's chevrons on their sleeves represent a unique Army strength upon which this year's Theme will focus. The previous yearly Themes of Spirit of Victory, Physical Fitness, Excellence, Families, Leadership, Values, The Constitution, and Training all have a special bearing on NCOs, who have key responsibilities in accomplishing the Army's missions.

Throughout the history of our Army, the NCO has played an indispensable role in the warfighting readiness of our force. Baron Von Steuben, in writing our first Army manual, known as the "Blue Book," acknowledged the importance of selecting the right soldiers as NCOs: "The order and discipline of a regiment depends so much upon their behavior, that too much care cannot be taken in preferring none to that trust but those who by their merit and good conduct are entitled to it." Today, we continue to expect of our NCOs the highest professional standards and a diversity of knowledge in order to lead their soldiers in ensuring our Army is trained and ready. Tomorrow we shall expect no less.

NCOs provide the day-to-day leadership to our soldiers. They ensure individual soldiers attain and maintain the required standards of proficiency and link soldier performance to unit missions. It is the NCO who must be certain of the soldier's ability to succeed in combat. With their officers, NCOs are responsible for the planning, execution, and assessment of training.

The NCO is both a leader and a role model. The process which develops NCOs as leaders has three components: institutional schooling at every level according to the Noncommissioned Officer Education System, operational experience in their respective military occupational specialties, and self-development which relies on the initiative an NCO takes to improve through reading, correspondence courses, and similar efforts. NCOs earn and retain the respect and confidence of their superiors and subordinates through demonstrated tactical and technical competence, and knowing how to lead and care for soldiers. As leaders,

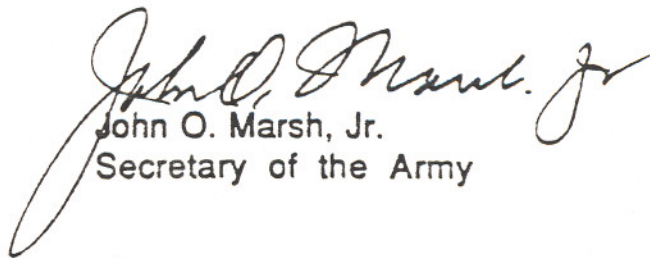
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NCOs must satisfy the imperatives of mission accomplishment and the needs of their soldiers, and place both ahead of their own personal welfare.

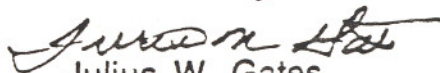
NCOs have a long history of dedicated service to soldiers, units, the Army, and our Nation. We acknowledge their unique contributions, past, present, and future, in declaring this special Army strength the 1989 Army Theme, "The Year of the NCO."



Carl E. Vuono
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff



John O. Marsh, Jr.
Secretary of the Army



Julius W. Gates
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