

Module 3: NCOER Support Form & Grade Plate NCOERs

During this block of instruction, I will provide detailed information on the DA Form 2166-9 series, which includes the NCOER Support Form and the three grade plate NCOERs. I will cover the key form changes, as well as provide clarification for the definitions and descriptions for the leader attributes and competencies and Rater and Senior Rater box scale. If you have questions during the brief, please feel free to ask them.

Here's the agenda and the following key areas I will discuss:

- What is changing on the NCOER
- DA Form 2166-9 Series and the parts of each form
- Leader Attributes and Competencies
- Performance Measures

In addition, I'll also discuss the rater and senior rater assessments for each form and the senior rater potential measures.

Here is a comparison chart of the current NCOER and the New NCOER.

As you can see, the New NCOER Support Form aligns with current doctrine, ADP 6-22; whereas the current NCOER is based on outdated doctrine. The DA 2166-9 now has an entry for the rated NCO to provide their goals and expectations for that rating period. The support form also incorporates an SSD/NCOES completion box for the next grade so that the rater and senior rater may track the progress of the NCO's Military Education Level and attaining promotion eligibility.

Three reports were developed for the levels of leadership, based on grade and scope of responsibility. The first NCOER form, which is referred to as the direct-level report is for NCOs in the rank of SGT. This form is developmental in nature. At this level, junior NCOs are refining the ability to apply competencies at a proficient level. The organizational-level form is for SSG through MSG; it focuses on organizational systems and processes. In this level of leadership, NCOs apply competencies to increasingly complex situations. The last form is the strategic-level report for CSM/SGM. At the strategic level, leaders shape the military through change over extended time.

There is a clear delineation between the rater and senior rater responsibilities. The rater will assess performance only and the senior rater will assess potential. The senior rater will also assume the role/responsibility of reviewer. The role of supplementary reviewer has been added and there are certain cases when a supplementary review is required.

The assessment format has also changed as the senior rater comments will be written in narrative format and the entire assessment for CSM/SGM will be written in narrative comments.

The new NCOER is designed to reduce inflation and this will be accomplished through the controlled potential-based senior rater assessment and also by incorporating a rater tendency label and a managed senior rater profile for SSG through CSM/SGM.

As mentioned on the previous slide, DA Form 2166-9-1A, the NCOER Support Form, will align with Army leadership doctrine. In addition, the rated NCO's current Military Education Level (MEL) and Structured Self Development (SSD) codes will be included on the form. This will enable the rating officials to mentor and counsel the rated NCO and track his/her progress in attaining promotion eligibility for the next grade. In the case of Sergeants Major, eligibility for joint and/or nominative assignments.

Another key change is the ability for the senior rater to counsel the rated NCO twice during the rating period and document it on the NCOER Support Form. This will complement the rater's initial and quarterly counseling session. Also, with the implementation of a senior rater profile, it becomes more critical for the senior rater to provide counsel and mentorship to the rated NCO.

In Part IV, the rated NCO will list their goals and expectations. This change gives the rated NCO input about goals and expectations but will also place more onus or responsibility on the rated NCO to perform throughout the rating period. The information provided gives the rating officials additional information to consider when evaluating overall performance and potential at the end of the rating period.

As mentioned, the NCOER Support Form does capture the attributes and competencies from ADP 6-22.

In Part V, in the left column, the rater will identify the major performance objectives based on the attributes and competencies listed in ADP 6-22. In the right column, the rater can list the rated NCO's contributions or accomplishments – these comments can help provide the basis for the NCOER itself.

In Part VI, the senior rater will be able to provide comments based on counseling sessions conducted with the rated NCO.

The next several slides are screenshots of the draft grade plate NCOERs, broken down by section. As for the front page, it is the same for all three forms with the exception of the DA Form 2166-9-3 (CSM/SGM), which will be written in narrative comments.

In support of the Department of Defense's initiative to discontinue the use of Social Security Numbers, the 10-digit DOD ID Number (located on the back of the Common Access Card (CAC)) will be utilized versus the rated NCO's SSN.

Rated NCOs, rating officials, and delegates must ensure that UICs are entered correctly in Part I, block h. If the UIC is entered incorrectly, the reporting database, Evaluation Reporting System (ERS), will not be able to retrieve information for that invalid UIC. Like IWRS, ERS is the status reporting database for all evaluations processed in the Evaluation Entry System (EES).

During a rated Soldier lookup, if the UIC is incorrect, then contact your unit S1 to update the database of record (usually EMILPO). You can overwrite the information on the NCOER, however, it will not correct the main database.

Remember if you use the NCOER Support Form in the online system, all of the admin information entered on the form will auto-populate the NCOER when it is created from the support form.

(This is key to data accuracy in the Evaluation System process.)

DOD ID Numbers will be utilized for rating officials as well. If DOD ID Numbers are not available, then the SSN will be used. An example of this is when a rating official does not have a DOD-issued CAC (e.g., rating officials who work for the State Department and Congress.)

AKO email addresses will not be entered on the form, use DOT GOV or DOT MIL.

As mentioned before, the senior rater will perform the review unless a supplementary review is needed. If a supplementary review is not required, then the user will select "NO" in Part II, block c1 and leave the remaining section blank.

If the Uniformed Army Advisor determines comments are necessary, he or she will select "YES" in Part II, block c4 of the NCOER and prepare an enclosure to the NCOER which will address the accuracy and clarity of the completed NCOER. Note: The comments will not include evaluative statements about the rated NCO or statements that amplify, paraphrase, or endorse the ratings of the other members of the rating chain.

The rated NCO's signature will verify the accuracy of the administrative data in Part I, confirming the name and SSN on the evaluation report, rank and date of rank, branch or MOS data, period covered and nonrated time; the rating officials and counseling dates in Part II; the duty description in Part III, and the APFT and height and weight entries in Part IV. This procedure ensures that the rated NCO has seen the completed evaluation report. It also increases the administrative accuracy of the evaluation report and will normally preclude an appeal by the Rated NCO based on inaccurate administrative data.

Remember if you use the NCOER Support Form in the online system, all of the admin information entered will auto-populate the NCOER when it is created from the support form.

The duty description is comprised of five sections in Part III:

The first section, Part III, block a, is the principal duty title. The duty title will parallel the duty title shown on the NCOER Support Form.

The next section, Part III, block b, is the duty MOSC. The duty military occupational specialty code (MOSC) (at least five characters but no more than nine) that coincides with the duty title will be entered. In cases where the rated NCO is filling an officer position, enter the enlisted MOSC that best matches the officer position.

The third section, Part III, block c, is a description of the daily duties and scope – the user will enter the most important routine duties and responsibilities. Unless changes occurred during the rating period, the duty description on the NCOER should be the same as the one on the NCOER Support Form. (Note: Written in a series of phrases, starting with action words, separated by semicolons, and ending in a period. Use present tense.)

The fourth section, Part III, block d, areas of special emphasis, is a list of tasks or duties that required top priority during the rating period such as SRP, UPL, or Master Resiliency. (Note: Separated by semicolons and ending in a period.)

The last section, Part III, block e, is the list of appointed duties. These are duties appointed to the NCO not normally included in the duty description. (Note: Separated by semicolons and ending in a period.)

Remember, if you complete the NCOER Support Form within EES, then all of the admin information will auto-populate the NCOER when it is created.

In Part IV, blocks a and b, the rater will enter the most recent record APFT administered by the unit (within the 12-month period to the “THRU” date of the NCOER) and the unit’s last record weigh-in data (including whether or not the rated NCO is in compliance with AR 600-9). Comments are mandatory for an APFT failure, ‘NO APFT,’ a “PROFILE” that hinders duty performance, and a “NO” entry for height/weight compliance.

Remember if you use the NCOER Support Form in the online system, all of the admin information entered will auto-populate the NCOER when it is created within the Evaluation Entry System (EES).

In Part IV of the three grade plate NCOERs, the rater will begin assessing the rated NCO on his/her attributes and competencies from Army Doctrine Publication (ADP) 6-22.

As defined in ADP 6-22, “Leadership is the process of influencing people by providing purpose, direction, and motivation to accomplish the mission and improve the organization.”

Based on this, the Leadership Requirements Model outlines the expectations that the Army wants leaders to meet. The attributes (CHARACTER, PRESENCE, and INTELLECT) are what leaders should be and know while the competencies (LEADS, DEVELOPS, and ACHIEVES) are what leaders should do.

In order to display effective leadership, the leader must blend the core leadership attributes (those characteristics inherent to the leader that moderates how well learning and performance occur) with competencies (groups of related leader behaviors that lead to successful performance and are common throughout the organization and consistent with the organization’s mission and value).

Leaders acquire competencies at the direct leadership level. As the leader moves to organizational and strategic level positions, the competencies provide the basis for leading through change. Leaders continuously refine and extend the ability to perform these competencies proficiently and learn to apply them to increasingly complex situation. Filtering these attributes and competencies through the levels of leadership be it direct, organizational, or strategic, allows the rater and senior rater to manage and set expectations for the rated NCO. When you look at the new grade plate NCOERs, you should note that they too are organized along this methodology and the expectations of a new SGT are not the same as those for a CSM/SGM. That is why we have changed from one (1) form to three (3) forms so that it is readily apparent how expectations change.

The outcomes listed are some of the expected results that happen when our Army and its leaders possess, develop, and apply strong attributes and competencies.

This attributes chart from the Center of Army Leadership (CAL) breaks out what is expected of a leader by level. You can see that the level of complexity and responsibility increases with rank. This illustrates the necessity for the three level-based NCOERs.

CHARACTER – Leadership is affected by a person’s character and integrity. Integrity is a key mark of a leader’s character. It means doing what is right, legally and morally, and is essential to successful leadership. ***(Army Values, Empathy, Warrior Ethos/Service Ethos, Discipline)***

PRESENCE – The impression a leader makes on others contributes to success in getting people to follow. This impression is the sum of a leader’s outward appearance, demeanor, actions and words, and the inward character and intellect of the leader. *(Military and professional bearing, Fitness, Confidence, Resilience)*

INTELLECT – The leader’s intellect affects how well a leader thinks about problems, creates solutions, makes decisions, and leads other. *(Mental agility, Sound judgment, Innovation, Interpersonal tact, Expertise)*

This competencies chart from the Center of Army Leadership (CAL) breaks out what is expected of a leader by level. You can see the level of expectations increases as Leaders progress through their career. This further illustrates the necessity for the three level-based NCOERs.

LEADS – Leaders motivate, inspire, and influence others to take initiative, work toward a common purpose, accomplish critical tasks, and achieve organizational objectives. Influence focuses on compelling others to go beyond their individual interests and to work for the common good. *(Leads others, Builds trust, Extends influence beyond the chain of command, Leads by example, Communicates)*

DEVELOPS – Leaders encourage and support others to grow as individuals and teams. They facilitate the achievement of organizational goals through helping others to develop. They prepare others to assume new positions elsewhere in the organization, making the organization more versatile and productive. *(Creates a positive command / workplace environment, Fosters esprit de corps, Prepares self, Develops others, Stewards the profession)*

ACHIEVES – A leader’s ultimate purpose is to accomplish organizational results. A leader gets results by providing guidance and managing resources, as well as performing the other leader competencies. *(Gets results)* focuses on consistent and ethical task accomplishment through supervising, managing, monitoring, and controlling the work. *(Gets results)*

When the rater assesses the rated NCO’s performance based on the attributes and competencies of ADP 6-22, he/she will use the following performance measures:

“FAR EXCEEDED STANDARD”

“EXCEEDED STANDARD”

“MET STANDARD”

“DID NOT MEET STANDARD”

Note: The direct-level report for Sergeant will only use “MET STANDARD” and “DID NOT MEET STANDARD.” The organizational- and strategic-level Reports will use all four performance measures.

We’ll now discuss each performance measure on the following slides.

“FAR EXCEEDED STANDARD” is defined as a rated NCO who performs extraordinarily above the required Army standards and organizational goals of leader competencies and attributes. This is typically demonstrated by the best of the upper third of NCOs of the same grade. This performance measure is

used in rare or very unique instances. The following examples were identified by TRADOC and the proponents.

“EXCEEDED STANDARD” is defined as a rated NCO who performs above the required Army standards and organizational goals of leader competencies and attributes. This is typically demonstrated by the upper third of NCOs of the same grade. The following examples were identified by TRADOC and the proponents.

“MET STANDARD” is defined as a rated NCO who successfully achieves and maintains the required Army standards and organizational goals of leader competencies and attributes. This is typically demonstrated by a majority of NCOs of the same grade. The following examples were identified by TRADOC and the proponents.

“DID NOT MEET STANDARD” is defined as a rated NCO who fails to meet or maintain the required Army standards and organizational goals of leader competencies and attributes. The following examples were identified by TRADOC and the proponents.

In September 2013, an Army Directive was published mandating all raters to assess how well the rated Soldier fostered a climate of dignity and respect and adhered to the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) Program, on their evaluation report.

With the release of the new NCOER and updates to AR 623-3, raters will include their assessment for rated Soldier’s performance in support of SHARP, as well as annotate any substantiated findings found in an Army or DoD Investigation or inquiry, in Part IV, block c.

On DA Forms 2166-9-1 and 2166-9-2, the rater will enter bullet comments addressing the rated NCO’s performance as it relates to adherence to the Army Values, Warrior Ethos / Service Ethos, Discipline, and SHARP/EO/EEO. As mentioned previously, the rater will provide narrative comments for CSM/SGM on DA Form 2166-9-3.

The rater will continue their assessment of the rated NCO’s attributes and competencies on Page 2 using a two-box scale. This NCOER will be focused on technical proficiency and is developmental in nature.

If the rated NCO **successfully achieved** and maintained the required Army and organizational standards of leader competencies and attributes consistent with the majority of NCOs in that grade of the rater’s population, the rater will place an “X” in the “MET STANDARD” box.

If the rated NCO **failed to meet or maintain the required Army standards and organizational goals of leader competencies and attributes** and performance was below the majority of NCOs in the grade of the rater’s population, the rater will place an “X” in the “DID NOT MEET STANDARD” box.

Rater comments will remain in bullet format and the rater may enter up to eight lines of text and spacing in Part IV, blocks c through h.

As for the overall performance, the rater will assess the rated NCO’s overall performance compared to other NCOs in that rank/grade. For those who are assessing NCOs in a particular rank for the first time, the rater will use their experience when providing comments.

Whereas the direct-level report for Sergeant uses a 2-box scale, the organizational-level report for Staff Sergeant through First Sergeant / Master Sergeant (SSG-1SG/MSG) uses a 4-box scale which consists of

“FAR EXCEEDED STANDARD,” “EXCEEDED STANDARD,” “MET STANDARD,” and “DID NOT MEET STANDARD.”

If the rated NCO’s demonstrated performance surpassed the required Army and organizational standards of leader competencies and attributes of the majority NCOs in that grade of the rater’s population; the rater will place an “X” in either the “EXCEEDED STANDARD” or “FAR EXCEEDED STANDARD” box. The rater will use the “EXCEEDED STANDARD” and “FAR EXCEEDED STANDARD” boxes to identify the upper third of NCOs for each rank, with further stratification of the upper third by use of the “FAR EXCEEDED STANDARD” box. (Note: “FAR EXCEEDED STANDARD” is **demonstrated by the best of the upper third of NCOs of the same grade.**)

If the rated NCO **successfully achieved** and maintained the required Army and organizational standards of leader competencies and attributes consistent with the majority of NCOs in that grade of the rater’s population, the rater will place an “X” in the “MET STANDARD” box.

If the rated NCO **failed to meet or maintain the required Army standards and organizational goals of leader competencies and attributes** and performance was below the majority of NCOs in that grade of the rater’s population, the rater will place an “X” in the “DID NOT MEET STANDARD” box.

Rater comments will remain in bullet format and senior rater comments will be in narrative format.

As for the overall performance, the rater will assess the rated NCO’s overall performance compared to other NCOs in that rank/grade using the 4-box scale while providing comments. For those who are assessing NCOs in a particular rank for the first time, the rater will use their experience when providing comments. (Note: If the rater assesses the rated NCO as “DID NOT MEET STANDARD” for any of the attributes or competencies, then the “FAR EXCEEDED STANDARD” and “EXCEEDED STANDARD” selections for the rater overall performance, Part IV, block i (DA Form 2166-9-2) and Part IV, block e (DA Form 2166-9-3) will be grayed out. The rater will only be able to select from “MET STANDARD” or “DID NOT MEET STANDARD.”)

The strategic-level report for Command Sergeant Major / Sergeant Major (CSM/SGM) will focus on large organizations and strategic initiatives. It’s similar to the OER in that the rater and senior rater will assess using narrative comments.

The rater’s assessment of overall performance, in Part IV, block e will function the same as the organizational-level report for Staff Sergeant through First Sergeant / Master Sergeant (SSG-1SG/MSG).

For the organizational-level and strategic-level reports, the senior rater will assess the rated NCO’s overall potential during the rating period compared against other NCOs, of the same rank, the senior rater currently senior rates and has senior rated previously.

If the rated NCO’s potential exceeds that of the majority of NCOs in the senior rater’s population, then the senior rater will place an “X” in the “MOST QUALIFIED” box. This box check identifies NCOs with strong potential for promotion in the secondary zone and **ahead of peers**. In order to maintain a credible profile, the senior rater must have up to 24% of the ratings in a grade to retain the “MOST QUALIFIED” label.

If the rated NCO's potential is consistent with the majority of NCOs in the senior rater's population, then the senior rater will place an "X" in the "HIGHLY QUALIFIED" box. This box check identifies NCOs with a strong potential for promotion **with peers**.

If the rated NCO's potential is adequate, but beneath the majority of NCOs in the senior rater's population, then the senior rater will place an "X" in the "QUALIFIED" box. This box check identifies NCOs who demonstrate potential to be successful at the next level, promote **if sufficient allocations are available**.

If the rated NCO's potential is below the majority of NCOs in the senior rater's population, then the senior rater will place an "X" in the "NOT QUALIFIED" box. This box check identifies NCOs who do not demonstrate potential for promotion, recommend separation.

The senior rater's assessment of the rated NCO's (in the rank of Sergeant **and Sergeant Promotable**) overall potential will be **unconstrained** which basically means that there will NOT be a limitation imposed on which box the senior rater may use. Please note that this only applies to the direct-level report for Sergeant. The senior rater will also provide narrative comments to support their box check ("MOST QUALIFIED," "HIGHLY QUALIFIED," "QUALIFIED," "NOT QUALIFIED") and list two successive assignments and one broadening assignment that the rated NCO can best serve the Army in the future.

The senior rater's comments will be in narrative format and the rating official may enter up to five lines of text.

The senior rater may enter up to five lines of text, in narrative format, in Part V, block b. The senior rater assessment of the rated NCO's overall potential will be **CONSTRAINED** and limited to 24% top block or "MOST QUALIFIED." The "Silver bullet" refers to the senior rater being able to render a top block for any one of the first four reports.

For example, if the senior rater renders a "MOST QUALIFIED" assessment for the first NCOER, then the next seven will have to be either "HIGHLY QUALIFIED," "QUALIFIED," or "NOT QUALIFIED."

The senior rater profile requires the rating official to identify the best talent and reserve the top block assessment for those who are truly deserving. While the box check is important, the senior rater's narrative comments are just as significant. The narrative comments should quantify and/or support the box check.

In Part V, block c, the senior rater will list two successive assignments and one broadening assignment, by duty title only, that the rated NCO can best serve the Army in the future.

To recap Module 3 – Grade Plate Forms, we covered the following key areas:

- What is changing on the NCOER
- The 2166-9 Series Forms and parts of each form
- The leader attributes and competencies and how the Leadership Requirements Model is linked to the three reports

In addition, we covered the rater and senior rater's assessment for each form and the NCOER Support Form.

