

## 2009 Year of the NCO

During his keynote address in October at the opening of the 2008 Association of the United States Army Annual Meeting, Secretary of the Army Pete Geren announced that 2009 would be “the Year of the Noncommissioned Officer (NCO).” The Army’s professional NCO Corps has a proud history that continues today with its heroic service in *Operations Enduring* and *Iraqi Freedom*. Our NCOs are the backbone of the Army — the glue that has held the Army together through this period of protracted conflict.

At the same AUSA meeting, Army Chief of Staff GEN George W. Casey reinforced the central role of the NCO Corps:

*“As I travel around the Army and I look at what we’ve accomplished over the past 7 years at war, it’s clearer and clearer to me that it is our NCO Corps that is providing the glue that’s not only holding this force together at a difficult time, but enabling us to accomplish the near impossible every day. And that’s why next year we will celebrate their contributions to our Army.”*

For details on how to become an Army Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology Workforce NCO, visit the following links that provide career information:

<http://asc.army.mil/career/programs/nco/default.cfm>

<http://asc.army.mil/career/military.cfm>

If you know an outstanding NCO who you would like to nominate for the 2009 Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology Contracting NCO Award for Contracting Excellence, visit [http://asc.army.mil/acg\\_awards/information.cfm](http://asc.army.mil/acg_awards/information.cfm).