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February 8, 2023
For immediate release

Incoming New Jersey Army National Guard commanders and first sergeants attend pre-command course

By New Jersey National Guard Public Affairs

Sea Girt, NJ -- The 254th Regiment (Combat Arms) held a pre-command course for 50 incoming New Jersey Army National Guard company commanders and first sergeants at the Regional Training Institute, National Guard Training Center, Sea Girt, New Jersey, Jan. 27-29, 2023.

Officers and senior noncommissioned officers selected as the command teams for company-level units within the NJARNG participated in a series of lectures and group activities designed to prepare them for their assignments. Speakers included subject matter experts from the 254th Regt., NJNG Joint Force Headquarters, and full-time support staff.

Brig. Gen. Lisa J. Hou, D.O., The Adjutant General of New Jersey, spoke about her command experiences, priorities and expectations for all levels of leadership.

"The well-being of our Soldiers must always be at the forefront of your minds," said Hou. "I expect you to put your people first, with zero exceptions."

Hou welcomed the course's guest speaker, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Deborah L. Kotulich, director, Army Recruiting and Retention Task Force. Kotulich emphasized the importance of leadership matters, suicide risk awareness, and the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response Program to the incoming commanders and first sergeants.

"Some of these men and women in this room today are going to be the future leaders of the nation and I'm glad to have had the chance to talk to them," said Kotulich. "Getting them to provide the leadership and understand the importance of developing strong teams is really critical not just for the Army but for the state and nation."

"We very much appreciate the advice and mentorship from General Kotulich and the re-enforcement of our Army values and our need to develop our young leaders," said Hou, turning to address the NJARNG's newest company-level command teams. "The results of your first command performance will lay the groundwork for the rest of your career."