

# OFFICERS CAREER NOTES



## BRANCH CHIEF COMMENTS

The U.S. Army Infantry Center, in coordination with Infantry Branch at MILPERCEN, has published the 1982 edition of "The Infantry Branch Newsletter." Ten thousand copies have been published and distributed to battalion level throughout the Army. We hope that each Infantry officer will see a copy and share its contents with others. The newsletter tells you what we at Branch see as our tasks for the remainder of 1982.

We cordially welcome new lieutenants as they begin their Infantry careers. About 1,000 of them in 1982 will report to active duty at Fort Benning to attend the Infantry Officer Basic Course and other military schooling before they join their units in various parts of the world.

These lieutenants should spend their early years developing the fundamental skills that will enable them to command Infantry companies. Their normal assignment progression will be to serve in the field for three years and then attend the Advanced Course. After completing IOAC, if an officer has not commanded a company, he will be assigned wherever a command opportunity exists. Our goal is to attain branch qualification for every Infantry officer, and qualification means command and attending IOAC.

It is important to note that an officer should not be assigned to a command until both he and his commander are sure he is ready to meet the test. And, because of the number of Infantry captains who are competing for commands, Infantry Branch is not supporting requests for a second command.

Post-branch qualification assignments for captains are service school instructors; ROTC, USMA, ARMR,

or USAREC assignments; or additional specialty training, followed by developmental assignments.

Majors serve tours in both of their specialties and complete staff level schooling. We advise those majors who are not selected to attend a resident course at one of the staff colleges to enroll and complete an appropriate non-resident course of instruction.

Lieutenant colonels also serve in both of their specialties. A small percentage of these officers will attend a resident course at a senior service college. Again, those lieutenant colonels who are not selected are encouraged to apply for participation in the Army War College corresponding studies program.

The remainder of 1982 will see the continued development of such new personnel initiatives as the Regimental System and the automation of preference statements. All Infantrymen should keep abreast of these actions, and stop by to visit us when they can.

COL JAMES A. SULLIVAN

## INFANTRY BALL

The Tenth National Infantry Ball will be held on 13 November 1982 in Washington, D.C., and will have as its theme, "1982 — The Year of Progress." The officers assigned to the Infantry Branch, MILPERCEN, are the executive agents for the Commandant, United States Army Infantry Center, who is the ball's official host.

Once again a Distinguished Doughboy Award will be presented. This award was created in 1980 and was first presented to Mr. Bob Hope. The gold-plated, World War I helmet is presented annually to a citizen who

has made a direct, significant contribution to improving the morale and welfare of the Infantryman.

The Chief of the Infantry Branch presides over a nominating committee, which prepares a list of nominees. This list is then forwarded to the Commander of the Infantry Center for his review and final selection of the individual who will be given the award. The criteria used for selecting the recipient are:

- The award is presented to an individual, not to an organization, in recognition of his direct efforts to aid the Infantryman.
- The award is not presented posthumously, except when the recipient dies after he has been selected but before he has been presented the award.
- Active duty military personnel are not eligible.
- Civilian executives who are active in the defense establishment are not eligible.
- The individual nominated for the award must not be directly involved or organizationally affiliated with defense industry contracts.
- The recipient of the award does not have to be present to accept the award.

## CHANGE OF COURSE SITE

One of the three sites that have been used for the active duty phase of the Reserve Component Command and General Staff Course has been moved to a new location. The northern site, previously located at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, has been moved to Wesley College in Dover, Delaware. The other two sites remain the same: at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg and at the University of Nevada at Reno.