

upon reporting to his new duty station.)

The ANCOC uses the same appearance standards as those detailed in AR 670-1. Insignia and badges that are not authorized by the Department of the Army are also not authorized by the ANCOC, with the following exceptions:

- The jungle expert badge may be worn by authorized personnel who are in a TDY and return status to the 82d Airborne Division or to units stationed in Panama.

- The 2d Armored Division patch worn above "US ARMY" is permitted for personnel in a TDY and return status to the 2d Armored Division.

- The USAREUR authorized U.S. flag replica worn on the left sleeve by personnel assigned to the 509th in Italy and who are in a TDY and return status is permitted.

HATS AND BERETS

Drill Sergeant hats and airborne, Ranger, and Special Forces berets will not be worn nor will the green uniform trousers be bloused at any official function during the course. The hat and the berets may be worn and the trousers bloused when the NCO students are off duty and during the graduation ceremony.

Students must bring the following clothing and equipment in at least the numbers shown:

- One Class A uniform, complete with accessories, awards, and decorations.

- One pair of low quarter shoes.
- One garrison cap.
- Two pairs of black combat boots.
- Two pairs of BDUs.
- Two additional pairs of BDUs or conventional fatigues.

- One BDU or conventional baseball cap (as appropriate).

- One pile cap.
- One field jacket.
- One pair of black gloves with inserts.

- One raincoat.
- One sweat band for steel helmet.
- One lensatic compass.
- One set of earplugs with case.
- Four T-shirts (green, brown, or white) without stenciled name.

- Three white T-shirts, crew neck (for PT).

- One pair of running shoes.
- Two pairs of white socks.
- One white shirt.
- One bow tie.
- Ruck sack (optional).

- Kevlar or conventional jump helmet for personnel on jump status (optional).

- Dress blues (optional).

The following requirements have been established for graduation from the course:

- Pass the APRT with at least 60 points in each event. APRTs are administered to standards in accordance with FM 21-20.

- Pass the land navigation field examination.

- Pass all academic examinations.

- Maintain an academic average of at least 70 percent. Students whose averages fall below 70 percent after the fifth academic week are subject to appear before an academic evaluation board.

- Maintain weight in accordance with standards outlined in AR 600-9.

Noncommissioned officers who have any questions about the course should feel free to call the ANCOC chief instructor at AUTOVON 835-7015/1478; Commercial (404) 545-7015/1478. After duty hours, the NCO Academy special duty NCO can be reached at AUTOVON 835-3310; Commercial (404) 545-3310. The mailing address is Chief Instructor, ANCOC, NCOA, TSB, Fort Benning, Georgia 31905.

NCOs selected to attend the course are encouraged to write or call at least five weeks before their class starts to check on any possible changes in regulations or policy.

FAOAC: A "7x50" View

CAPTAIN TIMOTHY A. SCULLY

Each morning as the sun creeps into the sky over the prairie dogs at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, a few dauntless captains can be heard to remark "another great day to be in the Infantry!" Armed with charts, darts, camp stools, and calculators, these infantry officers move to the sound of cannon

fire as exchange students at the Field Artillery Officer Advanced Course (FAOAC). The course of instruction is just a little different from that of the Infantry School, and so the following is a "7x50" view of the experience from one who has been there.

Twenty-four Infantry captains are selected each year by the U.S. Army Military Personnel Center to attend the seven-and-one-half month Field Artillery Officer Advanced Course. (This exchange of officers is part of a program that is designed to broaden the officer corps' knowledge of com-

bined arms operations; each year about 230 captains of Infantry, Armor, Field Artillery, Engineer, and Air Defense Artillery are selected to attend a branch course other than their own.)

Before starting the course, all exchange officers and allied officers, plus a few other selected officers, attend the Field Artillery Advanced Preparatory Course. This course, which is four weeks long, is designed to teach enough cannon gunnery, firing battery operations, and observed fire techniques to the student officers so that they can start the advanced course on an equal footing with the remainder of the yet-to-be-assembled class. A comprehensive examination on manual and computer gunnery techniques marks the end of the preparatory course and serves to indicate individual strengths and weaknesses that can be addressed during the six months of gunnery instruction that follow.

The week after the preparatory course ends, the advanced course begins in earnest, integrating the "preppies" into the now assembled class of Army and Marine artillerymen.

Fort Sill is the home of the "U.S. Artillery," that is, both Army and Marine Corps, and Marine artillerymen — students and instructors — make up a substantial portion of the Fort Sill population. (As an aside, the Army and Marine Corps instructors present highly polished doctrine without the slightest trace of service bias.)

To meet the requirements of both the Army's Training and Doctrine Command and the Marine Corps Development and Education Command, such subjects as leadership, tactics, communications, and maintenance — common to all advanced courses — are taught to platoon-sized "sections." The balance of the FAOAC revolves around nuclear warfare, counterfire, artillery weapon systems, tactics, and cannon gunnery.

The "meat and potatoes" of the course is cannon gunnery: more than one-third of the time is dedicated to it. Included in the instruction are

observed fire techniques, registration techniques, special munitions and smoke, illumination, nuclear gunnery, special corrections, and terrain gun position corrections.

Practical applications of the gunnery instruction is achieved through periodic live fire exercises, where students both operate the fire direction center (FDC) of firing batteries and serve as forward observers. The capstone of the gunnery instruction is the "one-day war," where one-half of the class at a time goes to the field to run simultaneously two firing battalions, serving as observers and operating the battery and battalion FDCs. The Gunnery Department has also been in the vanguard in introducing the TACFIRE fire planning and direction system.

MLRS

The Weapons Department introduced the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) in preparation for the fielding of the first MLRS battery in the summer of 1982. This department also presents technical instruction on each segment of the artillery weapons community including the M101/M102 105mm howitzers, M114/M198/M109 155mm howitzers, M110 8" gun, and the Lance and Pershing surface-to-surface missile systems. While it does not make each student an expert on these systems, each student does leave with a comfortable command of the operating capabilities of these weapons.

The Counterfire Department is a new-found giant at the Artillery School, as new equipment and organizations emerge to support the AirLand battle. Because of the advent of the "Q36/37" radars and the evolution of the target acquisition battalion, the instruction on survey techniques, target acquisition, target production, and counterfire planning are totally new for all of the Infantrymen and even for a few of the artillerymen. This segment of the instruction is very interesting, because it

requires each officer to look deep into the battlefield and well beyond direct-fire ranges.

The nuclear warfare instruction, coupled with the blocks on chemical and biological agents, opens doors that are not normally opened to the non-nuclear community. The perspective of the battlefield is dramatically reshaped by the introduction of nuclear artillery, the Lance, and the Pershing.

While the objective of gunnery is to provide accurate and timely fire, it takes artillery tactics to place the fire support system on the battlefield with the maneuver forces. The support of the "ground gaining arms," therefore, is addressed from the perspective of coordinating close support, deep interdiction, counterfire, naval gunfire, and air support at battalion, brigade, and division levels. Fire planning and scheduling of all available fire support systems to support the combined arms team is stressed. The student officer is trained in the skills that are required of both a firing battery commander and a fire support officer. A comprehensive final examination on tactics ensures that each officer has mastered the skills of the fire support officer — skills as advisor, coordinator, and planner.

All in all, the opportunity to attend the Field Artillery Officer Advanced Course is one that an Infantry captain should seriously consider. The course of instruction is indeed first-rate — just ask any artillery officer. The gunnery instruction is definitely tough, but the opportunity to master the fire support skills, while maintaining the maneuver outlook, is rewarding professionally and personally. The experience an Infantry officer gains at Fort Sill will prove to be invaluable and will greatly broaden his professional horizons.

CAPTAIN TIMOTHY A. SCULLY is assigned to the 82d Airborne Division. He was previously assigned to the 1st Battalion, 3d Infantry (The Old Guard). He is a graduate of the University of Florida and holds a master's degree from Central Michigan University.
