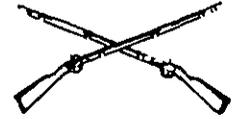


Commandant's NOTE



General John W. Foss
Chief of Infantry

CURRICULUM CHANGES

The goal of the U. S. Army Infantry School is to produce the Army's finest Infantrymen. To do this, in the face of changes in equipment, doctrine, and force structure, we constantly evaluate our instructional and training programs and, if necessary, revise them to keep them realistic and doctrinally correct. We have made several such curriculum revisions in the past months.

First, we have added a week to the Infantry Officer Basic Course (IOBC), making it 17 weeks long. We did this so we could include more hands-on, field-oriented training. With this change, more than 80 percent of the program of instruction is taught in a field environment.

We have also incorporated three innovative training ideas into the course. These ideas take the form of the Tactical Leadership Course (TLC), the Maintenance Certification Program, and the Advanced Land Navigation Exercise, which includes a challenging re-orienting course.

I mentioned in my Note in the July-August 1984 issue of *INFANTRY*, the TLC gets training in leadership and tactical skills out of the classroom and into the field. The objectives of this course are to teach the young officers how to train, how to lead, how to lead, and, most important, how to build a team. The Maintenance Certification Program, on the other hand, provides the officers in IOBC with in-depth instruction in maintenance operations and procedures so that they will be able to meet the needs of Infantry units in the field. This program concentrates on vehicles, weapons, NBC, and communications maintenance.

The Advanced Land Navigation Exercise, which is the third of our new training ideas for the IOBC, is designed to reinforce land and navigation training that the young officers receive in the course.

We have also made some changes in the Infantry Officer Advanced Course (IOAC). Beginning this month, January 5, the course itself will be shortened from 26 to 20 weeks. Six of those weeks will be devoted to a common core of subjects, which all branch service schools will teach. The other fourteen weeks will be devoted to instruction in related Infantry skills, to include maintenance certification.

A number of officers from each IOAC will remain at Benning after they have completed the 20-week course to attend a follow-on course of instruction in which they will receive intensive hands-on training in a specific area related to their next assignment. Courses under consideration are light and heavy infantry operations courses, an infantry officer maintenance course, and the Bradley Commanders Course.

In addition to the changes listed above for both the IOBC and the IOAC, we are gradually adding to both courses instruction on the Bradley fighting vehicle. That instruction will focus on the tactical employment of the vehicle and on its maintenance aspects.

We have also revised the program of instruction for the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course (ANCOC). The POI now provides instruction on common Skill Level 4 Infantry training and on common core subjects that have been developed by the Sergeants Major Academy. It also includes the Tactical Leadership Course and maintenance certification.

The common core block of instruction for ANCOC has been developed to eliminate variations in the common skills that are taught at all of the branch service schools and to foster standardization through the universal application of uniform practices and procedures. Although the common core of subjects will need to be upgraded periodically, it now forms a solid base for ANCOC training in every school.

As in IOBC, the TLC and the maintenance certification program are worthwhile additions to the new ANCOC POI. Here, too, the emphasis is on developing high-quality soldiers. The TLC stresses leading, training, fighting, and teamwork, while the maintenance block of instruction concentrates on training our Infantry NCOs in the proper maintenance operations and procedures to meet the needs of our Infantry units in the field.

We at the Infantry School have an earnest and explicit agreement to initiate in these courses a developmental process that will give our graduates confidence in their own ability to perform at their best in combat. We take pride in the instruction and guidance that is passed along to the soldier here at Benning. And we eagerly accept and practice our responsibility to lead, develop, and inspire the Infantry leaders of tomorrow.