

ENLISTED CAREER NOTES



USASMA CORRESPONDING STUDIES COURSE

A selection board will convene at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, on 28 April 1986 to consider applicants to enroll in Class 14 of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy Corresponding Studies Program, which begins in April 1987.

About 200 soldiers will be selected to enroll in the program, and no alternate or standby board list will be established.

To be eligible, applicants must be in the rank of SFC/PSG (promotable), MSG/1SG, or SGM/CSM (not waivable), and must hold basic active service dates (BASDs) of 1 May 1964 or later. (General courts martial convening authority is authorized to grant waivers for personnel who want to apply with BASDs from 1 May 1960 through 30 April 1964.) Applicants who are not selected may reapply in subsequent years.

Soldiers who complete the USASMA corresponding studies program do not incur a service obligation.

Soldiers who have completed or are enrolled in the corresponding studies program are not eligible to attend the resident course. But those who apply for the CSP and are also in the zone of consideration for the resident course will be considered for the resident course first, unless they specifically decline that consideration. Applicants who are selected for the resident course will not be considered for the nonresident course. This procedure allows eligible soldiers to compete twice for USASMA before the same board.

The zones of consideration for the resident course and procedures for declining that consideration will be announced later.

Successful completion of either the resident or the corresponding studies course carries the same weight with career managers and selection boards. Both are fully accredited by the Southern

Association of Colleges and the American Council on Education.

Applications must be forwarded through appropriate MILPO and command channels to Commander, MILPERCEN, ATTN: DAPC-EPT-FN, 2461 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22331-0400 to arrive not later than 5 April 1986.

Further information is available in MILPO Message Number 8651, or from MSG McInnis, AUTOVON 225-3405, commercial 202-695-3405.

WARRANT OFFICER ENTRY COURSE

The Warrant Officer Entry Course has been developed to train highly motivated junior noncommissioned officers to support the advanced technology of the future.

The Warrant Officer Entry Course at the service schools is taken in two phases, either as a resident course or by correspondence. The six-week, four-day resident course is designed to teach the candidates leadership, ethics, motivation, counseling, military justice, personnel management, and the communication arts.

The Warrant Office Entry Course, Reserve Component (WOEC-RC), incorporates all the subject matter of the active component course. The correspondence phase (135 hours) is made up of those subject areas that are adaptable to export; it must be completed within the 12 months preceding attendance at the resident phase.

The resident phase involves two weeks of training at the Army Reserve Readiness Training Center (ARRTC), Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

Following completion of WOEC or WOEC-RC, the candidates are ready to attend technical certification training at their respective MOS proponent schools

to complete Phase II of the program. In Phase II, the emphasis is shifted from officer training to technical training.

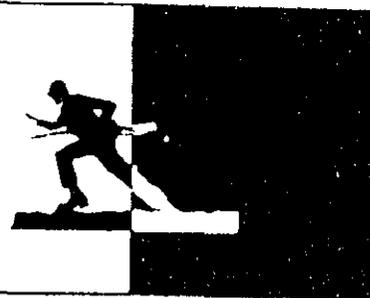
CHANGES TO EER

The Army enlisted evaluation report (EER) is being revised on the basis of recommendations from the NCO Professional Study Group. The group recommended establishing eight essential categories of competency to aid in the selection and development of NCOs.

The eight categories are as follows:

- An NCO must be thoroughly proficient and knowledgeable regarding the full range of duties of his present assignment
- An NCO must maintain a level of understanding of his particular military occupational specialty (MOS), even when certain responsibilities do not fall under his present assignment.
- An NCO must have the basic educational skills required to communicate effectively, to train, to counsel, and to write reports pertinent to his position.
- An NCO must be physically fit and must maintain proper military bearing at all times to be ready to fight and lead and to be a strong positive example to the soldiers under him.
- An NCO, as a leader, must be attentive to the needs and concerns of his soldiers, continually looking after their interests and making sure his troops can fight and survive in battle.
- An NCO must be, primarily, a trainer.
- An NCO must hold the professional values and standards of his service, which lead to greater discipline and dedication to duty.
- An NCO is responsible for managing and accounting for the soldiers, property, and equipment placed in his charge.

OFFICERS CAREER NOTES



NATIONAL INFANTRY BALL

The 1985 National Infantry Ball was held at the Hilton Hotel in Springfield, Virginia, on 9 November 1985. Major General John W. Foss, then Commandant of the Infantry School and Chief of Ceremonies for the event, at which General Matthew B. Ridgway was honored as the 1985 recipient of the Doughboy Award.

Plans are now being made for the 1986 National Infantry Ball, to be held 15 November 1986 at the same location, and nominations are being solicited for suitable candidates for the 1986 Doughboy Award.

Candidates should be members of the private or retired sectors who have significantly contributed to the Infantry or to the overall improvement of the quality of life for soldiers.

Nominations should be submitted to DA, MILPERCEN, ATTN: DAPC-OPE-I (Infantry Ball Committee), 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332-0400.

Anyone who would like to attend the 1986 ball may write to this same address asking that his name be added to the invitation mailing list.

OER SUPPORT FORM

All Army officers must now use the revised Officer Evaluation Report Support Form. All rated officers must maintain a working copy of the support form throughout the rating period. This working copy should show the date of the initial face-to-face discussion between the rater and the rated officer and must be certified by their initials.

The Military Personnel Office is no longer responsible for initiating the form and providing it to the rated officer.

Complete guidance on the preparation

and use of the new OER Support Form is in AR 623-405 (Officer Ranks Personnel Update).

PROBLEMS WITH OFFICER PREFERENCE STATEMENTS

Although much has been published on the need for officer preference statements, some officers apparently still believe that submitting them is useless because they are not used anyway.

This is just not true.

Having a statement on file does not guarantee an officer his desired assignment, of course. But it does give him an opportunity to participate in the assignment process, and it is used. Every time an assignment manager reviews an officer's record, he sees that officer's preference statement information — if it is available — displayed on his computer terminal.

Too many officers, however, still have not updated their master files using the new DA Form 483, even though it was implemented in early 1985. And among those who have, too many have failed to complete their forms properly.

The Officer Preference Statement is now a mark-sense form, and an assignment officer's computer terminal provides the only readable translation of the information coded on it. If a form has not been completed accurately, it can cause delays in processing. As a result, an officer's latest preferences may not show up on his record at a crucial time.

DA Form 483 is simple to complete, but it is sensitive. The instructions in its upper right-hand corner must be followed carefully, with special attention to certain items:

- A #2 pencil must be used to fill out the form — not a pen, crayon, or felt-tipped marker
- The entire mark-sense circle must be completely darkened.

- The officer's Social Security number must be entered in the area indicated.

- The form must be mailed *unfolded* in a 9x12 envelope. The reader cannot process folded forms.

An officer can submit a preference statement at any time, but MILPERCEN recommends that he do so at the following times especially:

- About 12 months before completing a long tour overseas.
- Upon arrival at a short-tour area.
- About 12 months after reporting to a CONUS assignment.
- At least 60 days before beginning a military service school, or training with industry that requires a permanent change of station within CONUS.

ARMY WAR COLLEGE CORRESPONDING STUDIES

Some curriculum changes in the U.S. Army War College Corresponding Studies Program, to be effective with the class of 1987, will affect core subjects and course structure. The changes will ensure that the corresponding studies curriculum closely parallels that of the resident course.

Additional emphasis will be placed on military doctrine, warfighting at the operational level, and the changing international environment that will affect U.S. national strategy formulation in the future.

Graduates of both courses will continue to be awarded Military Education Level 1 and will be given equal consideration for assignments that require officers who have been awarded senior service college diplomas.

The Chief, Army Reserve Professional Development Education Board considers Reserve officers for both the Army War College Resident Course and the Corresponding Studies Program