

OFFICERS CAREER NOTES



ORB CORRECTIONS

Infantry Branch continually receives calls from officers who are trying to update the information on their Officer Record Briefs (ORBs). While we want to do everything possible to make sure an officer's file is current, our operation is often severely degraded by our efforts to do so.

Before calling us to make ORB corrections, please make every effort to allow your installation military personnel office (MILPO) to do its job in this area. Ideally, you should update your ORB during your birth month. But regardless of when you do it, follow up by returning 30 days later to verify that the changes have been recorded. And if you note the name of the person who takes the corrections on your initial visit, you can deal with that same person when you return.

If MILPO staff members tell you they cannot make the changes, call your branch assignment officer immediately (from the MILPO) so that we can resolve any problem with the staff directly, while you wait.

PLAYING TELEPHONE TAG

If you have tried to call Infantry Branch lately, you know it is frustrating. You spend hours trying to get an AUTOVON line, then you are either put on hold, or the receiver is left resting on someone's desk while you wait for an assignment officer to become available.

Assignment officers know that talking to officers on the telephone should take priority over all other activities. On an average day, though, each assignment officer handles between 60 and 75 calls. If you multiply that by 13 assignment officers, 8 civilian technicians, and 10 to 15 minutes for each call, you can see

FY 1991 IOAC CLASS SCHEDULE

CLASS	REPORT DATE	START DATE	END DATE
91-01	28 Oct 90	29 Oct 90	04 Apr 91
91-02	27 Jan 91	28 Jan 91	18 Jan 91
91-03	17 Mar 91	18 Mar 91	06 Aug 91
91-04	28 Jul 91	29 Jul 91	19 Dec 91
91-05	25 Aug 91	26 Aug 91	31 Jan 92

the problem.

The following are some pointers that should help you get your call through more readily:

- Call only members of your assignment team. If the number is busy or does not answer, calling another team's number will not make your team available any sooner. (A roster of Infantry Branch telephone numbers appears in the November-December 1989 issue of INFANTRY.)

- The last two days of the week are usually the busiest and, as you may have guessed, the period between 1400 and 1830 is the busiest time of day. Because of the tremendous traffic problem in the Washington area, the civilian staff members generally leave around 1530 or 1600, and fewer people are left to answer your calls.

- Schedule your call according to Eastern time. Although schedules vary, the Lieutenant-IOAC team is available beginning at 0530 each day, and each of the other teams generally has someone available by 0600. All teams have someone available each day until 1800. Some often stay longer. The best time to get through is when all branch personnel, both civilian and military, are present—0730-1200 and 1300-1600. (After 1600, getting through is difficult because there are 21 phone lines and normally only 11 assignment officers available to answer them.)

- Ask to talk to your assignment officer only if you must. (The only issues you need to discuss with him are those

that directly involve an assignment action.) The technicians are responsible for ORB and administrative updates, and since they also distribute the mail, they are best able to tell you the status of documents received.

- Holding the line for an assignment officer is not a good idea. Instead, please leave a telephone number where you can be reached and a brief note of what you want to discuss. If your assignment officer does not return your call within a reasonable time (the same day), call him again before close of business, Eastern time.

- Please be patient. Although talking to officers is our highest priority, it is only a small part of the assignment process, and there are times when your assignment officer is not available.

Your fellow officers at Infantry Branch are working for you. Rest assured that our goal is to provide you with the best professional development opportunities available.

ASI REQUIREMENT CHANGED

The Army TRADOC Analysis Command has changed the qualifying requirements for additional skill identifier (ASI) 4B, operations research/systems analysis (ORSA), for officers who are not in Functional Area (FA) 49, ORSA.

To be awarded the ASI, these officers will now complete the three-week ORSA Military Skills Development Course instead of the 14-week ORSA Military

Applications Course presented at the Army Logistics Management College at Fort Lee. A bachelor's degree is still required, but an extensive mathematics background is no longer necessary.

These changes are expected to increase the number of officers who have this ASI. Those in FA 49 will continue to attend the 14-week course.

ARMY ACQUISITION CORPS PROGRAM

The Army Acquisition Corps Program (AACP), created in October 1989, encompasses the joint military and civilian management of acquisition specialists.

Infantry Branch has received its target goals for every year group, and a centralized board will select the officers for the program. The functional areas affected by AACP are **Research and Development, Nuclear Weapons, Systems Automation, and Contract Acquisition and Procurement.**

An Acquisition Officer Selection Board (AOSB) and the first of four PERSCOM Acquisition Accession Boards (PAABs) met in March 1990. The AOSB screened officers in Year Groups 1965 to 1970 while the PAAB reviewed and selected officers' files from Year Groups 1971 to

1975 and 1983. Three subsequent PAABs will meet between June and August 1990 to screen and select officers from the remaining year groups.

Instead of the normal command-track infantry assignments, AACP officers will receive repetitive acquisition assignments that will prepare them to serve as systems managers, product managers, and project managers in the future.

To meet the needs of the AACP and the Army, we must ensure that we grow a pool of qualified infantry officers to design and build the weapon systems of the future.

The point of contact at Infantry Branch is Captain Barclay, AUTOVON 221-5517/0207.

1990 MAJORS PROMOTION BOARD

The 1990 Army Competitive Category Majors Promotion Board is tentatively scheduled to convene from 21 August until 5 October 1990.

The captains who will be considered include those with active duty dates of rank (ADORs) as follows:

ZONE	ADOR (inclusive)
Above the Zone	1 Jun 84 and earlier
Promotion Zone	2 Jun 84 to 1 Apr 85
Below the Zone	2 Apr 85 to 1 Mar 86

All officers who will be considered should obtain and read the PERSCOM message entitled "Zones of Consideration for the FY 90, Army Competitive Category Majors Promotion Board." All Personnel Service Centers and MILPOs should have received copies of this message in April 1990.

The message contains detailed information on the zones of consideration; guidance on complete-the-record and promotion officer evaluation reports, including required through dates; requirement for promotion officer record brief updates; official photograph information; and information regarding the submission of letters to the president of the board. It also contains information for rating chain officials to use in preparing optional and mandatory reports along with suspense dates for the receipt of documents at PERSCOM.

All officers in the zone of consideration must ensure that their records are up to date. Last year's selection rate for infantry officers was 66.1 percent, and it is expected to drop 2 to 4 percent this year.

The point of contact at Infantry Branch is Captain McNulty at AUTOVON 221-5520/5973.

