

# INFANTRY CAREER NOTES



## SNIPER SCHOOL NEEDS NCOs

The U.S. Army Sniper School, at Fort Benning, is looking for sniper-qualified noncommissioned officers in the rank of sergeant and above, MOS 11B or 11M, to serve as instructors.

The Sniper School point of contact is SFC Ellis, DSN 784-6006/6985 or commercial (706) 544-6006/6985.

## BATTLE STAFF NCO COURSE

The Battle Staff Noncommissioned Officer Course (BSNCOC) trains NCOs to serve as integral members of a battle staff and manage the day-to-day operations of brigade and battalion command posts. The course is offered by the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy (USASMA) at Fort Bliss, Texas.

NCOs in the course learn their specific staff duties and also become familiar with the duties of other staff sections. The course is realistic, fast-paced, scenario-driven, and performance oriented.

The command post exercise enables NCOs using the Maneuver Control System and the Battalion (or Brigade) Battle Simulation to receive a performance evaluation to validate their staff proficiency.

Units are responsible for seeing that the NCOs who attend the course meet all qualifications. Soldiers who do not meet the standards will be returned to their units, and the units may face liability for the reimbursement of all travel-related costs.

All soldiers attending the course must meet the weight and physical fitness standards listed in Army Regulations 600-9 and 350-14. Army Physical

Fitness Test scores and height and weight data must be shown in Block 16 of DD Form 1610. Soldiers who fail to meet these standards will not be enrolled.

Potential students should have a reading and comprehension level of at least 10.1 on the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE). Some of the failures in the course result from low reading and comprehension levels.

Students are expected to have a good solid background in graphics and overlays before they report for the course. The exam on graphics and overlays is the most exact test of attention to detail an NCO is likely to face. More than 20 hours of classroom and off-duty time will go into training them to depict the battlefield graphically. About 40 percent of the students fail the first exam. Then about 15 percent fail the retest and are dropped from the course.

Students in each class have problems in the following basic areas: understanding the basic operations order and graphically depicting the commander's intent on a map; plotting six-digit grid coordinates; labeling symbols; and drawing boundaries.

Reading Field Manual 101-5-1 is the best way to learn. There are some mistakes in FM 101-5-1, however, and it is recommended that potential candidates for the Battle Staff Course be enrolled in the following correspondence subcourses:

- Table 5-12, Field Artillery School, Subcourse FA8015, Overlay Techniques.
- Table 5-17, Intelligence School, Subcourse IT0588, Prepare and Maintain Intelligence Situation Map and Associated Overlays.

- Table 5-28, Signal School, Subcourse SS0529, Prepare Overlays.

Course descriptions and enrollment information for these subcourses are

found in DA Pamphlet 351-4. Since these subcourses should be completed before the Battle Staff Course begins, students should be enrolled in them at least six months earlier.

The best way to prepare soldiers for the Battle Staff Course is to assign a graduate of the course, or another well qualified NCO, to train and mentor them. There are several steps in this process:

First, assess the soldiers' basic map reading skills by common task test standards. Next, have them enroll in the subcourses. Then have them read FM 101-5-1 and draw all of the 300 or so symbols in the book. Finally, take an old operations order from the unit's last combat training center rotation, and have them draw the overlays in four hours or less, which is the standard for students during the BSNCOC test.

To obtain additional information about the Battle Staff NCO Course, use your communications program to access the USASMA Bulletin Board at DSN 978-8277 or commercial (915) 568-8277.

*(This item was submitted by SGM Charles C. Hayhurst, who was formerly assigned to the Sergeants Major Academy.)*

## USAR CGSOC CORRESPONDENCE OPTION

Eligible students enrolled in the correspondence option of the Command and General Staff Officers Course through the School of Corresponding Studies at Fort Leavenworth may now get Phases III and IV of the four-phase course.

According to SOCS officials, nearly 200 officers have completed Phases I and II of the correspondence option and are eligible to take Phases III and

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IV. The time limit for completing the entire course is 36 months.

Since the revised four-phase course was introduced to the field in late 1993, more than 3,500 students have enrolled in the correspondence option, and 2,000 have completed at least two phases through the U.S. Army Reserve Forces schools option.

Students with questions concerning their academic records or the availability of material should contact their SOCS academic counselors.

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### LAW CHANGES USAR MANDATORY REMOVAL DATE

New changes to the law affect the way the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) handles the mandatory removal of Reserve officers from Active status.

Although most provisions of the

Reserve Officer Personnel Management Act (ROPMA) are slated to take effect 1 October 1996, the part of the act that governs the mandatory removal of officers was enacted into law on 5 October 1994 with the passage of the Fiscal Year 1995 National Defense Authorization Act.

Specifically, age will no longer be a decisive factor in removing officers. The law removes age 53 for officers in the ranks of first lieutenant through lieutenant colonel and age 55 for colonels from the criteria for determining maximum years of service.

This should not be confused with removal for maximum age. The change affects officers commissioned after age 25. It does not affect that part of Title 10, U.S. Code, that addresses the age 60 separation or transfer provision.

Removal for maximum years of service is now based solely on 28 years of commissioned service for officers in

the ranks of first lieutenant through lieutenant colonel and 30 years of commissioned service for colonels. The Army Reserve previously used an officer's commissioning age along with length of service to determine his mandatory removal date (MRD).

Officers who were removed erroneously between 5 October 1994 and 23 January 1995 have the option of using administrative redress to correct their premature removal.

To find out your adjusted MRD, contact your unit administrator if you are assigned to a troop program unit or your personnel management officer at the Army Reserve Personnel Center (ARPERCEN) if you are assigned to the Individual Ready Reserve or as an Individual Mobilization Augmentee. Active Guard Reserve officers should contact the Full Time Support Management Center at ARPERCEN.

