

# INFANTRY CAREER NOTES



## EXPERT INFANTRYMAN BADGE CHANGES

As the Infantry changes, so must the EIB program. The Army's Transformation program, the Infantry MOS consolidations, and emerging technologies have led the Infantry School to make some changes in the EIB test program.

The goals of the new test are to maintain the traditions, support unit mission essential task lists, use training resources wisely, and test the modern Infantry soldier's high-tech skills.

The Infantry Center asked infantry units world-wide how the EIB program could be improved, and incorporated the unit feedback into the new program.

The major changes are in the 12-mile road march, land navigation, PT test, and day and night qualification on individual weapons, which are now prerequisites for taking the EIB test. The revised program is now eight days—five training days and three testing days.

Soldiers will test on 63 different tasks at 22 sites. Some new tasks include the Javelin antiarmor system and the ASIP radio. Arm-and-hand signals will include both dismounted and mounted signals. EIB candidates must demonstrate proficiency with the AN/PSN-11 (the precise lightweight GPS receiver) under day and night conditions.

Young soldiers respect a soldier wearing the EIB as a man of accomplishment and skill. The new test ensures that the Expert Infantryman Badge will continue to represent the highest standards of professionalism.

## OMPF ONLINE SAVES MONEY

Official Military Personnel files (OMPF) Online began in November 2001 for sergeants first class being considered for promotion, and is expanding to include more of the force.

Captains being considered for promotion have been able to look at their records online since 1 February 2002, and staff sergeants being considered by the June board could look at their records online as of 1 March 2002.

In its first three months, OMPF Online has already proved to be a cost-saving initiative for the Army Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center (EREC). About 10 percent of the 20,000 sergeants first class who reviewed their records online chose not to request their microfiche records. Since it costs about \$1.40 to produce a microfiche, this was a saving of \$2,800. By fiscal year 2003, EREC's goal is to eliminate the need for soldiers to request microfiche, which will save the Army a significant amount of money each year.

The goal is for the entire Army to be able to view military records online by June. New software for the complimentary feature "Field-to-File" will enable a soldier to send official military personnel documents—such as awards and Non-commissioned Officer Evaluation Reports (NCOERs)—directly from a battalion or brigade S-1 to his own OMPF at PERS-COM.

There are now 19 digital senders throughout the Army. These are difficult to manage and maintain, however, and EREC wants to enable the soldiers to send in their documents from their own computers.

## BIG IMPROVEMENTS IN OFFICIAL PHOTO PROCESS

Official military photographs can now be sent digitally. And it may be just in time for thousands of NCOs otherwise eligible for promotion, but lacking photos in their files.

The Department of the Army Photograph Management Information System (DAPMIS) receives digitized, official DA photos directly from the Army's worldwide photo labs. The system is specifi-

cally designed to eliminate accountability problems with photos, such as lost, incorrect, or damaged hard-copy prints.

This initiative supports both Personnel Transformation and the Army's Knowledge Management Strategy. At the same time, this system supports the Army's routing and transfer of business and customer support applications to Army Knowledge Online (AKO), the Army Portal. The goal is to use AKO as the one-stop information site for the Army.

Until DAPMIS is fully implemented this summer, there will be a transition period during which hard-copy photos will still be printed. During a three-to-six-month transition period, soldiers will be given hard-copy photos to mail to PERS-COM.

Some personnel initially will be able to do both—view photos online and receive photos to mail in for their files. The rule of thumb is that a soldier who is given photos should turn them in.

This system eliminates trips back to the studio to review printed photos. In addition, soldiers will no longer be responsible for taking approved photos to their nearest services battalion for mailing to PERS-COM on their behalf.

A soldier's photo is automatically forwarded to the centralized data base used by Army selection boards, branch-assignment officers, soldiers, and commanders.

The soldier is given three days in which to approve the stored photo through his AKO account on the Army Portal, [www.us.army.mil](http://www.us.army.mil). The photos are part of the AKO's password-protected section for Official Military Personnel Files.

DAPMIS began in late 1999, using bar-coding of hard-copy photos to help keep track of photos. In the next phase, the Army designed and validated the concept of a digitized photo-processing system. The third phase implements the system worldwide.