



SENIOR STATUS REVIEW

INFANTRY OFFICER CANDIDATE PROGRAM

**UNITED STATES ARMY INFANTRY SCHOOL
FORT BENNING, GEORGIA**



CLASS 24-69
50TH COMPANY (OC)
5TH CANDIDATE BATTALION (OC)
THE CANDIDATE BRIGADE
UNITED STATES ARMY INFANTRY SCHOOL
FORT BENNING, GEORGIA 31905

Captain Thomas J. Smith
Commanding

Lieutenant Colonel Dennis J. Harron
Battalion Commander

Colonel Robert M. Piper
Brigade Commander

Brigadier General Sidney B. Berry
Assistant Commandant

Major General George I. Forsythe
Commandant

SENIOR STATUS REVIEW CHAIN OF COMMAND

Battalion Commander--Senior Candidate John R. Jay
Battalion Adjutant--Senior Candidate Joseph W. Rausch
Battalion S2--Senior Candidate Craig E. Biggs
Battalion S3--Senior Candidate Clark S. Yokley
Battalion S4--Senior Candidate Dennis C. O'Brien

Senior Company Commander--Senior Candidate Donald W. Huskins
First Platoon Leader--Senior Candidate Lawrence A. Kirkland
Second Platoon Leader--Senior Candidate Thomas M. Lankford
Third Platoon Leader--Senior Candidate Charles L. Martin
Fourth Platoon Leader--Senior Candidate William W. Pascual

Junior Company Commander--Intermediate Candidate Ralph R. Fuller
First Platoon Leader--Intermediate Candidate Rickey E. Blair
Second Platoon Leader--Intermediate Candidate Robert J. Burke
Third Platoon Leader--Intermediate Candidate Kenneth D. Maynor
Fourth Platoon Leader--Intermediate Candidate Charles R. Miller, Jr.

Color Guard--Senior Candidate Ronald P. Michael
Senior Candidate Kief S. Tackaberry
Senior Candidate Robert D. Tarr
Senior Candidate Henry P. Mansky

Senior Guidon Bearer--Senior Candidate Burt S. Tackaberry
Narrator--Senior Candidate Brooke Pearson

0900 HOURS, 28 JUNE 1969

WHAT IT MEANS TO ACHIEVE "SENIOR STATUS"

Senior Status signals both an end and a beginning. It is an end, of course, to the junior and intermediate phases of the program; but more important, it is the beginning of the last phase of preparation which culminates in our commissioning as Second Lieutenants of Infantry.

The past eighteen weeks of training have been arduous and demanding and the tasks we had to perform were varied and many. We have proven ourselves equal to these tasks, however, by the very fact of our presence here today. Drill and ceremonies, leadership, tank gunnery, map reading, communications and mortars to name a few, were objectives to be taken, just as enemy held land masses will be in the future.

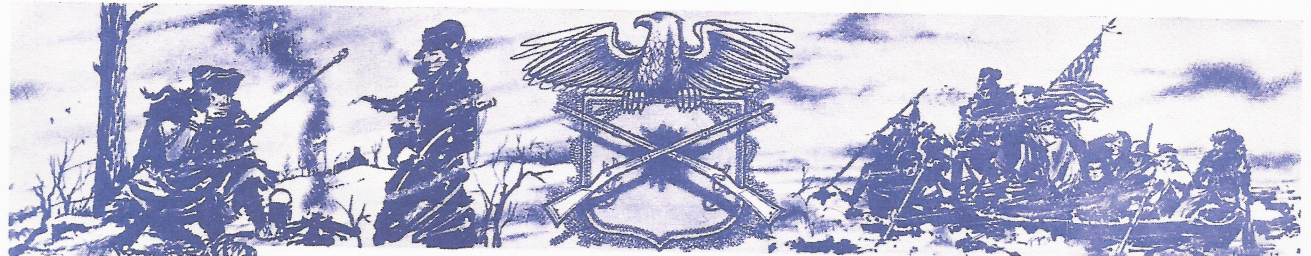
In surmounting the many obstacles we have faced, three key words stand out in our minds. They are discipline, organization and supervision. Of the many apprehensions we entertained of the Officer Candidate program, prior to enrollment, those concerning the rigorous and exacting discipline requirements were foremost. Our past eighteen weeks experience has proven these apprehensions to be well founded. However we are aware, especially now as we enter Senior Status, of the tremendous role discipline plays in molding an Officer Candidate into a Second Lieutenant of Infantry. One must be able to respond quickly and effectively to instructions in order to develop our own faculty for controlling others through discipline. As Senior Candidates, we will be expected not only to set the example by our own behavior and appearance, but we must, at last, implement what we have gleaned from our constant striving towards excellence and use it in assisting other Officer Candidates towards the goal to which we aspire in concert.

Closely allied with discipline are the concepts of organization and supervision; for without planning and guidance discipline is an abstract. We are conscious that all our training is executed that we may become the finest combat platoon leaders. Throughout the course the importance of good planning and effective supervision has been impressed upon us. It follows then that during our "Senior Status" we will have an eye both to the past and to the future. That is, while forging ahead towards our ultimate goal, as Second Lieutenants, we will constantly be drawing upon the well of knowledge which both proper organization and efficient supervision has instilled in us.

It is with determination similar to that which we have shown in the previous weeks, that we should face this concluding and most significant phase of our training. Ahead lies tactics and an opportunity to employ what we have learned in our basic phases. Now is the time to crystallize thoughts and classroom instruction into aggressive and decisive action, thereby taking up the sword of leadership and giving meaning to the phrase, "FOLLOW ME".

TACTICAL OFFICERS OF THE SENIOR COMPANY

Senior Tactical Officer--Second Lieutenant John W. Hook
Second Lieutenant Everton L. Reid
Second Lieutenant Dick F. Dent
Second Lieutenant Robert W. Cross
Second Lieutenant Eric C. Toolson
Second Lieutenant David L. Sullivan
Second Lieutenant William W. Jacobsen



I AM THE INFANTRY

I am the Infantry—Queen of Battle! For two centuries I have kept our Nation safe, purchasing freedom with my blood. To tyrants, I am the day of reckoning; to the suppressed, the hope for the future. Where the fighting is thick, there am I . . . I am the Infantry! **FOLLOW ME!**

I was there from the beginning, meeting the enemy face to face, will to will. My bleeding feet stained the snow at Valley Forge; my frozen hands pulled Washington across the Delaware. At Yorktown, the sunlight glinted from the sword and I, begrimed and battered . . . saw a Nation born.

Hardship . . . and glory I have known. At New Orleans, I fought beyond the hostile hour, showed the fury of my long rifle . . . and came of age. I am the Infantry!

Westward I pushed with wagon trains . . . moved an empire across the plains . . . extended freedom's borders and tamed the wild frontier. I am the Infantry! **FOLLOW ME!**

I was with Scott at Vera Cruz . . . hunted the guerrilla in the mountain passes . . . and scaled the high plateau. The fighting was done when I ended my march many miles from the old Alamo.

From Bull Run to Appomattox, I fought and bled. Both Blue and Grey were my colors then. Two masters I served and united them strong . . . proved that this nation could right a wrong . . . and long endure. I am the Infantry! **FOLLOW ME!**

I led the charge up San Juan Hill . . . scaled the walls of old Tientsin . . . and stalked the Moro in the steaming jungle still . . . always the vanguard. I am the Infantry!

At Chateau-Thierry, first over the top, then I stood like a rock on the Marne. It was I who cracked the Hindenburg Line . . . in the Argonne, I broke the Kaiser's spine . . . and didn't come back till it was "over, over there." I am the Infantry! **FOLLOW ME!**

A generation older at Bataan, I briefly bowed, but then I vowed to return. Assaulted the African shore . . . learned my lesson the hard way in the desert sands . . . pressed my buttons into the beach at Anzio . . . and bounced into Rome with determination and resolve. I am the Infantry!

The English channel, stout beach defenses and the hedgerows could not hold me . . . I broke out at St Lo, unbent the Bulge . . . vaulted the Rhine . . . and swarmed the Heartland. Hitler's dream and the Third Reich were dead.

In the Pacific, from island to island I hopped . . . hit the beaches and chopped through swamp and jungle . . . I set the Rising Sun. I am the Infantry!

In Korea, I gathered my strength around Pusan . . . swept across the frozen Han . . . outflanked the Reds at Inchon . . . and marched to the Yalu. **FOLLOW ME!**

Around the world, I stand . . . ever forward. Over Lebanon's sands, my rifle steady aimed . . . and calm returned. At Berlin's gate, I scorned the Wall of Shame. I am the Infantry!

My bayonet . . . on the wings of power . . . keeps the peace worldwide. And despots, falsely garbed in freedom's mantle, falter . . . hide. My ally in the paddies and the forest . . . I teach, I aid, I lead. **FOLLOW ME!**

Where brave men fight . . . there fight I. In freedom's cause . . . I live, I die. From Concord Bridge to Heartbreak Ridge, from the Arctic to the Mekong . . . the Queen of Battle!

Always ready . . . then, now and forever. I am the Infantry! **FOLLOW ME!**

