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OCS: Are You Good Enough?

Enlisted men or warrant officers planning an Army career are urged to look into the Officer Candidate School (OCS) program.

USARV, implementing a Department of the Army drive to encourage applications for OCS from enlisted men, says, "It is the responsibility of all commanders to be alert for personnel they would recommend for the OCS program and to give these individuals special counseling and guidance to direct their thoughts toward a career as an Army officer."

THE THREE FACILITIES currently the sites of the 23-week OCS course are Fort Belvoir, Va. (engineers), Fort Sill, Okla. (artillery) and Fort Benning, Ga. (infantry).

Active duty EM and warrant officers meeting the following requirements are eligible to attend OCS; they must be:

At least 18 1/2 and no more than 32 1/2 years old;

A graduate of a high school or a school of similar level, or have passed the General Educational Development Test (high school level);

AN INDIVIDUAL WHO achieved an Aptitude Area GT score of 110 or higher, and who attains a score of 115 or higher on the Officer Candidate Test;

Of high moral character;

Able to meet moral, medical and training requirements as specified in AR 350-50.

Personnel in pay grade E-4 and below are appointed to E-5 upon entrance into OCS. Those who fail to complete the course, however, revert to the grade held when they entered the school.

SINCE CANDIDATES MUST live in candidate barracks during the course, arrangements for housing of dependents should be made.

Successful graduates must serve at least two years' active duty, starting as a second lieutenant at a base pay of $386.40 per month.

Those with more than four years in enlisted status will receive $534 per month.

Graduates are usually assigned to the branch of service corresponding with the school they attended. Candidates who graduate in the upper 10 per cent of their class are eligible for designation as "distinguished graduates" and may apply for appointment as second lieutenants in the Regular Army.

OCS graduates have the same opportunity to attend Army schools as other new officers. They may apply for airborne, ranger or flight training before completing OCS, and may apply for other courses offered by the Army after assignment to a unit, preferably after at least six months of troop duty.