



MOUNTAIN CLIMBER



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FORT DRUM

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FORT DRUM EDUCATION CENTER

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On the Education Services Officer's Desk

The
Army Education
Center
at the
McEwen Library and
Education Complex

Hours of Operation

Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, and Friday

0900-1600

Wednesday

1245-1600

(315) 772-6878



The Fort Drum
Education Center
Mountain Climber

Garrison Commander
COL Emory R. Helton

Director, Directorate of
Plans,
Training and
Mobilization
LTC Alan D. Fessenden

Education Services
Officer
Carla K. Ortiz

Editor
Joseph A. Agresti

This issue of the *Mountain Climber* outlines the rules, regulations, and application procedures for many of the Army's enlisted commissioning programs. These programs are great options for our soldiers who would like to further their military career, whether active duty or reserve, while pursuing a bachelors or masters degree. They are also an excellent way to offset the high cost of a college education without the hassle of paying back student loans for years to come.

I have worked with many soldiers in my career who have decided that they would like to become an Army Officer and have elected to pursue this goal through the Officer Candidate School, Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Green-to-Gold, the Physician's Assistant (PA), the Army Medical Department (AMEDD) Enlisted Commissioning programs or through the United States Military Academy Preparatory School (USMAPS). The applications are long and involved, requiring that the soldier spend much time gathering information and at times, taking the college prerequisites for the programs. I have seen many soldiers inquire about these opportunities, are eager to apply, but once they realize the effort involved in the application process, they give up. The soldiers who listen to the advice of counselors and the experts and persevere in the application process, find out that it is usually worth the effort.

Unfortunately, because I have moved around so much in my own career; rarely staying in one place for more than 3 years, and frequently much less, I rarely get the opportunity to see how my soldiers fared in the commissioning process. I use the term "my soldiers" because I become very



possessive about the soldiers on "my installations" that I have counseled. Soldiers who are selected for these commissioning programs are processed out very quickly after they are informed of their selection. This is another reason why I was frequently unaware of the outcome. One piece of advice I can give to soldiers who are selected, please pass along the good news to those who have helped you in the process. They would be eternally grateful.

Another piece of advice that I would pass along is to research each of these programs thoroughly and choose the one that is right for you. One of the soldiers I counseled many moons ago when I first started working in Army education, SPC John Wageman, is now an active duty Education Services Officer with the Army National Guard. He told me in an email several years ago that even though he was offered an ROTC Green to Gold Scholarship, he turned it down and elected to take the ROTC non-scholarship option. He wrote " For

me, it was the right choice because it allowed me to get my commission a year earlier, and I was not obligated to go back on active duty when I got commissioned. For financial aid, I got the GI Bill, a \$100 ROTC stipend (currently the stipend is much more), PELL grants and monthly drill pay from the National Guard. Many states, like Iowa, also have their own tuition aid programs AND the ACES tuition assistance program." John also took advantage of the married student housing on campus and the VA work-study programs to help make ends meet.

Lastly, and most importantly, seek the advice of a professional. Army guidance counselors and the admissions officers for the commissioning programs can provide a wealth of information and assist in guiding you to the program that best fits your circumstances. Army guidance counselors are available on a walk-in basis Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 0900-1600 and on Wednesday from 1245 to 1600.

Please read on for more information on the enlisted commissioning programs.

Carla K. Ortiz
Education Services Officer



AMEDD Enlisted Commissioning Program (AECPP)

Right now 140 soldiers, on 40 college campuses nationwide, are taking advantage of an opportunity to advance both their military careers and professional education. These soldiers are taking part in the Army Medical Department Enlisted Commissioning Program or **AECPP**.

AECPP provides eligible active duty soldiers the chance to attend college in a full-time status to complete a baccalaureate degree in nursing and become a registered nurse. Once they earn the degree, pass their National Council for Licensure Examination-Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN), they are commissioned in the Army Nurse Corps and returned to active duty.

Application to this program is open to all active duty army enlisted soldiers, regardless of their military occupational speciality, who are able to gain entrance to an accredited nursing program with an academic and clinical curriculum in English and graduate within 24 calendar months. The curriculum in English is an unwaiverable requirement. Applicants must be an enlisted member of the active component with a minimum of 3 years and no more than 10 years of military service. Waivers for minimum time -in-service (TIS) will be approved or disapproved by PERSCOM on a case-by-case basis.

According to SFC Charles Bradshaw, Program Manager for the AECPP, the *biggest things taken into consideration in an application packet are: the applicant's grade point*

average (GPA) for courses previously taken; demonstrated leadership roles; and potential to become an officer. SFC Bradshaw stresses that letters of recommendation need to be written out well, especially if the applicant has participated in leadership roles or received awards.

SFC Bradshaw states that soldiers may now apply to any school in the contiguous 48 states, as long as it meets the AECPP program requirements. Schools selected in Hawaii, Alaska, or Puerto Rico must be pre-approved by the program manager or the AECPP officer in charge. Additionally the tuition caps require that applicants must notify the school that they are military members, and ask if the school has an agreement with the government to charge in-state rates solely based on their military status. If so, the applicant does not have to be a resident of the state to attend.

The deadline for applications for this FY was 1 December 2002; exceptions to the filing date will be considered by PERSCOM on a case by case basis. The board convenes 22 January 2003.

For more information and packet preparation assistance, soldiers are encouraged to contact their local Army Education Center or Army Medical Treatment Facility Education Branch. They may also contact SFC Bradshaw, AECPP Program manager at DSN 536-0381 or commercial (800) 223-03735, extension 60381 or email at AECPP@usarec.army.mil.

Marian Weisz
Army Guidance Counselor



The United States Military Academy

The United States Military Academy, West Point, provides its students with the unique opportunity to develop physically, ethically, and intellectually while building a foundation for an exciting and rewarding career in the service of our country. The curriculum at West Point is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Councils and Schools, and it is ranked 5 out of 82 schools offering undergraduate engineering degrees in the 2003 US News *America's Best Colleges*.

For a soldier interested in attending West Point, a good place to start is the Academy's website (www.usma.edu or www.usma.army.mil). There are a few basic eligibility criteria that a prospective candidate must meet:

- Be a US citizen
- Unmarried with no legal obligation to support dependents
- Be under 23 years of age prior to July 1st of the year entering USMA or 22 if entering the Prep School.
- Have a high school or general education diploma.
- Be of high moral character.

Soldiers wishing to apply should take the SAT or ACT (minimal acceptable scores are 1000 or 29 respectively) and an endorsement from their company commander. Soldiers should also seek congressional nomination from their home states.

Candidates are evaluated in three main areas: academics, physical fitness, and leadership. Academics will be based on high school records, any college transcripts and SAT/ACT

scores. The Academy website offers some insights into what prerequisites a candidate should take. Physical fitness is not as much of an issue for soldier-candidates as they have taken the APFT, but outstanding test scores are essential. Participation in rigorous team sports is an indicator of both physical fitness and ability to work with others under pressure. Demanding individual sports like swimming or cross country are indicators that the candidate can push their physical limits to achieve a goal. The last area of consideration is leadership. In high school, participating in student government is good, as is actively serving in a community organization like Big Brothers/Big Sisters or Habitat for Humanity. As a soldier, being a unit equal opportunity or drug and alcohol representative would look positive on the application.

Soldiers who have been out of school for a while will spend one year at the US Military Academy Prep School at Ft Monmouth, NJ. This school focuses on mathematics and English skills to get soldiers back into an academic environment prior to entering the Academy. Students at the Prep School receive a modified pay scale, and they receive credit for another year of active duty towards retirement and pay while attending.

The application process is long and tedious - applicants must complete essay forms, get letters of recommendations or appointments. The key to successfully completing this requirement is perseverance.

The choice to enter West Point is a choice to join a profession that is rich in tradition. It may be the right choice for you.

Diane Smith
Guidance Counselor



Officer Candidate School

The earliest origins of Officer Candidate School - OCS - can be attributed to two voluntary military training camps held in the summer of 1913 for college students. The summer training camps followed by Officer Training Camps of WW I, provided a nucleus of citizen soldier officers for the Allied Expeditionary Force. The concept of training selected enlisted personnel to become officers was shelved following the war, but was revived during the late 1930's as Army planners faced the threat of another world war.

In 1938, the staff of the Infantry School devised and reviewed plans to train officers for the expanding pre-World War II Army. The plans were approved in July 1941, by the Commandant of the Infantry School, General Omar Bradley. The approved plan called for three separate "officer candidate schools" - infantry, field artillery, and coastal artillery - candidates to be drawn from the enlisted ranks of the service and training in a rigorous 17 week program. The first infantry OCS class graduated 171 second lieutenants; for the next six years, infantry OCS enrolled over 100,000 candidates, graduated and commissioned 67% of these "90 day wonders" back into the Army. By the end of WW II, only the infantry

program remained; and after graduating its last class of 52 second lieutenants, it closed its doors in 1947. OCS was reopened to support both the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, providing trained combat leaders in both eras. In 1973, a single branch immaterial OCS was established at Ft Benning, GA. In 1976, female candidates were integrated into the BIOCS; in 1998, the reserve component Phase III candidates were included at Benning. Today, OCS continues to provide highly trained commissioned officers to all 16 branches of the Army. The 14 week OCS still follows the format established by General Bradley in 1941 - tough training, discipline, and an unshakable code of honor.

Eligibility for OCS

- US Citizen
- 18 years of age but not older than 30 at time of enrollment.
- GT of 100 or higher
- Completed AIT
- Passing score on the SAT/ACT
- Passing score on the APFT
- Meet the height and weight standards of AR
- Good moral character
- If required, have a passing grade on the English Comprehension Test or the American Language Course Placement Test.
- Bachelor degree recommended, 90 semester hours towards a bachelor degree required.
- Pass a local OCS screening board. These boards are held quarterly.

Additional information on packet content and requirements for submission, as well as sample forms can be found on the OCS website - www.army.ocs.com

The Army Education Center can help in scheduling needed tests, and documenting academic completion for the board. Approved packets are forwarded to PERSCOM for review and announcement of selection and class date.

Once your packet is completed, your local board held and your packet makes it way to DC, you are on the road to becoming a part of an honorable tradition - an Officer Candidate.

Diane Turo-Hughes
Guidance Counselor



Warrant Officer Candidate School

Become a Warrant Officer

Head in the clouds? Do you feel a need for speed?

Then you may want to consider becoming an Army Rotary Wing Aviator. An Army Aviator operates and commands aircraft under tactical and non-tactical conditions. Types of aircraft include the UH60A Blackhawk, AH64A Apache, OH58D Kiowa Warrior, and the Ch47 series Chinook.

Any MOS and any enlisted rank may apply, as long as they meet the prerequisites. For more information on becoming an Aviator Warrant Officer through the Army Rotary Wing Aviator program visit their website at <http://www.Rucker.army.mil/ap/>.

Boots on the ground more your desire?

The Army has 45 Warrant Officer Technician specialities from Aviation Maintenance to Veterinary Service to choose from. But you may still be asking the basic question...

What is a Warrant Officer?

DA Pamphlet 600-11 states that a warrant officer is "an officer appointed by the Secretary of the Army based on a sound level of technical and tactical competence. The warrant officer is a highly specialized expert and trainer who, by gaining progressive levels of expertise and leadership; operates, maintains, administers, and manages the Army's equipment, support activities or technical systems for an entire career.

From the earliest history of the British Navy, to the first Army Warrant Officer in the Mine Planter Service, to today, the Warrant Officer continues to be the tactical and technical expert. In recognition of this expertise, most Warrant MOSs require that the candidate be at least a SGT (E-5) and a

BNCOC graduate. Other prerequisites include a GT of 110 or higher, and 5-6 years of experience in their field.

Benefits and opportunities as an Army Warrant Officer include:

- Training and education
- Higher pay
- Promotion potential
- Extended career opportunities
- Challenging assignments

Warrant officers serve at all levels of the Army. Typically, junior warrant officers are assigned at the unit level, and senior warrant officer are assigned at higher levels such as Brigade, Division, and Corps. Warrant officers are also assigned to positions in the training base and on the Army Staff.

To explore your future as a Warrant Officer, visit your unit retention NCO, your Army Guidance Counselor, or the Warrant Officer Career Center at <http://leav-www.army.mil/woccc/>

Les Barbour
Guidance Counselor

Websites

USMA

www.usma.edu
www.usma.army.mil

OCS

www.army.ocs.com

WOCS

www.leavenworth.army.mil/woccc/

Green to Gold

www-rotc.monroe.army.mil/

Army Aviation

www.rucker.army.mil/ap/



Army ROTC Green to Gold

What is Army ROTC?

The Army's Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) produces officers - 75% of all Army officers.

Founded in 1916, ROTC has produced more than one-half million lieutenants for America's Army. It remains the broadest avenue for men and women seeking to serve as officers in today's Army.

Unlike traditional college programs, Army ROTC gives you a wide range of experiences while you work toward a degree. Your studies will include Leadership Development, Military Skills, and Adventure Training. In the classroom and in the field, Army ROTC teaches you to succeed in a competitive world, both in college and beyond.

What is Green to Gold?

The Army ROTC Green to Gold Scholarship Program, referred to as

Green to Gold, provides selected active duty enlisted members of the Army an opportunity to complete their baccalaureate degree requirements and obtain a commission. Enlisted members who are selected for this scholarship program are discharged from active duty for the sole purpose of enrolling as an Army ROTC cadet in the fall of the award year.

Two-, three-, and four-year scholarships are available. Those candidates that have completed their bachelor degree and have two years work remaining for their masters degree may apply for a graduate degree scholarship.

The scholarship will provide financial assistance toward college tuition and educational fees up to an annual amount of \$16,000. Additionally, a flat rate of \$450 per year is provided to purchase textbooks, classroom supplies, and equipment. The scholarship does not pay for aviation flight fees or room and board. Scholarship winners receive a tax-free subsistence allowance of \$200 per month for up to ten months of a school year and are paid while

attending the ROTC Advanced Camp.

The scholarship does not cover the expense of moving your family or household goods from your actual permanent place of abode, home or Army school to the educational institution you will be attending. Contracted ROTC cadets are not authorized access to Army medical facilities, exchanges, or commissaries except during the periods when they are attending summer camp.

During the period of their scholarship, recipients may, if qualified, receive any portion of the Montgomery GI Bill and Army College Fund they earned while on active duty. To qualify for the benefits under the MGIB, active duty members must serve a minimum of 20 months on active duty if their initial service commitment was two years, or serve 30 months if their initial commitment was three years.

Note: Soldiers who request a discharge to enroll under the Green to Gold scholarship program may disqualify themselves from ever receiving their GI Bill/Army College Fund entitlements if they have not

completed their minimum length of service before discharge. Additionally, all contributions to the MGIB are nonrefundable. Check with an Army Education Counselor early in your application process to ensure you will not jeopardize this benefit.

Eligibility for Green to Gold (see the Education Center for a complete list)

- GT score of 110 or better.
- High school or general education diploma graduate.
- Three- and four-year scholarship applicants must have a minimum SAT score of 920 or an ACT composite of 19.
- Two- and three-year applicants must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 grading scale.
- Four-year applicants must have a cumulative high school grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 grading scale.

Upon successful completion of military science and baccalaureate

degree requirements, scholarship cadets will be commissioned as second lieutenants in either the Regular Army or Reserve Components in one of the officer accession branches of the Army. They must serve for a minimum of eight years in compliance with their contract. Individual branch preference and the needs of the Army determine branch commissioned in and what mix of active and reserve duty commitment will be used to meet the 8 year service requirement.

The application process should begin with a visit to the education center or the ROTC Cadet Command website listed above. ROTC admissions officers visit the education regularly. To schedule a meeting with one of them to discuss Green to Gold, call the Education Center at 772-6878.

Kerry Parker
Guidance Counselor



SUNY COLLEGES IN THE NORTH COUNTRY

**It's Time to Register for Classes for Spring 2003!!!
Don't wait until January**

(Soldiers wanting to apply for Army Tuition Assistance must see an Army Education Counselor prior to registration)

Spring 2003 SUNY Colleges of the North Country

SUNY Potsdam

Semester Dates 1/22-5/3/03

HLTH249	School Health	Sa	1100-1800	3sh
COMM395	Bus&Prof Speakg	Fr/Sa	16-2100,09-1700	3sh
GRE530	Clstrm Mgt & Disc	Fr/Sa	16-2100,09-1700	3sh
GRE548	Child Lit in Tchg Rdng	Fr/Sa	16-2100,09-1700	3sh
GRE559	Literacy II	We	1630-2030	3sh
GRE565	Elm Math:Cnt & Mthd	Fr/Sa	16-2000,09-1600	3sh
GRE600	Phil Found of Educ	Mo	1630-2030	3sh
GRE607	Phil Found of Ed (B-6th)	Mo	1630-2030	3sh
GRE605	Rdng&Stdy Skills: Cont Area	Fr/Sa	6-2100, 09-1700	3sh
GRE616	Curriculum & Eval	Th	1630-1830	3sh
GRE630	Diag Tech in Rdng	Mo	1630-1830	3sh
GRE630	Diag Tech in Rdng	Tu	1630-1830	3sh
GRE631	Remedial Tech in Rdng	Tu	1630-1830	3sh
GRE660	Educational Research	Fr/Sa	16-2100,09-1700	3sh
GRE664	Prac in Childhd Educ	TBA	TBA	3sh
IT 529	Computers as Prod Tools	Fr/Sa	16-2100, 09-1700	3sh

SUNY Plattsburgh

Semester dates 1/27-5/16/03

JCC	NUR351	Care of Families/Elderly	Th	1630-1920	3sh	JCC
JCC	NUR428	Managemnt & Leadrshp	Tu	1630-1720	3sh	JCC
JCC	NUR437	Professional Issues	Mo	1630-1720	3sh	JCC

Note: Plattsburgh courses are offered as part of the Telenursing program. Please call 1-800-787-8773 for registration materials and/or information.

Jefferson Community College

**Special tele-course from 1/21/03-5/14/03
CRJ207 FTD Community Corrections M/W 17-1830 3sh**

Early Spring Classes at Fort Drum - 1/21-3/17/03

ACC101	811	Accounting Principles I	M/W	1800-2135	4sh
BIO105	811	Environ Biology	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
CIS110	811	Intro to Computers	M/W	1800-2135	3sh
CRJ115	811	Criminal Law	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
ENG099	081	Basic English	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
ENG100	811	Composition 1	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
ENG101	811	Composition 2	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
ENG102	811	Compos and Lit	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
NET100	811	Networking Fund	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
SOC144	811	Intro to Sociology	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
BUS104	811	Personal Finance	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
CIS110	812	Intro to Computers	Tu/Th	1800-2135	3sh
CIS116	811	Intro to Programming	Tu/Th	1800-2135	3sh
CLS101	811	College Reading Skills	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
CRJ208	811	Issues in Criminal Just	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
ECO101	811	Macroeconomics	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
HIS111	811	Western Civilization 1	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
MTH129	811	Survey of Math	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
PSY133	811	Intro to Psychology	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
SPA111	811	Conversational Spanish 1	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
HIS150	801	Amer History TO 1865	MTuWTh	1130-1245	3sh
SOC144	801	Intro to Sociology	MTuWTh	1130-1245	3sh

SUNY Empire State College

Various Semester dates

HIS229/339	History of Science	TBA	TBA	4sh	FTD
MKT201/301	Marketing (1/23-3/13/03)	Th	12-1400	4sh	FTD
MTH238	Intro to Statistics	TBA	TBA	4sh	Watertown
ENG250/320	Topics in Writing	TBA	TBA	4sh	Watertown
CHS235/335	Comm Appr to Helping	TBA	TBA	4sh	Watertown
CHS225/425	Prof Styles & Persp on Helping	TBA	TBA	4sh	Watertown

SUNY Canton

Coursework available in the following fields
Criminal Investigation or Automotive Technology
Call the SUNY North Country office at 315-773-9007 for more

SUNY Oswego

Various Semester dates

HRM385	Organizational Behavior	Mo	TBA	3sh
CPS308 800	Iss. and Careers in Hum Serv	Mo	16-2000	3 sh
CPS502 800	Race, Gender & Class Issues	Tu	16-2000	3sh
CPS505 810	Psy Found-Patterns Emot Adj	We	19-2130	3sh
CPS508 800	Prof Prob in Human Serv	Mo	16-2000	3sh
CPS512 010	Case Studies in Counseling	We	1630-1900	3sh
CPS513 010	Case Stdy Drug&Alcohol Cslg	We	1630-1900	3sh
CPS515 010	Field Study in Counseling	Th	16-1800	3sh
CPS516 010	Field Exp in Alcohol Counsel II	Th	16-1800	3sh
CPS591 800	Intro to Family Systems	Th	1630-1900	3sh
CPS597 800	Program Evaluation	Tu	1615-1845	3sh
PBJ301 810	Org Structure & Com	Sa	0900-1145	3sh

General Education and PBJ Elective Requirements for Oswego may be satisfied via online courses. Call 773-9007 for Monday advisement appointments.

**YOU CAN TAKE SUNY COURSES ONLINE!!
CONTACT THE SUNY LEARNING NETWORK AT:
<http://SLN.SUNY.EDU.SLN>**

Late Spring Classes at Fort Drum -3/24-5/13/03

JCC	ACC102	851	Accounting Principles 2	M/W	1800-2135	4sh
JCC	ART115	851	Art Appreciation 1	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
JCC	CIS110	851	Intro to Computers	M/W	1800-2135	3sh
JCC	CRJ205	851	Crim Investigation 1	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
JCC	ENG100	851	Composition 1	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
JCC	ENG101	851	Composition 2	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
JCC	ENG102	851	Comp & Literature	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
JCC	GEG101	851	Intro to World Geog	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
JCC	PSY133	851	Intro to Psychology	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
JCC	SOC246	851	Juvenile Delinquency	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
JCC	BUS160	851	Spreadsheet Applications	Tu/Th	1800-2135	3sh
JCC	BUS221	851	Human Resources Mgmt	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
JCC	CRJ212	851	Intro Security Prin/Prac	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
JCC	ECO102	851	Microeconomics	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
JCC	GEO102	851	Planet Earth	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
JCC	HIS112	851	Western Civilization 2	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
JCC	MTH144	851	Elementary Statistics	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
JCC	POL121	851	Intro to Amer Gov't	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
JCC	PSY235	851	Abnormal Psychology	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
JCC	SOC144	851	Intro to Sociology	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
JCC	HIS151	805	Amer Hist since 1865	MTuWTh	1130-1245	3sh
JCC	SOC241	805	Marriage & Family	MTuWTh	1130-1245	3sh