

AAA OCS CLOSES

By MAJOR ROGER L. STELTZNER

Operations Officer, OCS

ON 17 July 1953 when Class Number 14 walk across the stage of Theater Number 1 at Fort Bliss to receive their diplomas the Antiaircraft Officer Candidate School will pass into history after nineteen months of operation.

It will have graduated approximately 1175 successful candidates for commissions. From the earlier classes many graduates are serving in Korea, many are battery commanders, and some are serving in staff positions as battalion intelligence and operations officers, as well as motor and supply officers. Information received from commanders in the field has been that these graduates are held in high esteem for their efficiency and ability to get the job done.

Class Number 13, under the guiding hand of Major Peter M. Furguele, Senior Tactical Officer, had the distinction of graduating the 1000th candidate on 16 April 1953. He is Second Lieutenant Winfield C. Boyd, Jr., of Rosemont, Pennsylvania. Boyd was a member of a class of 91 who were commissioned on this date.

Of these 91 graduates, 10 were designated Distinguished Graduates. They were Second Lieutenants Charles E.

Sidney R. Kliesing; Milton D. Mobley; Claude S. Morris, Jr.; James M. Oswald; Frank R. Pease; Arthur W. Storer; and Gene F. Wilson.

Distinguished Graduates have the opportunity to apply for Regular Army commissions within a year of graduation.

The Officer Candidate School at Fort Bliss was inaugurated 14 October 1951 under its first Director, Colonel Robert I-1. Krueger. When Colonel Krueger left the school in August, 1952, to become the commander of Camp Drake in Japan, Colonel Kenneth R. Kenerick took over the duties of Officer Candidate School Director. Of the officers who were on the ground floor at the start only three remain. They are Lt. Colonel George J. Bayerle, Jr., Assistant Director; Lt. Colonel J. E. Olivares, President of the Officer Candidate Board, and who will retire from the Army this June; and Major Asa P. Gray, Jr., first the Operations Officer and currently the Senior Tactical Officer for the one remaining candidate class.

Throughout its history the school maintained the attitude of self-criticism and constantly made efforts to improve its product, the platoon leader.

Experience of the school reveals that the

AGCT and an OCT of 121 or more, who has not had too much military experience (from one to five years only), and at least a year of college, Marital status, his basic component, previous combat service and the Service Area he comes from appear to have little bearing on a candidate's chances to successfully complete the school.

Closing of the Officer Candidate School at Fort Bliss does not mean that the branch will receive no further OCS trained officers. Rather, 40% of the Artillery candidates will be earmarked by The Department of The Army for Antiaircraft prior to their reception at Fort Sill. Upon completion of the 22 weeks of school at Fort Sill and commissioning, the Antiaircraft graduates will attend an eight week school at Fort Bliss to indoctrinate them into the techniques of their branch. Then they will be sent to their first duty assignment.

"Well done" can be written of the job done over the months the school has operated. The best traditions of the Officer Corps have been maintained. Duty, Honor, Country have been instilled into about 1175 young officers. "well done," indeed.



Talmage, who was also Honor Graduate; candidate most likely to succeed is between Jack C. Bollinger; Richard C. Duffus; the ages of 20 and 26, with at least 116

The Graduating Class No. 13 presents itself to the Reviewing Officer.