

THE TRANSPORTATION OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL DURING THE VIETNAM ERA 1966 TO 1968

By Robert Flannery, TOCS class # 6-67 and Raymond Moot, TOCS class #6-67

In 1965 the Transportation Corps along with five other Army branches received orders to activate Officer Candidate Schools. They would be needed in order to meet the demand for Commissioned Officers that the Army required for the Vietnam buildup. This would be the first time a Transportation Officer Candidate School would be active since WW II. The Infantry and Artillery were the only active Officer Candidate Schools at the beginning of the Vietnam Era. During the last quarter of 1965 the Engineer, Signal and Armor branches opened their Officer Candidate Schools. The Transportation, Ordnance and Quartermaster Officer Candidate Schools followed in early 1966.

The Armor OCS began as a Branch Immaterial OCS producing officers for the Armor, Transportation, Ordnance and Quartermaster branches under a Two Phase OCS program. Upon the completion of 13 weeks of Phase I OCS training at Fort Knox the candidates for Transportation, Ordnance and Quartermaster were transferred to Fort Eustis, the Aberdeen Proving Ground and Fort Lee respectively to complete their final Phase II 10 weeks of OCS training. On June 27th 1966 Class #15-66, the first Phase II TOCS class, graduated at Fort Eustis. Three additional Phase II classes would follow. The TOCS Regiment consisted of six Companies (A through F) with each having two student companies. On July 1st 1966 Company B had the honor of starting the first full 23 week TOCS class and it was designated as Class # 1-67, Bravo One (B-1). New classes would follow at approximately two week intervals. Since Company A was still training classes under the Two Phase OCS program it would not receive it's first 23 week class until Aug 12th 1966, Class #4-67, Alpha Two (A-2). The TOCS Regiment became fully operational in mid-November 1966 with the start of Company F's Class # 12-67, Foxtrot Two (F-2).

Delta Company accepted its first student class of 110 candidates on September 9th 1966. It was designated as Class # 6-67, Delta One (D-1). Two weeks later on September 23rd a second student class of candidates designated as Class # 7-67, Delta Two (D-2) began training with 115 candidates. Class # 6-67 would graduate 85 on March 8th 1967 and Class # 7-67 followed with 80 graduates on March 23rd 1967. Class # 2-68, Bravo Two (B-2), the "Last Class" graduated on February 28th 1968. The TOCS Regiment was officially deactivated in March 1968. Only the Infantry, Artillery and Engineer Officer Candidate Schools would remain open. TC officers were trained

at the Engineer Branch Immaterial OCS at Fort Belvoir for the remainder of the Vietnam Era. Over 2,400 TC Second Lieutenants were commissioned at Fort Eustis from a total of 30 TOCS candidate classes (4 Phase II classes and 26 twenty three week classes). There have been no active Transportation Officer Candidate Schools since 1968.

Three graduates of TC OCS went on to become generals, MG David Whaley (A-1, 24-66), BG Daniel "Mike" Kelleher (B-2, 2-67), and MG Mario "Monty" Montero (C-1, 3-67). In addition, at least two graduates were selected for Senior Executive Service (SES) and they are from Delta Company; Jack Mann (D-1, 6-67) and Bill Roderick (D-2, 7-67).

I have been working to find material on the Transportation OCS Program and thanks to Doug, MG Dave Whaley, COL Ray Moot and the Trans Museum I have located some good information...Carl Stone, February 1, 2020