

NCO Corner

By R.K.A Price

Since the main theme of this month's publication is promotions let me offer some thoughts on that subject. Everyone would like to be promoted. However, the higher the rank, the fewer the promotions.

How can you improve your chances of being one of the few to be promoted? By increasing your potential for promotion. Promotions are not a reward for having done a good job; it is expected that every soldier will do a good job, all of the time. Promotions, rather, are recognition of a soldier's potential at performing well in positions of increased responsibility. So, you increase your potential for promotion by learning the duties and responsibilities of the next higher rank.

NCO duties

There is more to learn about being a non-commissioned officer than can be covered here, so let's look at just the basic responsibilities, taken from Army Regulation 600-20. Noncommissioned Officers are responsible: That each member of their unit is trained to competency in his or her MOS as prescribed in the appropriate soldier's manual; That all government property issued to members of their unit is properly maintained and accounted for at all times and that discrepancies are reported promptly; That, while in a duty status, they be ready at all times to



report the location and activity of all members of the unit. Thus, as the basic reporting unit in formations, the squad is either present, or persons absent are reported by name. They will not merely be accounted for; That the unit is trained to function in its primary mission role.

Knowing (and if you are an NCO, fulfilling) the four basic responsibilities of NCOs will not guarantee you a promotion but it will sure put you ahead of your competition.

West Point

For years one of the best kept secrets in the army was the existence of a Preparatory School for active duty soldiers which would prepare them academically for attendance at the United States Military Academy. (In actuality, graduates of the USMA Prep School can bid for attendance at any of the service academies.) Today the wraps are off and USMAPS wants everyone to know that they do exist and that they are interested in enrolling qualified enlisted soldiers.

If you are interested in a career as an officer and would like to attend West Point, USMAPS is the place to start. For more information see your battalion adjutant. Until next time, continue to march. (CSM Price is the 22nd Sig Bde Command Sergeant Major).

