

DRIVER'S SEAT

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It's Your Career, What Are You Going To Do About It?

All soldiers adhere to guidelines from their technical manuals to prevent their vehicles from becoming deadlined. Doesn't your career deserve the same level of attention? The Army is preparing to publish in FY95 the NCO Professional Development Guide, DA PAM 600-25, which will become a 'TM' for your career.

DA PAM 600-25 will be the enlisted companion to existing DA PAM 600-3, the Officer Professional Guide. The focus of the guide is to provide enlisted soldiers with a reference manual to guide them through their careers. It will have seven introductory chapters providing an overall philosophy of enlisted career management, leader management, education, promotion, and evaluations. In addition, it will have a chapter specifically devoted to Reserve Component NCO development.

The remainder of the pamphlet consists of individual chapters devoted to each career management field (CMF). The focus for the Armor soldier will be in chapter 8, CMF19. The Armor Chapter provides the soldier with a definition of success for each rank in terms of the key leadership assignments, NCOES training, and self-development. In addition, it speci-

fies the key indicators that separate the 'exceptionally' qualified soldier from his peers. The ideas that DA PAM 600-25 presents are not new, but the fact that they are specifically outlined in a Department of the Army pamphlet that will provide guidance to Armor soldiers and their leaders is new.



Soldiers shouldn't stop at DA PAM 600-25. There are numerous sources available to assist soldiers in planning their careers:

- Armor officers and senior NCOs
- The Armor Enlisted Professional Development Guide (Published by

Office, Mounted Battlespace Integration at Ft. Knox)

- Installation Education Center
- Career Advisors in Armor Branch, PERSCOM

While you can rely on the great wealth of knowledge available from a wide range of sources, the central focus of any career planning effort is you. Take the initiative to become actively involved in the career path you choose. Give your career the same attention and effort you give to your vehicle. Ensure that you...

- Work in your PMOS
- Seek challenging assignments
- Attend the NCOES course at your first opportunity
- Review/update your official military personnel file
- Attend civilian education classes.

Most important, don't be a casual observer; actively plan your career. Don't become 'deadlined' because you didn't follow the preventive maintenance checks and services required for your career.