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Rept #144

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HEADQUARTERS ARMORED FORCE REPLACEMENT TRAINING CENTER  
CLASSIFICATION SECTION  
FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY.

MAR 4 1980

10 H. W. Ostler

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SUBJECT: Prediction of Success in Radio Operators Course,

TO : Commanding General, Armored Force School

1. In an effort to detail the best possible men to Radio Operators Course, this office, in cooperation with the Director of the Communications Department, is endeavoring to determine methods of predicting success of students in this course. Attached diagrams and tables summarize information obtained to date.

2. Studies completed fall into two general groups as designated below:

a Characteristics of Men Achieving High Final Grades in Radio Operators Course: Results of these studies are based on 1203 men who have completed Radio Operators Course. The following conclusions are indicated:

(1) Score on Signal Corps Code Aptitude Test: (See Diagram 1-E, Graph 2-E, Bar-Graph 3-E) This test appears to be the best single method for selecting students. Minimum requirement of a score of 50 is indicated, since more than 25% of men making scores of 49 or below fail the course.

(2) Years of Education: (See Diagram 1-F, Graph 2-F, Bar-Graph 3-F) Minimum requirement of 10 years education is indicated since more than 25% of men having 9 years education or less fail the course.

(3) Age in Years: (See Diagram 1-G, Chart 2-G) Age seems to be of no value in predicting performance in course.

(4) General: It seems likely that a major portion of failures among students scoring above 40 on the Code Aptitude Test, and having 8 or more years of education, are due to lack of interest rather than lack of ability. Minimum entrance might be lowered considerably if a reliable method could be devised to determine interest of men in advance of their course enrollment.

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HEADQUARTERS ARMORED FORCE REPLACEMENT TRAINING CENTER  
CLASSIFICATION SECTION  
FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY.

Prediction of Success in Radio Operators Course (Continued)

b Characteristics of Men Achieving High Scores on Signal Corps Code Aptitude Test: Studies in this group are based on 1745 A.F.R.T.C. trainees who were selected to take the Code Aptitude Test. Results of these studies may be regarded as indirect evidence of characteristics of men who may be expected to achieve high final grades in Radio Operators Course. The following conclusions are indicated:

(1) Men who have experience as radio operators or electricians, or who demonstrate musical ability or who have education beyond high school, or who make very high scores on the Army General Classification Test, tend to make better than average scores on the Code Aptitude Test (See Table I, Bar Graph I)

(2) Except in extreme cases, scores on Army General Classification Test, Clerical Aptitude Test, and Mechanical Aptitude Test, and information as to years of education may be regarded as poor indications of a man's probable performance on the Code Aptitude Test. (See Diagrams 1, 1-A, 1-B Charts 2, 2-A, 2-B)

(3) Age in Years: Age appears to have little or no bearing on a man's performance on the Code Aptitude Test. (See Diagram 1-C, Chart 2-C)

3. Method of arriving at above conclusions is described in attached Manual of Interpretation of Results.

4. Additional reports regarding methods of predicting success in various courses of the Armored Force School will be submitted as final course grades for A.F.R.T.C. trainees become available.

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H. L. OSTLER  
Capt., (Cav.), Armored Force,  
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