US ARMY OFFICERS

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

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GENERAL SOURCES


Founders Day speech by History Dept faculty.

Historical study of American conceptions and attitudes.


See also:
-Bibliographies on Officer Training in Training Education; US Military Academy-West Point; and Professionalism.

GENERAL SOURCES-Appointment, Promotion, Demotion


Finds institutional racism based on survey & statistics covering 1979-91.

Historical review of officer commissions and promotions.


Analysis and advice concerning top-level civilian involvement in military appointments & promotions.

A history of promotion from enlisted ranks to officer grade.


And subsequent editions.

Includes stats pp. 6-7, on officers below grade of general.
GENERAL SOURCES-Frocking

Frocking, an old naval custom, is a current US Army procedure for temporarily promoting officers and noncommissioned officers to higher rank without commensurate pay. Frocking reportedly began after repeal of the legal basis of breveting (q.v.) in 1956. Many officers, especially general officers, have been frocked, notably in early 1970s. See:


No mention of frocking in same regulation, Oct 75, with 4 changes (to Apr 77).

_____. Message: Frocking of Senior NCOs, 27 Sep 1984. 3 p. Photocopy, BibFile(Officers).

See also:
-AR 614-200; Bibliography on Brevets in Officers.

GENERAL SOURCES-Commission Certificates

A commission awarded to Lieutenant Henry C. Corbin, 1866, is included in his personal papers, Arch, along with several other commissions of the late 19th century. Present-day officer's commissions are substantially the same in form and content. A small-scale illustration of one appears on p. 3, 39th ed, The Officer's Guide.

Incidentally, Art II, Para 8, of Revised United States Army Regulations of 1861 specifies that "An officer not having orders from competent authority cannot put himself on duty by virtue of his commission alone." Departmental seals appeared on tendered commissions, and an 1896 law required that the seal not be affixed until after the President had signed the commission. See:


YOUNGEST OFFICERS-(candidates for)


MacArthur, Arthur - b. 2 Jun 1845, appointed lieutenant, 4 Aug 1862 - age 18.

Murphy, Audie - b. 1924, field commission 1944 - age 20.

Sabin, Albert - b. 1843, appointed lieutenant 19 Feb 1862 - age 19.

Wilkinson, James - b. 1757, appointed captain, Continental Army, Mar 1776 - age 19.

PRE-20TH CENTURY


Between 1827-60, 96 military schools in the south produced an estimated 6-12,000 "trained" officers.


Discussion on how to attract US wealthy aristocrats into officer corps, including lowering pay to eliminate the middle classes with whom the aristocracy preferred not to associate. Related articles fore & aft.


Stevenson's Military Instruction for Officers Detached in the Field, 1775.

Refutes argument of physical, social, and cultural isolation.


USMA graduates who served the Confederate cause.


General stats and general courts-martial orders relating to officers, 1857-61 & 1877-81.


See also:
-Bibliography on the Society of Cincinnati in Veterans.
1900-1945


See Chaps 3-4.

Appointing the professional, administrative specialists from civil occupation.

1900-1945-Promotion Policy, World War II


Also 17 Aug 1944 edition (6 p.) w/ Changed No. 2 & 3 (5 p.) & *AR 605-10*, 10 Dec 1941.

Examples: Omar N. Bradley was promoted to full general (temporary) on 12 Mar 1945. His permanent grade at the time was major general, dating from 8 Sep 1944.

George S. Patton, Jr. was promoted to the temporary grade of full general on 14 Apr 1945, while his permanent grade was major general, as of 2 Sep 1943.

Walton H. Walker was promoted lieutenant general (temporary) on 14 Apr 1945, while his permanent grade was colonel, from 1 May 1942.

The following individuals held the permanent rank indicated when promoted to the new temporary (5-Star) grade of general of the army:

  Arnold, Henry H. - major general, since 31 May 1941.
  Eisenhower, Dwight D. - major general (2 Star), since 30 Aug. 1943.
  MacArthur, Douglas - general, since 21 Nov 1930.
  Marshall, George C. - general (4-Star), since 1 Sep 1939.

Reference:


1900-1945-Flight Officers, World War II

On the origin of flight officer grade during World War II, see:


See also Army Regulation 600-35, Change 2, 19 Sep 1942, and page 53 of AR 600-35, 31 Mar 1944, which describe and depict pertinent insignia of flight officers.
SINCE 1945


See index.

Birtle & Condon-Rall, cited above. UB413.1.B57.

Assessment of military history since the mid-50s.

Defense magazine, almanac issue (Sep), Per.
Includes table showing number and grade of all officers, all services.


Analysis of 102 questionnaires.

Holt, Thaddeus. Papers. 1 Box. Arch.

Transformation of the armed services from defeat in Vietnam to triumph in the Gulf, viewed from the perspective of the careers of various top generals.

Finds data indicating a shift toward technical-oriented senior officers because of joint provisions in 1986 Goldwater-Nicols Action.


