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Simulating the Impacts of Sending Officers to Functional Schools before BOLC-B

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Abstract: Regardless of commissioning source, all officers in the United States Army must complete the Basic Officer Leaders Course B (BOLC-B) before reporting to their assigned units. The process of scheduling BOLC-B slots to incoming officers accounts for many factors, such as commissioning date, commissioning source, days of leave, cost to the Army, and class capacity. This study examines the effects of sending officers to certain military schools, for which BOLC-B is not a necessary prerequisite, before BOLC-B. Currently, the Army process is designed so, except in rare circumstances, officers attend BOLC-B before any other military schools after commissioning. In 2014, the United States Military Academy is implementing a pilot program to send its graduates to schools before BOLC-B. Several metrics are used to compare alternatives and determine the effects on both USMA and ROTC officers. The analysis shows the pilot program, for both USMA and ROTC officers, is highly effective at decreasing time between an officer's commissioning date and arrivals at his or her first military school and first permanent unit. While the pilot program also reduces the amount of time officers spend at bases without an actual assignment, it reduces the amount of paid leave USMA officers receive after graduation.

Keywords: BOLC Scheduling, Discrete Event Simulation, USMA Pilot Program.