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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. Nov. 18---U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today introduced a bill to authorize the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kans., to award the degree of master of military art and science.

Since 1963, over 100 student officers have successfully completed the 12-month graduate program including a thesis. No degree or certificate has been awarded -- only a notation on individual personnel records.

In remarks in the Senate, Dole pointed out the program is comparable to master's programs in civilian colleges and universities, yet students, upon successful completion of the program, do not receive any degree.

"Each master's candidate," Dole said, "must demonstrate academic achievement and suitability for entrance into the program including the Graduate Record Examination used by most colleges and universities. In addition to regular classes, student officers must undertake a research project of their choice and produce a master's thesis by the end of the college year. Comprehensive oral and written examinations are also required."

Dole said the Department of the Army, the U.S. Office of Education and others support the proposal. He also noted the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools has shown interest in granting accreditation to the master's program if Congress authorizes the advanced degree.

"The master's program," Dole said, "offers especially qualified officers from its already select student body the opportunity for extensive original research and scholarship in the field of military art and science."

If the bill is passed, Dole said, it would be retroactive to include the over 100 officers who have successfully completed the advanced program, but without receiving the master's degree.