

# Thunderbolt Blast

Monthly Armor School Newsletter  
Vol. 2, Issue 2 FEBRUARY 2013



## Armor School

**316<sup>th</sup> CAVALRY BRIGADE: ABOLC COMBINED-ARMS INTEGRATION.** Essential in preparing Armor lieutenants to lead platoons is ensuring they have a strong foundation in the concept of combined-arms maneuver. Over the past year, 2-16 Cav has worked with the MCoE to integrate training events that reinforce combined-arms maneuver. 2-16 Cav has capitalized on relationships with the Maneuver Captain's Career Course (MCCC), Mechanized Leader Course (1-29 Infantry), Maneuver Senior Leader Course (MSLC) and Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course (IBOLC) to conduct training events (virtual and live) that facilitate Armor/Cavalry lieutenants partnering with NCOs and officers from the Infantry Branch to plan and execute maneuver. Among other events, the ABOLC Capstone FTX has proven an excellent forum for integrating combined-arms maneuver in a live environment. MCCC provides Infantry and Armor Captains, Armor and Engineer captains to serve as company commanders during the FTX while, simultaneously, the Infantry School provides a mechanized-infantry platoon to augment the tank and scout platoons during their missions. The squadron continues to seek opportunities to integrate combined-arms maneuver into every phase of training. With continued partnerships across the MCoE, each ABOLC class will have the opportunity to participate in one or more combined-arms training events that will enhance ABOLC's value and better prepare lieutenants to be leaders in the force.

**194<sup>th</sup> ARMOR BRIGADE: EXCELLENCE IN ARMOR (EIA).** At the Armor School, Armor crewmen are trained on all Skill Level 10 tasks necessary for success at their gaining units. During training, an elite percentage of Soldiers achieve, through rigorous testing and selection boards, enrollment in the EIA program. These Soldiers are exposed to Skill Level 20 tasks, consisting of training on fire-control systems and the Advanced Gunnery Training System (AGTS) for the M1A2 SEP V2 Abrams Main Battle Tank. EIA Soldiers use this training to conduct actual live-fire engagement from the gunner's station during their end-of-cycle tank gunnery. EIA Soldiers fire a set of tank engagements led by a senior noncommissioned officer and then receive a full tank gunnery after-action review (AAR) of their results for the battalion master gunner. During their AAR, EIA Soldiers receive a critique of their engagement and methods to improvement. The EIA program and tank gunnery AAR are part of the 1-81 AR Battalion's Tank Gunnery Enhancement Program. They serve to increase the operational competence and knowledge of our Armor crewmen to assume greater responsibility in their gaining units.

## Armor Branch and OCOA Personnel Notes

**PROCESSING SI/ASI R7 (ARMY RECONNAISSANCE).** In accordance with ALARACT 268/2012, graduates of the Army Reconnaissance Course at Fort Benning are authorized officer Skill Identifier (SI) or enlisted Additional Skill Identifier (ASI) R7. The unit S-1 is responsible for processing the SI/ASI for both past and present graduates. Past graduates will include Scout Platoon Leaders Course (SPLC) and Scout Leaders Course (SLC). Update Active Component records in TOPMIS for officers and eMILPO for enlisted, and Army National Guard in SIDPERS. POC is OCOA at (706) 626-TANK or email [usarmy.benning.mbx.armor-ocoa@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.benning.mbx.armor-ocoa@mail.mil).

## From the Chief of Armor's Turret

During February, we participated in CGSC's Branch Day with the majors currently attending Intermediate Level Education (ILE) at Fort Leavenworth, KS. We had a great discussion with them regarding their role as a field-grade officer within the Army profession and more specifically within the Armor Branch. Besides the expertise in combined-arms maneuver (CAM) and wide-area security (WAS), we discussed their unique role in helping shape the future of the Army through leader development and mentorship of junior leaders. It was a great opportunity to spend time with these future Armor and Cavalry executive officers and S-3s, and you can rest assured that the ILE cadre is preparing them for their roles within our units.



As organizations begin to renew their appreciation for CAM in decisive-action training environments, it is clear that future conflicts will call for crewmen to quickly transition between target types and desired effects. We have seen the variety of main gun rounds increase due to the types of threats they can defeat, which has resulted in a greater mix of ammunition types carried on board the tank. Fortunately, research is underway to finalize one round (armor multi-purpose, or AMP) that encompasses the effects of the HEAT, MPAT, canister and obstacle-reduction rounds, and adds the capabilities to defeat enemy Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) teams at extended ranges and to breach walls in support of dismounted infantry. Thunderbolt 7 and I recently saw the U.S. Marine Corps' AMP-like round in action at Aberdeen and understand why Marine tankers call it a game-changer in Afghanistan. This new technology is a very modest and affordable investment to give us the capabilities we need for the future,

**GENERAL FREDERICK M. FRANKS JR. AWARD.** The deadline for submissions is extended to 31 July. The Franks Award, which is granted annually by the Chief of Armor, recognizes Active Component and Reserve Component officers, NCOs and DA civilians who make significant and lasting improvement to the Army's ground warfighting capabilities. Also, this individual should possess two or more of the following characteristics during the year or years preceding the award: (1) offered a vision for the future of the mounted warfighting force that significantly improved combat survivability, lethality, maneuverability or mobility; (2) innovated equipment, materiel or doctrine that significantly enhanced the effectiveness of mounted elements of the combat arms; (3) exemplified professional excellence in demeanor, correspondence and leadership on issues relevant to mounted warfare; and (4) revealed a love of Soldiering through leadership skills, recognition of the sacrifice and achievements of subordinates, and attention to the intent and directions of higher commanders. The SOP can be found on the OCOA Website, <http://www.benning.army.mil/armor/COA/index.htm>.

**DRILL SERGEANT SCHOOL.** All Armor Soldiers interested in volunteering to become a drill sergeant will now be required to do so through their chain of command. Human Resources Command (HRC) has implemented a pilot program with FORSCOM to ensure that only the most qualified NCOs are selected to attend Drill Sergeant School. For more information on Drill Sergeant School, please contact your chain of command after ensuring you are qualified IAW AR 614-200 and TRADOC Regulation 350-16.

**OFFICER PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT BRANCH VISITS.** Armor Branch had an amazing opportunity to make multiple visits in person and via video teleconference to the force during 2012. These visits are critical in that they allow us to inform officers face to face about future assignments and promotion/command possibilities. Fort Benning, GA; Fort Irwin, CA; Fort Campbell, KY; and Alaska installations were among the units scheduled and visited, and we received nothing but positive feedback from units. We have also conducted multiple VTCs and phone conferences for commands who have requested them. Bottom line, we stand ready to engage Armor officers, whether it is through unit visits, VTCs, phone conversations and emails. If you are interested in scheduling a unit visit, VTC or phone conference, please contact Armor Branch, and based on your unit's fiscal ability to support, we will do our best to facilitate your request. We stand ready to support!

## Capabilities Development Updates

**120MM ADVANCED MULTI-PURPOSE MUNITION (AMP).** In today's operating environment, an Abrams tank must be capable of precise and lethal direct fire against multiple target types. The AMP round is a full-bore multi-purpose round designed to replace four rounds while improving current capabilities: the M830 (high-explosive anti-tank round), M830A1 (multi-purpose high-explosive anti-tank round), M908 (obstacle reduction round) and M1028 (anti-personnel round). The AMP round also adds two new capabilities to the Armor force: a wall-breaching capability that allows dismounted squads to rapidly enter large entry points created by the AMP breaching effect; it also provides a precise and lethal airburst capability to defeat Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) teams at ranges of 50 to 2000 meters. AMP provides an extremely versatile round that is better suited to defeat the complex threat of the future. The three modes of operation include airburst, point-detonate and point-detonate delay. The round contains a data link that communicates through the main gun's breach block, allowing electronic fuse setting. In summary, the new AMP round combines the capability of four currently stockpiled rounds into a single round and adds two more capabilities not currently available. This provides greater efficiency and effectiveness against the growing array of likely battlefield threats. Point of contact is Steve Peralta, [steven.a.peralta3.civ@mail.mil](mailto:steven.a.peralta3.civ@mail.mil), (706) 545-1112.

and we are pursuing aggressively to get this round. We also visited Yuma recently and saw the new Sabot (M829E4) being tested and came away greatly impressed. This will also be a game-changer on future battlefields.

The Army faces many challenges and many uncertainties in the coming years. One thing is certain: the Armor Branch must continue to develop leaders ingrained within the Army profession, immersed in doctrinal principles, and who are technically and tactically proficient. As the fiscal situation evolves, training these attributes does not require exorbitant resources but rather leaders who focus on the principles and basics while being resourceful and adaptive.

Lastly, 19 teams will assemble at Harmony Church by the end of the day to compete in the Gainey Cup, which starts Saturday morning. Teams representing all Active Component divisions, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> CR, 11<sup>th</sup> ACR, 504<sup>th</sup> BfSB, ALARNG, GAARNG, NVARNG and the USMC are ready to get after it!

Giddyup! 47

## From the CSM's OP

This has been a very memorable month for Armor Soldiers past, present and future. On 11 Feb, the President presented former SSG Clint Romesha the Medal of Honor. Romesha received the Medal of Honor for actions 3 Oct 09 at Combat Outpost Keating, Afghanistan, against a force of 300 Taliban fighters. COP Keating was manned by only 53 Soldiers when the attacked began. We at the Armor School are humbled and honored to have such a great American from our former ranks. We look forward to arranging a visit by Romesha to Fort Benning and the Armor School.



As of today, we have all the Army, National Guard and one USMC scout teams on Fort Benning in preparation for the start of the first-ever Gainey Cup competition. The 316th Cavalry Brigade has done an outstanding job getting this competition designed, resourced and now ready to execute. All signs point to a tough, challenging and demanding competition that will determine the best scout team. While I know that recent events have limited the number of you that can travel, we hope a few of you can be here to cheer on your teams, and we are very happy to have CSM(R) Joe Gainey attending.

Thanks for all you do every day to make the Armor force and the Army the best in the world!

Armor Strong!

Thunderbolt 7

HQ U.S. Army Armor School



|  |                       |                       |                    |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
|  | Armor CDMT            | (706) 545-2029        | COL Paul Laughlin  |
|  | Armor CSM             | (706) 545-8169        | CSM Miles Wilson   |
|  | DCMDT                 | (706) 545-3815        | COL Scott King     |
|  | ARNG Liaison          | (706) 626-2306        | LTC Scott Fowler   |
|  | MGMT Staff            | (706) 626-1406        | MAJ Joseph Jasper  |
|  | Armor Historian       | (706) 626-1491        | Dr. Robert Cameron |
|  | OCOA Director         | (706) 545-1352        | George DeSario     |
|  | OCOA SGM              | (706) 545-7725        | SGM Gregory Proft  |
|  | OCOA (EIA, DRAPER)    | (706) 626-TANK (8265) | email OCOA         |
|  | <b>ARMOR</b> magazine | (706) 545-2698        | email <b>ARMOR</b> |

192<sup>nd</sup> IN BDE



|  |                      |                      |                        |  |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--|
|  | <b>COL Ron Clark</b> |                      | <b>CSM Clyde Glenn</b> |  |
|  | <b>1-46 IN BCT</b>   | LTC Brown, Cale      | CSM Dydasco, Eugene    |  |
|  | <b>2-47 IN BCT</b>   | LTC Feger, Kyle      | CSM Dennison, Daniel   |  |
|  | <b>3-47 IN BCT</b>   | LTC Thompson, Travis | CSM Svenson, Todd      |  |
|  | <b>30th AG (Rec)</b> | LTC Kidder, Stuart   | CSM Reddock, Earla     |  |

194<sup>th</sup> AR BDE



|  |                             |                     |                            |  |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|--|
|  | <b>COL Kevin MacWatters</b> |                     | <b>CSM Robert Tompkins</b> |  |
|  | <b>1-81 AR</b>              | LTC Plummer, Dawson | CSM Lockhart, Dean         |  |
|  | <b>3-81 AR</b>              | LTC McCoy, Jeff     | CSM Wagner, Anthony        |  |
|  | <b>5-15 CAV</b>             | LTC Koloski, Andrew | CSM Roark, Samuel          |  |

316<sup>th</sup> CAV BDE



|  |                           |                   |                            |  |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|--|
|  | <b>COL David Davidson</b> |                   | <b>CSM Michael Clemens</b> |  |
|  | <b>1-16 CAV</b>           | LTC Brown, Mark   | CSM Martin, Valmond        |  |
|  | <b>2-16 CAV</b>           | LTC Diano, Oscar  | CSM Feltman, Bradley       |  |
|  | <b>3-16 CAV</b>           | LTC Mackey, Andre | CSM Williamson, Michael    |  |

TCM

|                     |                       |                |                              |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| COL Nicoson, Gary   | TCM-ABCT and TCM-BfSB | (706) 545-2517 | gary-nicoson@us.army.mil     |
| COL House, Ed       | TCM-IBCT              | (706) 545-2078 | claud.house@us.army.mil      |
| COL Speights, Elmer | TCM-Stryker           | (706) 545-5364 | elmer.speights3.mil@mail.mil |

Army National Guard Regional Training Institutes (RTIs)

|   | School code | 958  | 1016                               | 998                               | 1012                                      | 1017                        | 1012                               |
|---|-------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
|   | Location    | Gowen Field<br>Armor SME<br>Site IDARNG<br>Boise, ID | ARNG<br>Res. Tng Ctr<br>Smyrna, TN | Camp Shelby<br>Hattiesburg,<br>MS | Fort<br>Indiantown<br>Gap<br>Annville, PA | Camp<br>Mabry<br>Austin, TX | Camp Ripley<br>Little Falls,<br>MN |
|   | ARNG RTI    | 1-204 <sup>th</sup>                                  | 2-117 <sup>th</sup>                | 1-154 <sup>th</sup>               | 1-166 <sup>th</sup>                       | 1-136 <sup>th</sup>         | 175 <sup>th</sup> Regt             |
| <b>M1A1 Tank Commander Certification</b><br>171-SI3M/19K2/3/4 |             | X  |                                    |                                   |   |                             |                                    |
| <b>Scout Commander Certification</b><br>171-SI3X/ASID3        |             | X  | X                                  | X                                 |   |                             |                                    |
| <b>Cavalry Scout (MOS-T)</b><br>171-19D10 (HMMWV/M3) (R)      |             | X  | X                                  | X                                 | X   | X                           | X                                  |
| <b>Cavalry Scout Adv Ldr</b><br>171-19D30-C45                 |             | X  | X                                  | X                                 | X   | X                           |                                    |
| <b>Armor Crewman (M1A1)</b><br>171-19K10 (M1A1) (R)           |             | X  |                                    | X                                 |   |                             |                                    |
| <b>Armor Crewman (M1A2)</b><br>171-19K10 (M1A2) (R)           |             | X  |                                    |                                   |   |                             |                                    |
| <b>Armor Crewman Adv Ldr</b><br>171-19K30-C45                 |             | X  |                                    | X                                 | X   |                             |                                    |

Courses highlighted in yellow are not yet supported with required equipment.

Upcoming Events

1-5 March 13 - Gainey Cup



Gainey Cup Links

Armor School: <http://www.benning.army.mil/armor/GaineyCup/>

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/528944870458594/532503716769376/?notif\\_t=group\\_activity](https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/528944870458594/532503716769376/?notif_t=group_activity)

Armor School Links

MCoE: <https://www.benning.army.mil>

Armor School: <https://www.benning.army.mil/armor/>

ARMOR magazine: <https://www.benning.army.mil/armor/ArmorMagazine/index.htm>



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