

Thunderbolt Blast

Armor School Newsletter

Vol. 3, Issue 2 APRIL-MAY 2014



Armor News



Gen (R) Sullivan with the team from 2-69 AR, 3rd ABCT, 3rd Infantry Division: the winners of the 2014 Sullivan Cup: "Best Tank Crew Competition."

From the Chief of Armor's Turret

Competition brings out the best in people, and this month the Armor School hosted the best in our Armor force during the 2014 Sullivan Cup: "Top Tank Crew" competition. Seventeen teams representing the Active Army (11), National Guard (3), Marine Corps (1), and Canada (2) competed in a physically and mentally demanding world-class competition. The biannual event raises awareness across the Army and the public on the importance of Mobile Protected Firepower; while promoting excellence within our Armor Force.



The competition was fierce, but when the aft caps settled, the top four teams were from: 3rd ABCT, 1st CAV Division; 1st ABCT, 2nd Infantry Division; 55th ABCT, PA ARNG and our overall champion 2-69 Armor of 3rd ABCT, 3rd Infantry Division. Congratulations to all of our competitors, whose efforts were first-class and brought great credit to their units and the entire Armor branch.

The top four crews from the Sullivan Cup: 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID; 3rd ABCT, 1st CAV DIV; 1 ABCT, 2nd ID; and 55th ABCT, PA ARNG



Armor School and OCOA

OCO A: GEN (R) DONN A. STARRY WRITING COMPETITION. The US Army Armor School and Cavalry & Armor Association (CAA) have just announced the General Donn A. Starry writing competition. The competition will evaluate and recognize outstanding writers from across the Army who demonstrate clarity and vision about the future of the mounted force.

Articles for 2014 will address the topic: **How can we improve the capabilities of our Cavalry Squadrons to ensure they meet the demands of the Army of 2025 and beyond?** Writers will be an Active Duty/National Guard/Reserve Soldier, Department of the Army Civilian, Retired/Veteran. The Soldier or Civilian does not have to be in the Armor Branch, but he or she will write on future/enduring challenges facing Armor and Cavalry. Participation confirmation is due NLT **30JUN14** with article submission due NLT **31JUL14**.

The winning author be recognized during the 2014 Maneuver Warfighting Conference at Fort

We would like to thank all of the great Americans who championed this competition: General (R) Sullivan, LTG (R) Sylvester, former Thunderbolt 6s MG (R) Harmeyer and MG (R) Tucker, former Command Sergeants Major of the Army Tilley and Preston, former Thunderbolt 7s CSM (R) Christian, CSM (R) Fryer, CSM (R) DeSario and CSM (R) Young. Thank you for your continued service and example to all Armor Soldiers. We would also like to thank the Soldiers and Civilians of the 194th Armored Brigade, the 316th Cavalry Brigade, and across the Armor School, Maneuver Center, and Fort Benning who put forth a phenomenal effort planning and executing

Benning, GA. He or she will receive a \$400 check from the CAA, a 1911 commemorative Pistol, an Army Commendation Medal from the Chief of Armor (as applicable), and publication in ARMOR magazine. For additional information and requirements, see <http://www.benning.army.mil/armor/starry/>

194th ARMORED BRIGADE: 19D OSUT TRAINING. Drawing from lessons learned from America's War on Terror, France's current operations in Mali, and the 2014 National Security Strategy and Force Reduction, the expectation of a U.S. Cavalry Scout has greatly expanded. To meet FORSCOM's expectations of Initial Entry Training 19D Cavalry Scouts, 19D One Station Unit Training (OSUT) has fundamentally changed its Program of Instruction (POI) to reflect the increases in basic Scout competencies. First, 19D OSUT has spear-headed culture and language training by requiring all Trainees to attend more cross-cultural understanding classes and to complete a DLAB examination to assess each Soldier's potential to undergo further language training. Strategic language speaking Trainees are also given the opportunity to undergo a Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT) and/or Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI). Second, mastery of land navigation is fundamentally critical for all Scouts. As such, 19D OSUT has added two more days of land navigation training and testing to the course POI. Trainees are now tested on their individual land navigation skills in the form of a written examination, and day and night practical exercises. Finally, the introduction of more technical and tactical skills such as the employment of OE-254s, UAVs, and various infiltration techniques have been added to the course POI to better familiarize Trainees with equipment and tactics used by Cavalry organizations. These initiatives are deliberately designed to improve the overall tactical and technical competence and confidence of the individual Cavalry Scout upon assignment to his first unit of assignment.

TRADOC Capabilities Managers

TCM-ABCT: STANDARD SCOUT PLATOON. The Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCoE) recently concluded an eight-month study of the ABCT Standard Scout Platoon (SSP) 6x36 Force Design Update (FDU) initiative, which consolidated data collection and analysis efforts by TCM-ABCT/ Recon, OCOA, DOTD (Doctrine), and the CDID T&EO. The test unit was 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry, 1/1CD from Fort Hood, Texas, which converted each of their six scout platoons into the 6x36 configuration in SEP 2013. The study culminated in a SSP Proof of Principle (PoP) which revealed the SSP FDU provides the best organization to ensure scout platoons possess the required leadership, versatility, survivability, protection, mobility and firepower to perform R&S missions against any opponent in the future operational environment. The report outlines the performance of the SSP formation, and addresses the way ahead to mitigate identified DOTMLPF gaps and limitations. The full report is available for viewing at <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-141790>

Doctrine

MANEUVER DOCTRINE AND COLLECTIVE TRAINING DIVISION. Both FM 3-96, The Brigade Combat Team, and FM 3-98, Reconnaissance and Security Operations, have completed draft reviews from the force. Once both manuals are published this summer, Doctrine will shift focus to Army Techniques Publications for echelons below brigade. Doctrine will host a number of writing conferences starting in July 2014 to solicit the input and participation from subject matter experts in both the institutional and operational Army. The first three ATPs for draft will be ATP 3-90.5, The Combined Arms Battalion; ATP 3-21.20, The Infantry Battalion; and ATP 3-21.21, The SBCT Infantry Battalion. <http://armypubs.army.mil/doctrine/> MCoE POC is Mr. Curtis Archuleta at Curtis.d.archuleta.civ@mail.mil

Armor Branch Personnel Notes

OFFICER PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE (OPMD): OPERATIONS DIVISION (FORMERLY MANEUVER, FIRES, EFFECTS DIVISION)

In the past month, HRC has reorganized and changed names of various entities. The change that most affects Armor Branch is the changing of our division's name from Maneuver, Fires, Effects Division to Operations Division. The alignment of the Public Affairs Functional Area to the Operations Support functional category was the reason for the change.

This name change has little effect on the day-to-day operations of the Branch. The other more interesting restructuring at HRC is the creation of a Cyber Branch that will be managed the same as other branches such as Armor and Infantry. Cyber Branch will have a branch chief and assignment officers like the other branches.

Check the Armor Branch website for the latest updates and contact information for your assignment officer. <https://www.hrc.army.mil/Officer/AR%20Officer%20Home>

the event from start to finish. The entire team looks forward to hosting the Gainey Cup: "Best Scout Squad Competition" in 2015!

Consistent with this spirit of competition, I am pleased to announce the 2014 General (R) Donn A. Starry writing competition. GEN Starry's distinguished career reflects a significant shaping influence upon the Army. He was instrumental in implementing the Training Revolution of the 1970s that fundamentally changed how the Army trained and prepared for war. He also played an integral role refining warfighting concepts toward what would become AirLand Battle — doctrine that would win the Cold War and Operation Desert Storm. The GEN (R) Donn Starry writing competition challenges officers, NCOs, Soldiers, and DA Civilians who are committed to the Army Profession to think about the future of the Armor branch and to offer insightful, forward-thinking concepts to improve the force. Additional details on this competition are located in this newsletter or at <http://www.benning.army.mil/armor/starry/>.

FORGE THE TUNDEBOLT!

BG Lee Quintas
"48"

From the CSM's OP

"The ultimate victory in competition is derived from the inner satisfaction of knowing that you have done your best and that you have gotten the most out of what you had to give"
-Howard Cosell.



Those words certainly rang true over the last week as 17 of the world's best tank crews gave it their all here at Fort Benning to decide the winner of this year's Sullivan Cup. The overall purpose of the Sullivan Cup is to promote excellence in Armor across the force and your tankers certainly demonstrated that excellence. It was amazing to watch the performance of those individual crews over a tough four day period and against stiff competition. The contest was broken down into events that stressed physical fitness and endurance, tactical decision making, adaptability and expertise. We certainly saw every team rise to the challenge and demonstrate the skill that is the hallmark of Armor Crewman everywhere. All who trained, participated, and witnessed the event were truly inspired by the performance of our Army, USMC, and Canadian crews. We set the bar high and our tankers were up to the task.

While we expect tankers to be experts in precision gunnery we strove to create an environment that would challenge them in more ways than one and provide a tool for the competitors to use at their home station when developing training. Resurrecting the 1974 Armor Crewman Physical Proficiency

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	ARNG Liaison	(706) 626-2306	LTC David Guido
	Armor Historian	(706) 626-1491	Dr. Robert Cameron
	OCOA Director	(706) 545-1352	George DeSario
	OCOA SGM	(706) 545-7725	SGM Gregory Proft
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	ARMOR magazine	(706) 545-2698	usarmy.benning.tradoc.mbx.armor-magazine@mail.mil

194th AR BDE 

	COL Scott King		CSM Robert Tompkins	
		1-46 IN BCT	LTC Matthew Scalia	CSM Eugene Dydasco
		2-47 IN BCT	LTC Christopher Bresko	CSM Daniel Dennison
		30th AG (Rec)	LTC David Welch	CSM Nyeedra T. Edwards
		1-81 AR	LTC Dawson Plummer	CSM Dean Lockhart
		5-15 CAV	LTC Michael Birmingham	CSM Samuel Roark

316th CAV BDE 

	COL David Davidson		CSM Jeremiah Inman	
		1-29 IN	LTC Richard Surowiec	CSM Ricky Fields
		1-16 CAV	LTC Mark Brown	CSM Eric Littlejohn
		3-16 CAV	LTC James Hayes	CSM Michael Williamson

199th IN BDE - ABOLC

		2-16 CAV	LTC Oscar Diano	CSM Bradley Feltman
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TCM

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Armor School Links

- MCoE: <https://www.benning.army.mil>
- Armor School: <https://www.benning.army.mil/armor/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/USAARMS>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/USAARMS>
- ARMOR magazine: <http://www.benning.army.mil/armor/eARMOR>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/ARMOR-magazine/122557661278366?ref=hl>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ARMORMagazine>
- Blog: <http://www.earmorcontent.com/blog>
- USAARMS DIVIDS: <http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/USAARMS#.Us1-TfuF2TM>
- <http://www.dvidshub.net/publication/563/thunderbolt-blast#.Us1-ePuF2TM>
- <http://www.dvidshub.net/publication/562/armor-magazine#.Us1-EvuF2TM>
- Fundamentals of Reconnaissance and Security: <http://www.benning.army.mil/armor/fundamentals/>
- Maneuver Self-Study Program: <http://www.benning.army.mil/mssp/>

Test certainly surprised some but, is a great device to measure functional fitness in support of MOS and combat related tasks. The mystery event, a small arms precision gunnery "stress" shoot in a simulated combat environment, is also an instrument that can be used to ensure all of our Soldiers are trained in and prepared for the reality of today's battlefield and demonstrate mastery of all the weapons they have. Lastly, the precision tank gunnery event culminated in a five engagement "shoot off" that included degraded systems, multiple weapon systems and ammunition selections, all at extended ranges. I think you would find that the tankers that were here this week found the individual events demanding but also capable of being recreated at home station with the assets on hand.

In closing, I would like to thank the Soldiers that participated, their units, chains of command and families for their support of the 2014 Sullivan Cup. It truly was a world class event but was only possible because of Soldiers both here at the Armor School and in the field. A special recognition to the Soldiers and leaders of the "Battle Hard" 194th Armor Brigade who pulled it all together and made it the experience it was. I look forward to seeing everyone at the 2015 Gainey Cup. SCOUTS OUT!

CSM Michael Clemens

Sullivan Cup Scores TEAM PRESTON			
UNIT	POINTS	PLACE	CREW EVENT RECOGNITIONS
	1149	1st	Crew Evacuation, Overall Physical Time
	1092	2nd	Mystery event
	987	3rd	CCTT Offensive
	965	4th	Ammunition Shuffle, Night Live Fire
	911	5th	CCTT Defensive
	897	6th	
	806	7th	
	620	8th	
	734	9th	Vehicle Identification, M240 Operation

Sullivan Cup Scores TEAM TILLEY			
UNIT	POINTS	PLACE	CREW EVENT RECOGNITIONS
	1024	1st	CCTT Offensive, Night Live Fire
	874	2nd	Mystery Event
	809	3rd	Day Live Fire
	773	4th	Ammunition Shuffle, CCTT Defensive
	614	5th	Vehicle Identification, M240 Operation,
	572	6th	
	505	7th	Casualty Evacuation
			Crews loader was hospitalized for 2 days.