

Thunderbolt Blast

ARMOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025



CHIEF OF ARMOR & USAARMS CSM COMMENTS

The Armor Force Fundamentals



“Fundamentals” are a specific list of tasks/actions that allow formations to fight effectively. While we may often talk about mastering the fundamentals, we might not always have shared understanding of what these fundamentals are. The Armor Training Standardization Initiative has leveraged the judgment and experience of commanders at echelon to reach consensus on Armor Force Fundamentals that are



organized by three categories:

Common Fundamentals – The Daily Dozen. These are twelve actions that units do every day during operations.

The Daily Dozen is common to all unit types and all echelons.

Common Fundamentals – Critical Tactical Tasks. These twelve tasks enable formations to fight effectively. Critical Tactical Tasks are common to all unit types and are applicable to the company, platoon, section, squad echelons.

Formation-Specific Fundamentals. These are the tasks – tailored to specific formation types – that enable good fighting. Formation types include the Tank Platoon, the Scout Platoon, the Tank Company, and the Cavalry Troop.

Here are the Armor Force fundamentals:

THE ARMOR FORCE FUNDAMENTALS (2025)

Common Fundamentals (Daily Dozen):

All Units at All Echelons: Fieldcraft & What Units Do Every Day During Operations

- 1) Security + Cover, Concealment, Emissions Control
- 2) Timelines & Priorities of Work in the TAA
- 3) Boresight & Prep to Fire Checks
- 4) Communications
- 5) Pre-Combat Checks (PCCs) & Pre-Combat Inspections (PCIs): Shoot, Move, Communicate
- 6) Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services (PMCS) & 5988Es
- 7) Sensitive Items & Accountability Checks
- 8) Reconnaissance
- 9) Operations Orders & Graphics
- 10) Rehearsals
- 11) Risk Management
- 12) After Action Reviews

Common Fundamentals (Critical Tactical Tasks): All Units (CO/PLT/SEC/SQD)

- 1) Establish Security (Short Duration & Long Duration)
- 2) Execute Battle Drills & React to Contact (PLT/SEC/CREW/SQD)
- 3) Conduct Consolidation & Reorganization
- 4) Conduct Field Maintenance in the TAA (PMCS, 5988 Flow, Parts Flow, Parts Installation)
- 5) Conduct Tactical Combat Casualty Care & CASEVAC Operations
- 6) Conduct LOGPAC in the TAA, LRP Operations, & Emergency Resupply
- 7) Conduct Troop Leading Procedures & Rehearsals
- 8) Establish/Operate Communications & Reporting
- 9) Coordinate with Adjacent Units
- 10) Execute Detachments, Receive Attachments, & Integrate Unit Enablers
- 11) Employ UAS (When Equipped)
- 12) Conduct Counter-UAS Operations

Tank Platoon Fundamentals

- 1) Execute Movement Techniques: Bounding Overwatch, Traveling, & Traveling Overwatch
- 2) Conduct Attack By Fire/Support By Fire & Achieve Suppression/Local Direct Fire Superiority
- 3) Conduct an Assault
- 4) Destroy an Inferior Force Using Fire & Maneuver
- 5) Conduct a Hasty Occupation of a Battle Position for a Hasty Defense
- 6) Execute Direct Fire Control & Distribution
- 7) Bypass an Obstacle

Scout Platoon Fundamentals

- 1) Execute Movement Techniques: Bounding Overwatch, Traveling, & Traveling Overwatch
- 2) Conduct Reconnaissance (Zone, Area, Route)
- 3) Conduct Infiltration/Exfiltration
- 4) Establish/Operate an Observation Post (Short Duration & Long Duration)
- 5) Conduct a Screen
- 6) Break Contact/Conduct Displacement
- 7) Conduct Reconnaissance Handover
- 8) Conduct a Forward Passage of Lines & Rearward Passage of Lines
- 9) Execute Direct Fire Control & Distribution
- 10) Employ Indirect Fire

Tank Company Fundamentals

- 1) Execute Movement Techniques: Bounding Overwatch, Traveling, & Traveling Overwatch
- 2) Conduct Attack By Fire/Support By Fire and Achieve Suppression/Local Direct Fire Superiority
- 3) Conduct an Assault
- 4) Destroy an Inferior Force Using Fire & Maneuver
- 5) Establish a Battle Position Using the 7 Steps of Engagement Area Development for a Hasty or Deliberate Defense
- 6) Execute Direct Fire Control & Distribution
- 7) Employ Indirect Fire & Plan Fire Support
- 8) Bypass an Obstacle
- 9) Conduct an In-Stride Breach

Cavalry Troop Fundamentals

- 1) Execute Movement Techniques: Bounding Overwatch, Traveling, & Traveling Overwatch
- 2) Conduct a Screen
- 3) Conduct Reconnaissance (Zone, Area, Route)
- 4) Destroy an Inferior Force Using Fire & Maneuver
- 5) Establish a Battle Position Using the 7 Steps of Engagement Area Development for a Hasty or Deliberate Defense
- 6) Execute Direct Fire Control & Distribution
- 7) Employ Indirect Fire & Plan Fire Support
- 8) Break Contact/Conduct Displacement
- 9) Conduct Reconnaissance Handover
- 10) Conduct a Forward Passage of Lines & Rearward Passage of Lines

So, what might we do with the Armor Force Fundamentals? They should assist commanders in prioritizing training. Commanders might also feature them in their training guidance. Leaders would do well to anchor their training strategies and design on these fundamentals. And for sure, we will publish them in our doctrine. For example, the Armor Force Fundamentals will have a prominent place in the soon-to-be published update of *ATP 3-20.15 (Tank Platoon)*.

Still, and as we discussed in the last Hatch Article, it is what ***you*** choose to do that matters most here. As you drive readiness in an environment of high operational tempo and personnel turbulence – with a future lethal battlefield in mind – you can focus on the Armor Force Fundamentals. We challenge you to use your initiative, creativity, and all available time to make your formations better every day. We hope you find the Armor Force Fundamentals to be valuable to your efforts.

Forge the Thunderbolt!

BG Chad C. Chalfont, U.S. Army
55th Chief of Armor

CSM Waylon D. Petty
Armor School CSM

Armor Week 2025

The 2025 Gainey Cup competition will be held from 28 April to 1 May 2025 as part of this year's Armor Week. This competition will host Soldiers from across the United States Army as well as international partner forces to test reconnaissance and security skills. The Gainey Cup competition will recognize the Best Scout Squad during an award ceremony to be held on 1 May 2025. Armor Week will culminate with the Armor Ball held at the Columbus Convention and Trade Center on 2 May 2025. Additional information on the Gainey Cup and Armor Ball are available at the links below.

Gainey Cup 2025: <https://www.benning.army.mil/armor/gaineycup/>

Armor Ball: <https://www.fbcinc.com/e/gaineycup/>

Armor Magazine

Article submissions are needed for ARMOR, the professional development magazine published quarterly by the U.S. Army Amor School. ARMOR provides a forum for Soldiers and leaders to explain, digest, or debate Army and Armor branch doctrine, policy, or other career-related issues and information. ARMOR focuses on Armor and Cavalry Soldiers up to the brigade level, as well as on Army-wide issues that affect Armor and Cavalry formations. Article topics include unclassified subjects such as Armor officer and enlisted Soldier training and lessons learned at the platoon level and above. For additional information on submitting your article, please visit the following link:


<https://www.benning.army.mil/armor/earmor/>.

19U Armor Recruit


Training Accessions Reporting Code (TARC) 19U become effective on 20 December 2024 for Armor Recruit enlistment contracts. New 19U recruits in the Armor branch will be assigned as a 19C, 19D, or 19K based on available Army opportunities assessed upon arrival to Fort Benning for One Station Unit Training (OSUT). There is currently a Tier 4 initial entry enlistment bonus of up to \$25,000 for 19U. For additional information, visit the GoArmy website below:

<https://www.goarmy.com/careers-and-jobs/ground-forces/tanks-machinery/19u-armor-crewmember-recruit>


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	OCOA Director	(706) 545-1352	Mr. George DeSario
	OCOA SGM	(706) 545-7725	SGM Russell Zacherl
	OCOA (Excellence in Armor, Armor and Cavalry Leadership Award etc...)	(706) 626-TANK (8265)	usarmy.moore.mcoe.mbx.armor-ocoa@army.mil
	ARMOR Magazine	(706) 545-2698	usarmy.moore.tradoc.mbx.armor-magazine@army.mil

194th AR BDE

	COL Gregory McLean CSM Ronald E. Kinard		
	30th AG (REC)	LTC Kyle Fails	CSM Andrew Munoz
	1-81 AR	LTC Gregory Hope	CSM Ken Pilkenton
	2-15 CAV	LTC Stephen Deuble	CSM Avery Cunningham
	5-15 CAV	LTC Mitchell Payne	CSM Andrew Pitman

316th CAV BDE

	COL Justin D. Harper CSM Jeffrey C. Davis		
	1-16 CAV	LTC Carl Danko	CSM Kevin G. Stewart
	1-29 IN	LTC Pedro Escamilla	CSM Franklyn Rosario
	3-16 CAV	LTC Hayden Scardina	CSM Tommy Snyder
	MATA	LTC Douglas Locke III	1SG Joshua Florio

199th IN BDE

	COL Neil Myers CSM Fred N. Tolman		
	2-16 CAV	LTC Ryan Karasow	CSM Christopher Belch

Other Agencies

ACM ABCT & RECON	COL Robert Furtick	ACM IBCT	COL Shaun Conlin	ACM SBCT	COL Jerome Parker
	(706) 626-2444		(706) 545-3911		(706) 545-7751
ACM SFAB	COL Paul Davis	Doctrine	Mr. David Guthrie	MRD	Mr Mark Andrews
	(913) 684-8843		(706) 545-7114		(706) 545-8355

ARMOR SCHOOL LINKS

MCoE: <https://home.army.mil/moore/>

Armor School: <https://www.moore.army.mil/Armor/>

ARMOR Magazine: <https://www.moore.army.mil/armor/earmor/>

Armor Branch (HRC) Websites:

- Officer: <https://www.hrc.army.mil/content/Officer%20Personnel%20Management%20Directorate>
- Enlisted: [https://www.hrc.army.mil/content/Enlisted%20Personnel%20Management%20Directorate%20\(EPMD\)](https://www.hrc.army.mil/content/Enlisted%20Personnel%20Management%20Directorate%20(EPMD))