

Thunderbolt Blast

ARMOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2020



2020 SULLIVAN CUP

In light of current world events, and in the best interest of our entire Armor Force and international partners, the 2020 Sullivan Cup: Best Tank Crew competition has been postponed until later this year. We appreciate each division and their crews' dedication and commitment in preparation for this year's competition. We look forward to the day when we can rekindle the competitive spirit within the Armor Force. Please stay safe during this challenging time and follow our social media pages for future updates and information.

CENTRALIZED SELECTION LIST

Congratulations to the 11 Armor Colonels selected 10 March 2020 for operational and institutional brigade-level command. Organizations to be commanded include three Armored Brigade Combat Teams (ABCT), two Stryker Brigade Combat Teams (SBCT), and the 194th Armored Brigade here at Fort Benning. Additionally, congratulations to the 27 Lieutenant Colonels selected for battalion command. These officers performed superbly at the Battalion Command Assessment Program (BCAP) held at Fort Knox in January and February 2020

CHANGES TO EXCELLENCE IN ARMOR

Effective 1 June 2020, the Excellence in Armor (EIA) program will sunset for operational units, and become a TRADOC only program executed by both 194th and 316th Brigades. With the introduction of the Expert Soldier Badge (ESB), we wanted to help reduce the burden of evaluations and assessments expected. Those 19-series personnel who receive the ESB can receive the EIA designation by submitting request to the Armor School. Soldiers attending One Station Unit Training (OSUT) in the rank of Private to Sergeant, as well as Lieutenants in Armor Basic Officer Leader Course will be eligible to receive the award.

19A CAPTAIN ACFT

Effective 1 October 2020, the ACFT category for 19A CPT will change from Moderate to Heavy in accordance with changes made to DA Pamphlet 611-21, Tables 3-19A and 3-1-1. Armor CPTs should prepare now to ensure they are ready to complete ACFT requirements in the Heavy category.

CHIEF OF ARMOR COMMENTS

Greetings from Fort Benning! Your Armor School continues delivering lethality to the force by providing world-class 19 Series Leaders and Troopers, through challenging functional training, and synchronizing new DOTMLPF-P solutions.



316th CAV published the Assignment Oriented Training Course Catalog this spring. The catalog is available [here](#) and includes course Programs of Instruction (Pols), purpose, scope, outcomes, and course maps for all Armor and Cavalry functional training. Mobile Training Teams (MTTs) are available on request if you identify a gap in your formation.

The Doctrine Team is currently revising FM 3-98 Reconnaissance and Security Operations and ATP 3-90.5 Combined Arms Battalion manuals. Both revisions realign the manuals with updates to FM 3-0 and ADP 3-90. Initial draft staffing for FM 3-98 occurs 01JUL-15AUG20. ATP 3-90.5 enters final draft staffing this summer. As always, feedback from the force is integral to ensuring our doctrine accurately reflects the current operating environment.

One of our top priorities this year is implementing CMF 19 One Station Unit Training-Transformation (OSUT-T),

DOCTRINE

In January, the ABCT Doctrine Branch team distributed the Initial Draft version of ATP 3-90.5, *Combined Arms Battalion* for worldwide staffing. This provides an opportunity for not only the maneuver force, but also the organizations that impact a CAB, to provide input to the doctrine developers. Your input ensures that the updated doctrine gives the end-user, in this case the CAB commander and staff, a relevant and usable product. The publication is an update to the 2015 version, aligning with changes in higher-level doctrine, discussing the role of the CAB in large-scale combat operations, and providing a more detailed discussion of command post operations at the CAB level. The ABCT Doctrine Branch team will disseminate ATP 3-90.5 for Final Draft staffing in 4th QTR FY20.

Additionally, the Cavalry Doctrine Branch team began the revision of FM 3-98, *Reconnaissance and Security Operations*. This publication provides doctrinal guidance for Cavalry organizations, as well as reconnaissance and security organizations in the ABCT, IBCT, and SBCT. The revision of this publication aligns with doctrinal updates to FM 3-0 and ADP 3-0, *Operations*, ADP 3-90, *Offense and Defense*, and ADP 6-0, *Mission Command*. The publication will also address changes in the task organizations of the ABCT and SBCT (additions of the armor company in ABCT Cavalry squadrons and weapons troop in SBCT Cavalry squadrons). Initial Draft staffing of the publication is scheduled for 3rd QTR FY20. As always, we greatly appreciate the valuable feedback from the units and organizations who participate during the staffing of this publication.

As these manuals are published, we will continue to update the force via the Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL) newsletter, the ABCT Doctrine Branch Facebook page, the Directorate of Training and Doctrine (DOTD) Twitter page (@MastersManeuver), and the 2019 Maneuver Warfighter Conference at Fort Benning, GA this September. For questions or concerns, please contact the ABCT Doctrine Branch: LTC Mike Herbek at michael.j.herbek.mil@mail.mil (706-626-2328) or Cavalry Doctrine Branch: MAJ(P) Larry Steward at larry.steward.mil@mail.mil (706-626-2327).

which extends 19K and 19D OSUT to 22 weeks. We've also updated our ABOLC, Cavalry Leader Course, Scout Leader Course, and Senior Leader Course throughout the year. I ask leaders across the force to provide input to the Armor School on the graduates' capabilities. If there are still holes that exist in a graduate's knowledge base, let us know so we can adjust our programs to best serve the operating force.

Lastly, SGT Logan Putnam, a 19D serving with A TRP 3-71 CAV in the 10th Mountain Division recently crushed the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT). SGT Putnam scored the maximum score of 600 and demonstrated his commitment to excellence. I hope that all leaders, Soldiers, and Troopers across the force are preparing for the ACFT and I want to congratulate many more 19-series personnel who are excelling on the ACFT standard.

Treat 'em Rough!
BG Kevin D. Admiral
52nd Chief of Armor

TRANSFORMATION OF CAVALRY AND ARMOR ONE STATION UNIT TRAINING (194TH ARMORED BRIGADE)

The 194th Armored Brigade continues to transform and modernize training for our Armored Crewman, Cavalry Scouts, and Abrams and Bradley Fighting Vehicle Systems Maintainers, while graduating the last Basic Combat Training (BCT) mission cycles. Also significant this quarter, 1-46 IN and 2-47 IN Battalions are both transitioning from the BCT mission to the 11-series OSUT mission under the 198th Infantry Brigade and subsequently the 197th Infantry Brigade.

The integration of the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) was introduced during the 1st quarter at the OSUT and BCT level. This new fitness test continues to assess the physical capabilities of our trainees and, through unremitting training focus, our trainees continue to improve and succeed. On average, trainees increased their ACFT score average from 445 points to 463 points after their third iteration. This performance is indicative of the ACFT-focused physical training that our trainees receive, and unit initiatives that incorporate ACFT events into training. One initiative, developed by 1-46 IN BN, deconstructs the ACFT and uses its exercises as stressors during the Battle, March, and Shoot event (<https://vimeo.com/388114863>).

Finally, the Ordnance Training Department successfully completed an Ordnance Training Exercise (ODX) field event that provided 91A/91M students with technical and tactical instruction and execution within a field environment. The students began the exercise with a six mile foot march and the establishment of a patrol base. Over the following three days, the students completed Situational Training Exercise (STX) lanes, Unit Maintenance Collection Point (UMCP), M7 Forward Repair System (FRS) operations, and recovery operations. Additionally, our maintainers completed trouble-shooting and security operations during hours of darkness.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2019 ARMOR & CAVALRY LEADERSHIP AWARD (ACLA) RECIPIENTS

The Armor & Cavalry Leadership Award Program recognizes outstanding Cavalry and Armor leaders and units. The award is presented on an annual basis to a deserving unit selected by the winning unit's division/regimental Commander. Evaluation is conducted for the period of 1 October through 30 September.

Only Armor Companies and Cavalry Troops are eligible to receive the Armor & Cavalry Leadership Unit Award. All packets are submitted to the Office of the Chief of Armor for processing. The awardees are selected based on the criteria for competition which will include, but is not limited to: APFT Average, Personal and Crew Served Weapons Qualification, Maintenance Readiness Rate, Gunnery Scores, Excellence in Armor enrollment, Safety Incidents and Notable Events/Occurrences. Commanders can also submit any additional notable information for their individual units. The OCOA would like to congratulate the following units that received the ACLA for FY19.

A CO, 2-8 CAV: CPT WILLIAM P. COX AND 1SG VICENTE NICOLA JR.

B TRP, 1-7 CAV: CPT STEVEN M. BOWMAN AND SFC DEAN M. PFIRMAN

B CO, 3-66 AR: CPT RICHARD T. MATTISON AND 1SG CARLOS GARCIA, JR.

A TRP, 5-4 CAV: CPT PETER A. ROMEO, CPT JOSEPH A. FERNANDEZ AND 1SG TIMOTHY B. MILLS

C TRP, 1-1 CAV: CPT JOHNATHAN BEASLEY AND 1SG BENNY MODKINS

A CO, 1-66 AR: CPT QUENTIN JESTER, CPT MICHAEL SARDINAS AND 1SG SHELBY GUITREAU

C TRP, 3-71 CAV: CPT ROBERT REED AND SFC TAMBOUZI GREEN

B TRP, 5-73 CAV: CPT MITCHELL MYERS, CPT DANIEL WROBEL, 1SG KEITH AYRES AND 1SG WILFREDO RIVERA

B TRP, 1-75 CAV: CPT AARON J. CREGAR, CPT JOSEPH D. CLEGG, 1SG PETER J. ADAM AND SFC BRIAN B. SCHIESSER

A TRP, 8-1 CAV: CPT EIRK M. ORTIZ AND 1SG MARC A. TAMAN-CAMPOS

B TRP, 3-4 CAV: CPT JOHN A. HAYNES AND SFC SIMON G. BACHMANN

A TRP, 5-1 CAV: CPT JESSE Q. WITT, CPT JOHN S. RUSH AND 1SG KEVIN G. BUTCHER

P TRP, 4-2 CAV: CPT BRIAN P. FOCARETO, CPT AUSTIN T. SCHWARTZ AND 1SG PAUL T. HAMAKO

N TRP, 4-3 CAV: CPT MICHAEL C. BLOOM AND 1SG SAMUEL J. WINKLER

G TRP, 2-11 ACR: CPT JACOB J. HOWELL AND 1SG CHARLES M. MEECHAM

A TRP, 2-106 CAV: CPT WILLIAM B. LEAK AND 1SG WENCESLAO A. SOSA

A TRP, 1-16 CAV: CPT ERIC M. SIMMONS, 1SG STEVEN L. DOBRINSKI AND 1SG KURT D. DANIEL

UPCOMING FUNCTIONAL COURSE DATES

NCO Attendance at the Scout Leader Course trains Active duty, National Guard, and Reserve Component Officers (O-1 thru O-3) and Non-Commissioned Officers (E-5 thru E-7) who are assigned to, or projected to serve in a Cavalry Billet. This course provides the foundational knowledge for reconnaissance and security operations at the Scout Platoon and below level. It is imperative for unit success that 19Ds take full advantage of this course. The Armor School will do everything possible to ensure NCOs from the force are provided ample opportunities to attend, either as stand alone TDY or in conjunction with PME while at Fort Benning.

COURSE	CLASS	REPORT DATE	START DATE	END DATE
SCOUT LEADER COURSE	006	10-May-20	11-May-20	8-Jun-20
SCOUT LEADER COURSE	007	27-May-20	28-May-20	24-Jun-20
SCOUT LEADER COURSE	008	8-Jul-20	9-Jul-20	5-Aug-20
BRADLEY COMMANDER AND GUNNER CERTIFICATION	004	26-Apr-20	27-Apr-20	8-May-20
BRADLEY COMMANDER AND GUNNER CERTIFICATION	005	27-May-20	28-May-20	10-Jun-20
BRADLEY COMMANDER AND GUNNER CERTIFICATION	006	24-Jul-20	25-Jul-20	7-Aug-20
CAVALRY LEADER COURSE	006	19-Apr-20	20-Apr-20	8-May-20
CAVALRY LEADER COURSE	007	10-May-20	11-May-20	1-Jun-20
CAVALRY LEADER COURSE	008	21-Jun-20	22-Jun-20	13-Jul-20
COMBAT ADVISOR TRAINING	012	12-Apr-20	13-Apr-20	12-May-20
COMBAT ADVISOR TRAINING	013	19-Apr-20	20-Apr-20	19-May-20
COMBAT ADVISOR TRAINING	014	26-Apr-20	27-Apr-20	26-May-20
COMBAT ADVISOR TRAINING	015	31-May-20	1-Jun-20	30-Jun-20
COMBAT ADVISOR TRAINING	016	7-Jun-20	8-Jun-20	7-Jul-20
GUNNERY SIMULATIONS TNG MGMT MGR	003	11-May-20	12-May-20	2-Jun-20
GUNNERY SIMULATIONS TNG MGMT MGR	004	28-Jul-20	29-Jul-20	18-Aug-20
M1A1/M1A2 SEP TANK COMMANDERS	002	26-May-20	27-May-20	9-Jun-20
M1A1/M1A2 SEP TANK COMMANDERS	004	9-Aug-20	10-Aug-20	23-Aug-20
MANEUVER LEADERS MAINTENANCE	006	19-Apr-20	20-Apr-20	1-May-20
MANEUVER LEADERS MAINTENANCE	007	10-May-20	11-May-20	22-May-20
MANEUVER LEADERS MAINTENANCE	703	1-Jun-20	1-Jun-20	12-Jun-20
MANEUVER LEADERS MAINTENANCE	008	21-Jun-20	22-Jun-20	6-Jul-20
MANEUVER LEADERS MAINTENANCE	009	12-Jul-20	13-Jul-20	24-Jul-20
MASTER GUNNER COMMON CORE	005	26-Apr-20	27-Apr-20	30-May-20
MASTER GUNNER COMMON CORE	006	3-Jun-20	4-Jun-20	8-Jul-20
MASTER GUNNER COMMON CORE	007	12-Jul-20	13-Jul-20	14-Aug-20
MASTER GUNNER COMMON CORE	008	19-Aug-20	20-Aug-20	23-Sep-20
M1A2 SEP MASTER GUNNER	002	22-Apr-20	23-Apr-20	17-Jun-20
M1A2 SEP MASTER GUNNER	003	8-Jul-20	9-Jul-20	1-Sep-20
M1A2 SEP MASTER GUNNER	004	23-Sep-20	24-Sep-20	19-Nov-20
MOBILE GUN SYSTEM COMMANDER	004	16-Aug-20	17-Aug-20	14-Sep-20
MOBILE GUN SYSTEM COMMANDER	001	24-Jan-21	25-Jan-21	22-Feb-21
BRADLEY INF FIGHTING VEH SYS MASTER GUNNER	002	22-Apr-20	23-Apr-20	22-Jun-20
BRADLEY INF FIGHTING VEH SYS MASTER GUNNER	003	1-Jul-20	2-Jul-20	31-Aug-20
BRADLEY INF FIGHTING VEH SYS MASTER GUNNER	004	15-Sep-20	16-Sep-20	16-Nov-20
STRYKER MASTER GUNNER	002	22-Apr-20	23-Apr-20	17-Jun-20
STRYKER MASTER GUNNER	003	8-Jul-20	9-Jul-20	1-Sep-20
STRYKER MASTER GUNNER	004	23-Sep-20	24-Sep-20	19-Nov-20

Per AR 350-10 (Management of Army Individual Training Requirements and Resources)

Chapter 3-1. Quota Management System

(4) All reservations are to be posted to ATRRS not later than 45 days (DLI, 30 days) prior to class start date or quotas will be made available to any quota agency on a first-come basis. For situations where actual names are not known 45 or 30 days (DLI only) prior to start date, holds can be placed on quotas until names can be substituted. Holds not changed to valid names 15 days prior to class start will be automatically dropped and seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

HQ U.S. Army Armor School

 <p>THE ARMOR SCHOOL</p>	Chief of Armor	(706) 545-2029	BG Kevin D. Admiral
	Armor CSM	(706) 545-8169	CSM Kevin Muhlenbeck
	Deputy Commandant	(706) 545-8334	COL Sean Barnes
	Armor Historian	(706) 626-1491	Dr. Robert Cameron
	OCOA Director	(706) 545-1352	Mr. George DeSario
	OCOA SGM	(706) 545-7725	SGM Todd Crawford
	OCOA (Excellence in Armor, Armor and Cavalry Leadership Award etc...)	(706) 626-TANK (8265)	usarmy.benning.mco.mbx.armor-ocoa@mail.mil
ARMOR Magazine	(706) 545-2698	usarmy.benning.tradoc.mbx.armor-magazine@mail.mil	

194th AR BDE

	COL Dawson Plummer		CSM Thomas Yaudas
	30th AG (REC)	LTC Alicia Pruitt	CSM Antoinette Green
	1-81 AR	LTC Bradley Nelson	CSM Brandon Petersen
	2-15 CAV	LTC Wes Wilhite	CSM Steven Smerer
	5-15 CAV	LTC Colin Cremin	CSM Larry Curry

316th CAV BDE

	COL Frederick Dente		CSM William Lillie
	1-16 CAV	LTC Erik Peterson	CSM Christopher Shaiko
	2-16 CAV	LTC Lane Bomar	CSM Shannon Adkins
	3-16 CAV	LTC Brandon Cave	CSM Carvet Tate

Other Agencies

ACM ABCT & RECON	Mr. Marco Barrera	ACM IBCT	COL Scott Halstead	ACM SBCT	COL Damien Mason
	(706) 626-2444		(706) 545-3911		(706) 545-7751
ACM SFAB	COL Anthony Judge	Doctrine	Mr. Curtis Archuleta	MRD	COL Mike James
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 - 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))
- MGCC Sabot: <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-350788>
 BMG Sabot: <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-486004>
 Weapons and Gunnery (MAIN PAGE): <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/weapons-and-gunnery>
 Charlie Niner Two: <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/charlie-niner-two>
 Vehicle Crew Evaluators: <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/vehicle-crew-evaluator>
 Gunnery SOPs: <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/weapons-and-gunnery-standard-operating-procedures-sop>
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