

Thunderbolt Blast

ARMOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2020



CANCELLATION OF 2020 SULLIVAN CUP

With the continued uncertainty of the epidemic, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Sullivan Cup competition. We remain committed to fostering healthy competition among our US Forces and Allies. Therefore, we will focus our efforts on delivering a world class Gainey Cup competition in 2021.

SAVE THE DATE 2021 GAINEY CUP (316TH CAVALRY BRIGADE)

The Gainey Cup "Best Scout Squad" competition will occur February 22-26, 2021. This physically and mentally demanding world-class event will rigorously test U.S. Cavalry Scouts' and International Partners' competence and knowledge in reconnaissance and security operations. This competition allows Armor to showcase the Cavalry function of our branch while simultaneously providing a look at the proficiency of our scout formations. At the same time, the event enables the US and our allied partners to share lessons learned and concepts, build synergy, and provides a head start on the ability to synchronize combat operations in a joint fight.

From Gainey CUP '17 to Gainey Cup '19, US teams demonstrated a distinct improvement in doctrinal knowledge and showed slightly better marks in vehicle identification. However, both of those fields and Call for Fire remained a demonstrated area in need of improvement across the Force. We are certain everyone present will see the results of BCTs' increased training focus in these areas at the '21 competition. 316th CAV BDE looks forward to, hosting the competition on behalf of the Armor School, as we pay homage to the best Scouts in the world!

ARMOR AND CAVALRY LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Office of the Chief of Armor (OCA) announces the annual submissions for the Unit Armor and Cavalry Leadership Award (ACLA). The award recognizes the most outstanding Armor Company or Cavalry Troop of each Division. The unit award is presented on an annual basis to a deserving organization selected by the Division or separate unit Regimental Commander. The organizational evaluation is conducted annually for the

CHIEF OF ARMOR COMMENTS

Greetings from Ft Benning! The Armor School's cadre performed exceptionally well during the uncertainty of training Armor and Cavalry Leaders and Soldiers under COVID



conditions. We've adjusted our procedures to ensure trainees and students maintain safe social distancing practices while still receiving the highest caliber training that keeps our force lethal and ready.

We recently farewelled COL Fred Dente and CSM William Lillie from 316th Cavalry Brigade after a tremendous ride in the Destroyer Brigade. They work they did to train Officers and NCOs will be felt for many years to come. As is the tradition when one team leaves, another rides up to take their place. The Armor School is fortunate to now have COL Pete Glass and CSM Carvet Tate leading the charge in the Destroyer Brigade.

194th AR Brigade led the way in executing the 22-week OSUT pilot for both 19Ds and 19Ks, with A/2-15 CAV and B/1-81 AR graduating their first pilots in March and April, respectively. Trainees had more contact time on their platforms, increased their physical fitness, and spent more time in the field practicing their craft. This transformation

period of 1 January to 31 December. Each division/regiment is responsible for establishing its own criteria for selecting the top Tank Company or Cavalry Troop per division. For additional information, download the U.S. Army Armor School Pamphlet 360-4 at <https://www.benning.army.mil/Armor/ocoa/ACLA.html>. Point of Contact is MSG Kurt Daniel, usarmy.benning.mcoe.mbx.armor-ocoa@mail.mil.

provides the force with more disciplined and better-trained Troopers ready to make a positive impact in their unit immediately. These Troopers will ensure that our organizations are ready to fight and win on future battlefields.

DOCTRINE

This May, the ABCT Doctrine Branch team completed the Initial Draft staffing of ATP 3-90.5, *Combined Arms Battalion*. We received phenomenal input from across the ABCT and CTC communities. A huge "thank you" to all who put their time and effort into reviewing and providing comments for the draft publication. Staffing provides an opportunity for not only the maneuver force, but also the organizations that impact a CAB, to provide input to the doctrine developers. As always, this input ensures that the updated doctrine gives the end-user a "fightable" doctrine. The ABCT Doctrine Branch team will disseminate ATP 3-90.5 for Final Draft staffing in 4th QTR FY20.

Recently, the Armor School staff worked in close concert with the eight other COEs to develop organizational structure concepts for brigades and future Cavalry organizations at echelon. If implemented in the future these organizations will be better organized and equipped to execute MDO and dominate our adversaries.

During this quarter, the Cavalry Doctrine Branch team continued 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*. Additionally, FM 3-98 will 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 June 2020. As always, we greatly appreciate the valuable feedback from the units and organizations who participate during the staffing of this publication.

We've also worked with partners from III Corps, HQDA-G3, TRADOC, the Infantry School, and others to assist in implementing most of the recommendations from the III Corps Lethality Study, including revisions to the Master Gunner (MG) Structure, MG Course Program of Instruction (PoI), incentive pay for MGs, and other initiatives.

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

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, and the Directorate of Training and Doctrine (DOTD) Twitter page (@MastersManeuver). 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: LTC Larry Steward at larry.steward.mil@mail.mil (706-626-2327).

BATTALION COMMANDER ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

The Army's documentary on the inaugural Battalion Commander Assessment Program, released on 20 May, is now available on the U.S. Army YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JrA1EP4I29g&t=5s>. The documentary provides senior-leader commentary on the importance of BCAP, in-depth discussions of BCAP's various instruments and components, interviews with numerous experts who supported BCAP's development and execution, and testimony from BCAP panel members and command candidates.


OPERATING INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING IN A COVID-19 ENVIRONMENT (194TH ARMORED BRIGADE)

The COVID-19 Pandemic drastically changed Initial Entry Training for Trainees within the 194th Armor Brigade. Our dedicated Officers, Noncommission Officers, and DA Civilians ensured the COVID-19 virus did not impede quality training by implementing strict safety measures to mitigate transmission.


Trainees reduced transmission by utilizing Brigade issued masks and their neck gaiters to continue training. For physical fitness activities, Trainees conducted physical exercises at a safe, recommended distance adhering to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines of six feet. Regular classes were held outside rather than the confined classroom environment. Entry control points in front of each 194th Armor Brigade facility to properly screened personnel and limited transmission and infection.

Lastly, the families of Trainees used social media platforms to stay connected with their loved ones. Social media allowed family members to see their Trainees train and graduate from Initial Entry Training. Staying connected with families through social media bridged the gap from a physical connection to a virtual relationship.

As the 194th Brigade continues to enhance readiness for FORSCOM Units, 194th Armor Brigade's top priority during this pandemic is "safety." Our dedicated Officers, Noncommission Officers, Soldiers and Civilians are committed to training and transforming Trainees into Warriors that are discipline to fight and win. "Battle Hard"!

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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 Nathaniel Davis	CSM Brandon Petersen
	2-15 CAV	LTC Ricarlos Caldwell	CSM Steven Smerer
	5-15 CAV	LTC Colin Cremin	CSM Larry Curry

316th CAV BDE

	COL Peter Glass CSM Carvet Tate		
	1-16 CAV	LTC Erik Peterson	CSM Christopher Shaiko
	2-16 CAV	LTC Chris Kane	CSM Shannon Adkins
	3-16 CAV	LTC Brandon Cave	MSG George McCready

Other Agencies

ACM ABCT & RECON	LTC (P) Jason Rosenstrauch	ACM IBCT	COL Ryan Morgan	ACM SBCT	COL Damien Mason
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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>
- 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))
- 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>
 Individual Weapons: <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/individual-weapons>
 Sabot Academy: <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/sabot-academy>