

Thunderbolt Blast

ARMOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2019



2019 GAINEY CUP RESULTS

On 03 May, the Chief of Armor recognized the squad from the 5th Squadron, 73th Cavalry Squadron, 82nd Airborne Division as the winners of the Fourth Biennial Gainey Cup Scout Competition. The results were close with a very strong showing from the six international teams, including the second place finishers from the Dutch 42nd Brigade Recon Company and four other finishers in the top ten. In the end, a total of 25 teams (18 Active Duty, 1 National Guard, and 6 International Partners) participated in eight days of stressful and realistic training that tested the reconnaissance and security skills most vital to successful mission accomplishment. The lessons learned from this competition influence training at the home station and the development of institutional training courses.

While we did see an improvement in doctrinal knowledge and vehicle identification since the last competition, both of these remain weaknesses across the force. Call For Fire also remains a weakness with less than half the teams able to process an accurate fire mission to standard within three minutes. Units continued to struggle with these as they transitioned to the collective task lanes which hampered their overall scores. There were also some excellent performances by units who understood the commander's intent and found ways to succeed despite the obstacles before them. We also saw several examples of lessons learned and TTPs being shared amongst competitors to carry back to their homestations. In the end, we observed a marked improvement in squad performance over the last two years and look forward to bringing everyone back together again in 2021 to raise the bar even further.

DOCTRINE

The ABCT Doctrine Branch has completed the signature draft of ATP 3-20.15/MCRP 3-10B.1, *Tank Platoon*. Both the Maneuver Center of Excellence and the U.S. Marine Corps Training and Education Command have approved and signed the ATP. The publication is currently in its final editorial review and once complete will be available at <https://armypubs.army.mil>. Again, we greatly appreciate the time taken and the feedback provided from all units who participated in staffing this publication. ABCT Doctrine Branch has just recently begun the revision process of ATP 3-90.5 *Combined Arms Battalion* and anticipates an initial draft available for staffing and review this December.

Cavalry Doctrine Branch is preparing Army wide staffing of ATP 3-20.98, *The Scout Platoon*. ATP 3-20.98 provides a framework, tactical employment principles, and techniques for Scout platoons of the BCTs. This includes both Cavalry troop Scout platoons within each of the three BCT formations and also the scout platoons within a CAB, Infantry battalion and the Stryker Infantry battalion. We request the operating force not only review and provide input during staffing on the content of ATP 3-20.98 but also any information deemed necessary and not currently included.

CAV Branch will begin front end analysis for the revision of FM 3-98, *Reconnaissance and Security Operations*, beginning 3rd QTR FY19. FM 3-98 provides the doctrinal guidance and direction for reconnaissance and security for all BCT formations. It explains how effective reconnaissance and security operations generate depth, provide commanders reaction time and maneuver space, fight for and collect information through stealth, protect against surprise, and provide commanders with flexibility and adaptability. FM 3-98 has an anticipated publication date of 3rd QTR FY20.

Updates to the progress of our publication will be available to the force via this newsletter, the Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL) newsletter, the ABCT Doctrine Branch Facebook page, the Directorate of Training and Doctrine

(DOTD) Twitter page (@MastersOfManeuver), and the 2019 Maneuver Warfighter Conference at Fort Benning, GA this September. For questions or concerns, please contact the ABCT Doctrine Branch: MAJ Mike Herbek at michael.j.herbek.mil@mail.mil (706-626-2328) or Cavalry Branch: MAJ Larry Steward at larry.steward.mil@mail.mil (706-626-2327).

194TH ARMORED BRIGADE KEY LEADER SUMMER TRANSITIONS

This summer has seen many key leader transitions in the Brigade's leadership and four of the six Battalion/Squadron leadership positions. These changes began in April with the arrival of LTC Ergenbright as the Commander, 2-47 IN (BCT) and continued through the summer with LTC Cremin as the new Commander, 5-15 CAV (19D OSUT), CSM Curry as the new CSM, 5-15 CAV (19D OSUT), LTC Agee as the new Commander, 1-46 IN (BCT), CSM Hughes as the new CSM, 1-46 IN (BCT), and LTC Pruitt as the new Commander, 30th AG (Reception). At the Brigade level, CSM Yaudas assumed responsibility as the Command Sergeant Major, 194th AR BDE and COL Dawson Plummer took Command of the 194th. With the new leadership teams set, the Brigade is postured to do some amazing things over the next year, including the transformation of CMF 19 OSUT starting FY20. Please feel free to reach out to our Command Teams to answer any questions and we certainly appreciate your feedback.

EXCELLENCE IN ARMOR (EIA)

If we reach back in time to the Tank Force Management Study of 1976 we can see that ensuring the proficiency of the Army's Armored Corps had become our top priority. The culmination of this management study would ultimately manifest itself in the creation of the Excellence in Armor (EIA) program in July of 1985, thus creating a process for the Armor Branch to test and recognize the best Tankers and Cavalry Troopers within our ranks. The EIA program strikes at the heart of readiness, and should act as a barometer for leaders to weigh the potential within their ranks of Soldiers SGT and below. The Personnel Development Skill Identifier (PDSI), E4J should be synonymous with competence, and formations heavy with EIA awardees should be a cut above.

In 2018 we saw 241 awardees of E4J across 17 brigades that conducted testing, adversely 2019 has seen only 45 awardees across just 5 brigades. These numbers are of great concern considering we are past the mid-year mark. If greater numbers of Soldiers holding the E4J PDSI within our ranks equates greater readiness and proficiency levels within units then we must reenergize efforts to make this program a priority. We must continue to instill pride and confidence in our Armor communities across the Army, and the EIA program allows us to do that by creating a center of gravity in our proponent.

While in One Station Unit Training (OSUT) our Soldiers receive the opportunity to compete in EIA at the inception of their careers. As leaders we must continue this drive for excellence by promoting regular EIA buy-in and testing within our line units. Raise the EIA banner in your each of your units, strengthen your Scouts and Tankers, and promote excellence and pride in their craft. To support this initiative, an EIA Memorandum for Instruction (MOI), signed by the current Chief of Armor can be found on the Office, Chief of Armor webpage. This document gives detailed instruction for conducting EIA within units throughout the Armor force. <https://www.benning.army.mil/armor/OCOA/Excellence-in-Armor.html>

SAVE THE DATE FOR 2020 SULLIVAN CUP

The 2020 Sullivan Cup: "Best Tank Crew" competition will occur May 4-8 2020. The competition is a physically and mentally demanding world-class event that rigorously tests our Soldiers', Marines', and International Partners' competence and determination in tank crew maneuver, sustainment, and gunnery skills. The competition is important to our Army because it raise awareness of mobile protected firepower gunnery through a realistic and challenging tank crew competition. It raise the public's awareness of tank crew training conducted through out the Army, and builds esprit de corps within our Armor Force.

THE MASTER GUNNER IDENTIFICATION BADGE

The Master Gunner Identification Badge (MGIB) was established 8 May 2019 in Milper message 19-144. Soldiers with ASI A8, K8, R8, and J3 are authorized retroactive award of this badge through their servicing Division G-1 office. For A8, K8, R8 Soldiers not assigned within a Division, please email a copy of your MG course completion certificate to the Office of the Chief of Armor (OCOA): usarmy.benning.mcoe.mbx.armor-ocoa@mail.mil. For ASI J3 Soldiers, or for information on SRB updates and badge supply, please contact the MGIB POC at: usarmy.benning.tradoc.mbx.ocoicweb@mail.mil.

UPCOMING FUNCTIONAL COURSE DATES


Course	Class	Report Date	Start Date	End Date
M1A2 SEP MASTER GUNNER	003	11-Jul-19	12-Jul-19	5-Sep-19
M1A2 SEP MASTER GUNNER	004	19-Sep-19	20-Sep-19	15-Nov-19
M1A2 SEP MASTER GUNNER	001	11-Feb-20	12-Feb-20	7-Apr-20
GUNNERY SIMULATIONS TNG MGMT MGR	003	24-Jul-19	25-Jul-19	14-Aug-19
GUNNERY SIMULATIONS TNG MGMT MGR	001	16-Oct-19	17-Oct-19	6-Nov-19
GUNNERY SIMULATIONS TNG MGMT MGR	002	26-Feb-20	27-Feb-20	18-Mar-20
STRYKER MASTER GUNNER	003	11-Jul-19	12-Jul-19	5-Sep-19
STRYKER MASTER GUNNER	004	19-Sep-19	20-Sep-19	15-Nov-19
STRYKER MASTER GUNNER	001	11-Feb-20	12-Feb-20	7-Apr-20
CAVALRY LEADER COURSE	007	14-Jul-19	15-Jul-19	2-Aug-19
CAVALRY LEADER COURSE	501	4-Aug-19	5-Aug-19	23-Aug-19
CAVALRY LEADER COURSE	502	20-Aug-19	21-Aug-19	11-Sep-19
CAVALRY LEADER COURSE	503	8-Sep-19	9-Sep-19	27-Sep-19
CAVALRY LEADER COURSE	700	8-Sep-19	9-Sep-19	27-Sep-19
CAVALRY LEADER COURSE	504	22-Sep-19	23-Sep-19	11-Oct-19
CAVALRY LEADER COURSE	001	6-Oct-19	7-Oct-19	28-Oct-19
CAVALRY LEADER COURSE	002	1-Dec-19	2-Dec-19	19-Dec-19
MANEUVER LEADERS MAINTENANCE COURSE	012	14-Jul-19	15-Jul-19	26-Jul-19
MANEUVER LEADERS MAINTENANCE COURSE	013	28-Jul-19	29-Jul-19	9-Aug-19
MANEUVER LEADERS MAINTENANCE COURSE	014	20-Aug-19	21-Aug-19	4-Sep-19
MANEUVER LEADERS MAINTENANCE COURSE	015	15-Sep-19	16-Sep-19	27-Sep-19
MANEUVER LEADERS MAINTENANCE COURSE	701	21-Oct-19	21-Oct-19	1-Nov-19
MANEUVER LEADERS MAINTENANCE COURSE	001	1-Dec-19	2-Dec-19	13-Dec-19
M1A1/M1A2 SEP TANK COMMANDERS	003	28-Jan-20	29-Jan-20	11-Feb-20
M1A1/M1A2 SEP TANK COMMANDERS	001	15-Mar-20	16-Mar-20	29-Mar-20
MOBILE GUN SYSTEM COMMANDER	003	5-Jun-19	6-Jun-19	3-Jul-19
MOBILE GUN SYSTEM COMMANDER	004	20-Aug-19	21-Aug-19	18-Sep-19
MOBILE GUN SYSTEM COMMANDER	001	14-Nov-19	15-Nov-19	13-Dec-19
MOBILE GUN SYSTEM COMMANDER	002	12-Jan-20	13-Jan-20	10-Feb-20
ARMY RECONNAISSANCE COURSE	550	14-Jul-19	15-Jul-19	10-Aug-19
ARMY RECONNAISSANCE COURSE	001	6-Oct-19	7-Oct-19	4-Nov-19
ARMY RECONNAISSANCE COURSE	002	14-Nov-19	15-Nov-19	13-Dec-19
ARMY RECONNAISSANCE COURSE	003	5-Jan-20	6-Jan-20	3-Feb-20
ARMY RECONNAISSANCE COURSE	004	9-Feb-20	10-Feb-20	9-Mar-20
ARMY RECONNAISSANCE COURSE	005	22-Mar-20	23-Mar-20	18-Apr-20
COMBAT ADVISOR TRAINING	007	21-Jul-19	22-Jul-19	20-Aug-19
COMBAT ADVISOR TRAINING	511	28-Jul-19	29-Jul-19	27-Aug-19
COMBAT ADVISOR TRAINING	008	4-Aug-19	5-Aug-19	3-Sep-19
COMBAT ADVISOR TRAINING	512	2-Sep-19	3-Sep-19	2-Oct-19
COMBAT ADVISOR TRAINING	001	6-Oct-19	7-Oct-19	5-Nov-19
COMBAT ADVISOR TRAINING	002	13-Oct-19	14-Oct-19	12-Nov-19
COMBAT ADVISOR TRAINING	003	20-Oct-19	21-Oct-19	19-Nov-19
COMBAT ADVISOR TRAINING	004	17-Nov-19	18-Nov-19	17-Dec-19
COMBAT ADVISOR TRAINING	005	24-Nov-19	25-Nov-19	8-Jan-20
COMBAT ADVISOR TRAINING	006	5-Jan-20	6-Jan-20	4-Feb-20
BRADLEY COMMANDER AND GUNNER CERTIFICATION	004	28-Jul-19	29-Jul-19	9-Aug-19
BRADLEY COMMANDER AND GUNNER CERTIFICATION	005	29-Sep-19	30-Sep-19	11-Oct-19
MASTER GUNNER COMMON CORE	502	15-Aug-19	16-Aug-19	19-Sep-19
MASTER GUNNER COMMON CORE	720	23-Sep-19	23-Sep-19	25-Oct-19
MASTER GUNNER COMMON CORE	001	12-Nov-19	13-Nov-19	17-Dec-19
MASTER GUNNER COMMON CORE	002	7-Jan-20	8-Jan-20	11-Feb-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

	Chief of Armor	(706) 545-2029	BG David Lesperance
	Armor CSM	(706) 545-8169	CSM Kevin Muhlenbeck
	Deputy Commandant	(706) 545-8334	COL William Lindner
	CIG	(706) 626-1406	MAJ Brennan Speaks
	XO	(706) 626-2306	LTC Scott Sobota
	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
	1-46 IN BCT	LTC Ryan Agee	CSM Brian Hughes
	2-47 IN BCT	LTC Charles Ergenbright	CSM Roberto Guadarrama
	30th AG (REC)	LTC Alicia Pruitt	CSM Joyce Gay
	1-81 AR	LTC Bradley Nelson	CSM Brandon Petersen
	2-15 CAV	LTC Wes Wilhite	CSM Gareth Kilpatrick
	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

TCM ABCT	COL Sean Barnes	TCM RECON	MAJ Jason Hart	TCM SBCT	LTC Tony Thornton
	(706) 545-2208		(706) 545-4727		(706) 545-0894
TCM SFAB	COL Anthony Judge	Doctrine	Mr. Curtis Archuleta	MRD	COL Mike James
	(706) 545-5054		(706) 545-7114		(706) 545-8355

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- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ARMORMagazine>
- Blog: <http://www.earmorcontent.com/blog>

Fundamentals of Reconnaissance and Security: <http://www.benning.army.mil/armor/fundamentals/>

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))