

Thunderbolt Blast

ARMOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

APR/MAY/JUN 2019



2019 GAINEY CUP AND ARMOR BALL

The Maneuver Center of Excellence hosts the 4th biennial CSM William Gainey Best Scout Squad Competition (Gainey Cup) 29 Apr - 3 May 19, at Fort Benning, Georgia. <https://www.benning.army.mil/Armor/GaineyCup/index.html>

The 2019 Gainey Cup is a professional and challenging Cavalry Scout competition to determine the top Cavalry Scout Squad, while highlighting Cavalry Scout skills in a representative tactical scenario which promotes technical competence, professionalism and esprit de corps among today's Cavalry community. The 2019 Gainey Cup not only highlights the best Scout Squad in the Army, but further improves strategic alliances, evaluates Army readiness, and showcases the MCoE.

The competition kicks off 29 April at 1600, with the Scouts in Action live fire demonstration. This event is open to the public at Red Cloud Range . It includes an introduction to historic Cavalry formations, followed by a live fire capabilities exercise, and concludes with static displays of Tank, Bradley, & Stryker vehicles.

The competition week concludes Friday, 3 May with the 2019 Armor Ball. The Armor Ball is held at the Rivermill Event Center Columbus, Georgia with social hour starting at 1700. Please visit, for additional information on all Armor week social events, <https://www.fbcinc.com/e/gaineycup/default.aspx>

DOCTRINE

The ABCT Doctrine Branch is in the final stages of revision for ATP 3-20.15/MCRP 3-10B.1, *Tank Platoon*. This will be a multi-service Army and Marine Corps manual that provides principles, tactics, techniques, and procedures for the employment of tank platoons. Major additions include more thorough explanations of offensive and defensive tasks, battle drills, and Troop Leading Procedures. We appreciate all the feedback from units who participated in staffing this publication. Based on the current timeline, this manual should be available at <https://armypubs.us.army.mil> by 3rd quarter FY19.

The Cavalry Doctrine Branch is developing the initial draft of ATP 3-20.98, *Scout Platoon*. This manual provides techniques for the employment of scout platoons within Cavalry squadrons in the ABCT, SBCT, and IBCT, as well as the scout platoons within the combined arms battalion, Stryker Infantry battalion, and the Infantry battalion of the IBCT. It also incorporates decisive action doctrine for the 6x36 scout platoon formation changes. The initial draft should be available for staffing no later than 3rd quarter FY19. We strongly encourage feedback from units who receive the draft for review, as your comments directly contribute to the quality of ATP 3-20.98, *Scout Platoon*. We plan to staff the final draft for review in 4th quarter FY19, with the intent of publishing this manual by 1st quarter FY20.

As these manuals are published, we will update 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).

LTC AND COL CSL

Congratulations to the 38 Lieutenant Colonels and 17 Colonels slated for command this upcoming year. Armor branch did very well this year in both selection boards. The selection rate for Lieutenant Colonels was 60.7% while the selection rate for Colonels was 36%. We are proud of what you have done throughout your career to this point and for what you will continue to do for our branch and our Army in the future. Continue the great work!

SGM BOARD SELECTION

Congratulations to the 68 CMF 19 NCOs selected to attend the United States Army Sergeant Major Academy Class 70. NCOs who followed the guideline set forth in DA PAM 600-25 (Chapter 10, 10-10, para 1) performed well. It states that a Master Sergeant/ First Sergeant needs to have 18-24 months optimal of critical leadership time to be eligible for promotion to Sergeant Major. A majority of selected NCOs served as both a MTOE line Company/Troop 1SG and HHC. Areas that hindered NCO selections SRBs not updated, permanent profiles, no diversity or broadening assignment, less than 24 months rated as 1SG, and low APFT scores.

Our branches long term success depends on our senior leaders coaching, teaching, and mentoring our NCOs on the promotion and selection criteria outlined in DA PAM 600-25. For additional information on the in-depth analysis please see: <http://www.benning.army.mil/armor/OCOA/content/Promotions/FY19%20CSM%20Class%2070%20Analysis.pdf>

19D/19K ONE STATION UNIT TRAINING TRANSFORMATION

The 194th Armored Brigade is focused on developing Soldier Lethality in our initial entry Soldiers. The current courses we conduct are 19D/19K One Station Unit Training (OSUT), 91A/M Advance Individual Training (AIT), and initial entry Basic Combat Training (BCT). The Brigade's mission is to provide tough and realistic training through a challenging POI led by determined Drill Sergeants and subject matter expert Tank and Cavalry instructors.

Our endstate is a more trained and ready Soldier prepared to be a valued member at his/her first unit of assignment. With a focus towards training our 19K Tankers and 19D Cavalry Scouts, the 194th AR BDE is in the process of transforming AR OSUT courses from 16-weeks to 22-weeks. With this transformation, 19Ks and 19Ds will gain valuable training repetitions focused on their MOS core competencies and will provide units with a better trained Tanker or Cavalryman. Armor OSUT transformation is a continuing initiative for the Brigade and we will pilot this concept starting in October 2019. We continue to survey FORSCOM unit commanders to help ensure we identify the right Soldier outcomes and request feedback where we need to improve our training strategy.

MASTER GUNNER COMMON CORE COURSE

The Army created the Master Gunner Common Core Course (MGCC) by pulling the common tasks from all the platform courses (Abrams, Bradley, and Stryker) and combining them. This ensures that all Master Gunners have a standard base of knowledge, skills, and attributes before moving on to the specific requirements of the various vehicle systems. Though it does not grant an ASI on its own, MGCC is now a prerequisite for the platform courses which do. With the higher throughput of MGCC, we encourage all formations to send more NCOs to this course in order to build a bench of capable young Sergeants that can be combat multipliers for their units even before meeting the requirements to attend a platform specific course. We have seen an increase in the graduation rates for our platform courses after incorporating MGCC, especially for those Soldiers that went back to their units to gain experience in between rather than going straight from one course to the other. MGCC also enables units such as IBCTs or support units that do not have a specific platform requirement to benefit from the MG skillset. One other great tie-in for MGCC is to use it to reinforce Excellence in Armor (EIA) programs in units. EIA can be a tool to identify the best candidates for future Master Gunners and can serve as motivation for those interested in serving their units as Master Gunners.

ARMY CREDENTIALING OPPORTUNITIES ON-LINE (COOL)

Many civilian jobs have certain professional and technical standards. Obtaining credentials – certifications and licenses – shows that you meet these standards. In the civilian world, credentials may be required for a job, or can make you much more likely to be hired for a job.

For a Soldier, civilian credentials are important for two reasons:

Career Advancement. The Army has made them part of its workforce professionalization, so getting certified can help you in your Army career while you're still in service.

Smoother Transition. When you transition back to civilian employment, credentials help you translate your military training and experience into something civilian employers can easily recognize.

Army COOL helps Army Service members find information on certifications and licenses related to their jobs. It is not a credentialing or testing organization, but plays a vital role in assisting Soldiers:

1. Find and select related credentials by MOS (examples specific to CMF 19 include: Commercial Driver License (CDL), Certified Protection Professional (CPP), Certified Master Medium-Heavy truck technician).
2. Learn about Credential Requirements.
3. Learn about available resources that can help you pay for associated fees.
4. Apply for and take exam with the appropriate credentialing organization or test vendor.

Find more information about credentialing opportunities at <https://www.cool.army.mil/>


UPCOMING FUNCTIONAL COURSE DATES

Course	Class	Report Date	Start Date	End Date
M1A2 SEP MASTER GUNNER	002	24-Apr-19	25-Apr-19	19-Jun-19
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
GUNNERY SIMULATIONS TNG MGMT MGR	002	14-May-19	15-May-19	5-Jun-19
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
STRYKER MASTER GUNNER	002	24-Apr-19	25-Apr-19	19-Jun-19
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
CAVALRY LEADER COURSE	005	5-May-19	6-May-19	24-May-19
CAVALRY LEADER COURSE	006	9-Jun-19	10-Jun-19	28-Jun-19
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
MANEUVER LEADERS MAINTENANCE COURSE	009	28-Apr-19	29-Apr-19	10-May-19
MANEUVER LEADERS MAINTENANCE COURSE	010	19-May-19	20-May-19	3-Jun-19
MANEUVER LEADERS MAINTENANCE COURSE	011	19-Jun-19	20-Jun-19	3-Jul-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
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	002	25-Apr-19	26-Apr-19	23-May-19
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
ARMY RECONNAISSANCE COURSE	006	5-May-19	6-May-19	3-Jun-19
ARMY RECONNAISSANCE COURSE	007	2-Jun-19	3-Jun-19	29-Jun-19
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
COMBAT ADVISOR TRAINING	507	14-Apr-19	15-Apr-19	14-May-19
COMBAT ADVISOR TRAINING	005	21-Apr-19	22-Apr-19	21-May-19
COMBAT ADVISOR TRAINING	508	28-Apr-19	29-Apr-19	28-May-19
COMBAT ADVISOR TRAINING	006	2-Jun-19	3-Jun-19	2-Jul-19
COMBAT ADVISOR TRAINING	509	9-Jun-19	10-Jun-19	9-Jul-19
COMBAT ADVISOR TRAINING	510	16-Jun-19	17-Jun-19	16-Jul-19
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
BRADLEY COMMANDER AND GUNNER CERTIFICATION	003	27-May-19	28-May-19	7-Jun-19
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	004	28-Apr-19	29-Apr-19	1-Jun-19
MASTER GUNNER COMMON CORE	501	6-Jun-19	7-Jun-19	11-Jul-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

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	LTC Matthew Kelley
	XO	(706) 626-2306	LTC David Bauer
	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 (EIA, etc...)	(706) 626-TANK (8265)	usar-my.benning.mco.mbx.armor-ocoa@mail.mil
	ARMOR Magazine	(706) 545-2698	usar-my.benning.tradoc.mbx.armor-magazine@mail.mil

194th AR BDE

	COL Scott Allen SGM Mark Daniel		
	1-46 IN BCT	LTC Sheldon Morris	CSM Jared Geleney
	2-47 IN BCT	LTC Shawn Bault	CSM Roberto Guadarrama
	30th AG (REC)	LTC Kevin Poole	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 Daniel Enslin	CSM Steven Nielson

316th CAV BDE

	COL Frederick Dente CSM William Lillie		
	1-16 CAV	LTC Erik Peterson	CSM Jeffery Dice
	2-16 CAV	LTC Lane Bomar	CSM Shannon Adkins
	3-16 CAV	LTC Jeffrey Barta	CSM Carvet Tate

Other Agencies

TCM ABCT	COL Dawson Plummer	TCM RECON	MAJ Brennan Speakes	TCM SBCT	LTC Tony Thornton
	(706) 545-2208		(706) 545-4727		(706) 545-0894
TCM SFAB	COL Dane Acord	Doctrine	Mr. Curtis Archuleta	MRD	COL Mike James
	(706) 545-5054		(706) 545-7114		(706) 545-8355

ARMOR SCHOOL LINKS

MCoE: <https://www.benning.army.mil>

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- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/ARMOR-magazine/122557661278366?ref=hl>
- 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))