

Thunderbolt Blast

Monthly Armor School Newsletter
Vol. 1, Issue 4 NOVEMBER 2012



Armor School

FRANKS AWARD. The Armor School is seeking nominees for the 17th Annual Frederick M. Franks Award. The Franks Award is presented to a mounted active-duty or reserve officer, noncommissioned officer or DA civilian who has demonstrated a long-time contribution to the Army's ground-fighting and warfighting capabilities. The winner will receive the award during the 2013 Army Reconnaissance Summit. Nominations are due NLT 31 Jan 2013. For complete award criteria and more information, visit <https://forums.army.mil/SECURE/CommunityBrowser.aspx?id=1849408&lang=en-US> or contact OCOA at usarmy.benning.mcoe.mbx.armor-ocoa@mail.mil.

INAUGURAL GAINEY CUP. The U.S. Army Armor School will host the Gainey Cup 2-5 Mar 2013 at Fort Benning, GA, to determine the Army's best scout team. Each Regular Army division and separate brigade is invited to provide one organic scout team to compete in the event. The Army National Guard is invited to provide up to three teams to compete, up to a total of 20 teams in the competition. The Gainey Cup will be a three-day event that tests fundamental reconnaissance skills. Scout teams will negotiate a series of evaluated events, including troop-leading procedures, day and night live-fire, obstacle courses, landing-zone operations, patrolling, first aid, a reconnaissance lane, knowledge on weapons, communication devices and sensors, one mystery event, and a *validus disciplus*. The event will conclude on Day 3 on Brave Rifles Field in Harmony Church. Preregistration for the Gainey Cup is open through 1 Mar 13. Interested units may preregister by contacting CPT Joshua Hearn at joshua.s.hearn@mail.mil or phone at (706) 626-8169.

2013 RECONNAISSANCE SUMMIT: Mark your calendars for 6-8 March 2013 for the 2013 Reconnaissance Summit at Fort Benning. This year's summit will address the future of reconnaissance and security at the brigade combat team (BCT) level as well as the requirements for R&S at echelons above brigade. Contact 1LT Scott Hetzel at scott.c.hetzel@mail.mil or (706) 545-5458.

Armor Branch and OCOA Personnel Notes

OCOA: NCO PROJECT WARRIOR PROGRAM. The Chief of Armor re-established the Project Warrior Program in October 2011 to identify and assign outstanding noncommissioned officers to positions where their expertise and experience would most benefit the Armor force. Project Warrior identifies, selects and enrolls highly qualified NCOs to serve as a combat trainer (CT) at the National Training Center (NTC) or as a trainer/mentor at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC). Upon completion of 18-24 months, the NCO will then serve as an instructor and mentor in either the Maneuver Senior Leaders Course (MSLC) or the Armor Basic Officer Leaders Course (ABOLC) at the Maneuver Center of Excellence for 18-24 months. Following this, the NCO will return to the operating force. The requirements for Project Warrior are: (1) SSG(P) or SFC currently in a platoon-sergeant position who has demonstrated the utmost competence and proficiency as an Armor or scout platoon sergeant for 18-24 months and be recommended by his chain of command. (2) The NCO must complete MSLC and be promoted to SFC before assuming duties at NTC or JRTC. (3) The NCO must not be flagged or barred.

EPMD: CAREER MANAGEMENT FIELD (CMF) 19 DOWNSIZING. CMF 19D has been identified for downsizing between FY14 and FY16. We anticipate that MOS 19D will decrease from 10 to 20 percent. 19D Cavalry scouts should be counseled as early as possible on the impacts of the downsizing and what options they may have. Cavalry scouts should know that overstrength MOSs are subject to promotion restriction, assignment availability and retention management. Quality Soldiers should re-enlist as soon as possible to maximize their opportunities to remain in the 19D MOS; Soldiers who wait may be required to reclassify, but will only be considered for reclassification to an understrength MOS if they have qualifying aptitude scores. Soldiers should be counseled on enrolling into Functional Academic Skills Training (FAST) to improve GT aptitude score so they can qualify for high-demand shortage MOSs. Contact LTC Shawn Vail with your enlisted-personnel concerns at shawn.m.vail@mail.mil or (502) 613-5667.

From the Chief of Armor's Turret

From the Maneuver Conference in September and the AUSA Annual Convention in October, along with some additional trips, we've recently spent considerable time looking at the future and how the mounted force will continue providing effective mobile, protected, precision firepower to the combined-arms fight. In the past few weeks, I have seen some innovative solutions that will help keep us relevant for the future. Our partners in the defense industry are continuing to advance technology to keep our Army on the cutting edge of development as they creatively apply solutions for gaps across doctrine, organizations, training, materiel, leadership, personnel and facilities (DOTMLPF).

One materiel initiative that generated some interest is a solution that allows our M1A2 tank commanders to remain under armor when employing their .50 caliber machinegun. Currently, the M1A2 SEP employs the Common Remotely Operated Weapons Station (CROWS) as part of the Tank Urban Survival Kit (TUSK) to meet this requirement. We recently saw two new systems that are shorter than the CROWS II system, thus reducing the height of the tank. Both systems allow better use of the tank commander's vision blocks and increase the commander's field of view. This type of innovation marks what is best in our profession – taking a good solution to a problem and making it better.

Engine technology to improve gas mileage, performance and reliability for our combat vehicles is developing rapidly. After AUSA, we saw a diesel tank engine that offers fuel savings and increased performance over our turbine engine. Another promising initiative is a hybrid electric engine, which is advertised to reduce fuel consumption over our current turbine engine and generate more electricity to run planned electronic upgrades without sacrificing performance. This



OPMD: OFFICER FELLOWSHIPS. If you have a high-performing junior officer interested in – or recommended to compete for – a fellowship, scholarship or internship program, prepare and submit the packets now. These programs are a great broadening opportunity to expose our junior leaders to a different aspect of our military and our national government. Many of our top performers are not competitive due to a low undergraduate grade-point average or because they do not understand the competitiveness of their overall performance file. Many fellowships establish a minimum GPA requirement, but many selection committees will defer to the officer's overall performance if an academic letter of readiness is submitted. Selection committees highly consider letters of recommendation, so ensure they are as personal as possible. If you have a candidate whom you believe is competitive for one of these opportunities, have that officer call MAJ Jerry Wood at jerry.l.wood8.mil@mail.mil for details. Submit every packet directly to Joel Strout at joel.strout@us.army.mil and to the assignment officer. Contact LTC John Cushing with any officer-management concerns at john.m.cushing2.mil@mail.mil or (502) 613-6046.

194th ARMORED BRIGADE: GROUND MOBILITY DIVISION (GMD). GMD's objective is to teach combat-vehicle-recovery fundamentals and techniques to 91A Abrams and 91M Bradley maintainers. Graduates receive the H8 Additional Skill Identifier (ASI), designating them as recovery specialists and signifying their technical proficiency in employing M88A1/A2 recovery vehicles. The course is 22 days long and contains instruction on basic recovery and towing of disabled armored vehicles; installation of M88 engines; and vehicle recovery from multiple mired or disabled scenarios. A knowledge-based test focuses on understanding of employing recovery equipment, and a practical test measures the ability to safely use the equipment in multiple, realistic recovery scenarios at 11 recovery stations, including pits, embankments, overturned tanks, Bradley Fighting Vehicles and wheeled vehicles. Graduates will have a career-long skill that makes them a force multiplier for commanders in all formations. For more information, contact Rodney Maupin at rodney.w.maupin.civ@mail.mil or (706) 626-5500.

316th CAVALRY BRIGADE. The Army Reconnaissance Course (ARC) is a physically and mentally demanding course designed to develop platoon-level reconnaissance leaders from scout squad leaders to platoon sergeants and platoon leaders. It is a 27-day course, with 17 days spent in a tactical environment. The course's mission is to develop confident and agile reconnaissance leaders who can operate within their commander's intent in unpredictable combat and training environments. Graduates understand the fundamentals of reconnaissance operations, reconnaissance platoon capabilities and limitations, and the application of reconnaissance and security doctrine. ALARACT 268/2012 establishes officers' SI R7 and enlisted Soldiers' ASI R7. This SI and ASI identify personnel who have successfully completed the Army Reconnaissance Course at Fort Benning, GA, and are associated with CMF/Branch 11, 12, 13, 15, 19 and 35 in grades 2LT-CPT and SSG-MSG. For more information, visit <http://www.benning.army.mil/armor/316thCav/>.

TRADOC Capabilities Managers

TCM-ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM (ABCT): FORCE MODERNIZATION. TCM-ABCT continues to define mission command and associated network capabilities for the formation. These improved capabilities will provide enhanced mission command to the force over greater operational distances. Key is a focus on the ABCT during future network integration evaluations (NIE), beginning with NIE 13.2 in Summer 2013. We will keep you updated as solutions are evaluated. Point of contact is Ron Kuykendall, ronald.d.kuykendall2.civ@mail.mil, (706) 545-9872.

TCM-ABCT DOCTRINE. To gain a proper insight on the evolution of maneuver doctrine, TCM-ABCT Doctrine Branch representatives participated in two decisive-action rotations at the National Training Center (NTC) to garner observations, insights and lessons learned (OILs). The NTC Rotation 12-05 Lessons Learned Report, 19-26 Mar 12, can be viewed or downloaded at <https://www.jllis.mil/ARMY/apps/index.cfm?do=main.index>.

We appreciate the support we have received so far from the force as we continue to move forward with the development of Field Manual 3-96, *Armored Brigade Combat Team Operations*, and ATP 3-90.1, *Armor and Mechanized Infantry Company Team*. Both manuals are in final-draft development and can be viewed and downloaded at the following links: FM 3-96 – <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/folder/35703624>; ATP 3-90.1 – <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/folder/35703637>. Send your feedback and comments on these manuals to LTC Stephon Calhoun, stephon.calhoun.mil@mail.mil, and Bruce Moore, bruce.m.moore2.civ@mail.mil.

TCM-IBCT MATERIEL MODERNIZATION. Brigades and battalions will receive Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T) Increment 2 systems that enable satellite as well as line-of-sight network access on the move, extending the network to company level. Company-command vehicles will have access to Command Post of the Future (CPOF), Tactical Integrated Ground Reporting System (TIGR), SIPR/NIPR, limited video, imagery, Common Operating Picture (COP) and beyond-line-of-sight capability. While Capability Set-13 (CS-13) architecture currently projects network capability from vehicular platforms, units will attain limited disconnected connectivity through Increment 1 of Nett Warrior, providing disconnected tactical leaders with access to TIGR and limited imagery on a hand-held digital device. Also, individual Soldiers will receive voice capability with the Rifleman Radio as well as Position Location Information (PLI) to populate the location of each individual in the network. Eight infantry brigade combat teams will be fielded CS-13 capabilities in FY 2013.

ARMORED MULTI-PURPOSE VEHICLE (AMPV). The Mounted Requirements Division (MRD) within the Maneuver Center of Excellence Capabilities Development and Integration Directorate (CDID) is working approval of the AMPV's Capability Development Document (CDD). This document outlines the required capabilities for a family of vehicles to replace 3,000-plus M113s in our Armored Brigade Combat Teams (ABCTs). The Army completed an analysis of alternatives to inform the requirements within the CDD, which is currently in staffing with an anticipated approval date in early 2013. The AMPV will consist of five variants: Mission Command (MCMD); Medical Treatment Vehicle (MTV); Medical Evacuation Vehicle (MEV); General Purpose (GP); and Mortar Carrier Vehicle (MCV).

TCM-IBCT MODERNIZATION UPDATE: ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES. The recommended Army 2020 IBCT organizational changes will see the addition of a third infantry battalion, the reflagging of the brigade special-troops battalion to the brigade engineer battalion, and the addition of 155mm towed howitzers to the fires battalion. These changes were based on lessons-learned from both Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom and how the Army plans to conduct unified land operations in the future. Anticipated changes are expected to take effect in 2nd Quarter, Fiscal Year 13. Reorganization of IBCTs will likely coincide with the announcement of Army 2020 force structure.

engine technology is already in use in public transportation and heavy-construction equipment and is demonstrating clear benefits for users. I'll get an opportunity to see this in the near future in greater detail and will be able to share observations.

There is also a lot happening in ammunition development. With an already funded future kinetic-energy round procured, our focus has turned toward a multipurpose round to streamline our logistics processes and to simplify our commanders' battle-carry decisions. The Army's requirements for the Advanced Multi-Purpose (AMP) 120mm round are out, and there is an AMP round in development. I recently traveled to Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD, to view a new multipurpose round that the Marine Corps is using in Afghanistan. This 120mm DM-11 round meets some of the AMP's requirements and tested very well during our visit, showing that the technology is ready. With more development to meet our requirements, and the approval of funding a mid-term investment in the ammunition portfolio, I am looking forward to the future of procuring an AMP round for our M1A2.

The bottom line is there is nothing better than spending time with our Soldiers, NCOs, officers and civilians, including the hard-working teams at our Mounted Requirements Division and TRADOC capabilities managers. They are pushing the envelope so we have the best equipment today and for the future. We know that the Abrams will remain in service for several more decades – given the innovation and creativity of our combat developers, I'm confident it will remain both the best tank in the world and relevant in all environments through its lifecycle.

Forge the Thunderbolt!

Giddyup! 47

From the CSM's OP

There is a wealth of information in this month's *Blast*. We have strived to give our senior leaders a snapshot of all the great initiatives, events and behind-the-scenes work going on here at the Armor School and the MCoE. It is truly amazing to go around Harmony Church and see all training, mentoring and leadership that are being executed daily. I know it can be tough, but I would highly recommend that all senior leaders, commanders and CSMs try to pay us a visit. Even if just for one day, it would be "juice" well worth the squeeze.



Two big upcoming events are the Gainey Cup and the Reconnaissance Summit in March 2013. We are looking forward to putting on a tough and demanding competition and getting a broad span of participation at the Summit. This will be a great opportunity to see the Soldiers that will be coming your way and the force that trains them. And oh by the way, many of those doing the training will be heading your way soon as well.

The Army is getting smaller and, as noted in this newsletter, 19Ds will be part of that reduction. I've seen a lot of records and talked with a lot of Soldiers lately, and I've noticed some

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	Armor CSM	(706) 545-8169	CSM Miles Wilson
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	ARNG Liaison	(706) 626-2306	LTC Scott Fowler
	MGMT Staff	(706) 626-1406	LTC Matt Boal
	Armor Historian	(706) 626-1491	Dr. Robert Cameron
	OCOA Director	(706) 545-1352	George DeSario
	OCOA SGM	(706) 545-7725	SGM Gregory Proft
	OCOA (EIA, DRAPER)	(706) 626-TANK (8265)	email OCOA
ARMOR magazine	(706) 545-2698	email ARMOR	

192nd IN BDE 

	COL Ron Clark		CSM Clyde Glenn	
		1-46 IN BCT	LTC Brown, Cale	CSM Dydasco, Eugene
		2-47 IN BCT	LTC Feger, Kyle	CSM Dennison, Daniel
		3-47 IN BCT	LTC Thompson, Travis	CSM Svenson, Todd
		30th AG (Rec)	LTC Kidder, Stuart	CSM Reddock, Earla

194th AR BDE 

	COL Kevin MacWatters		CSM Robert Tompkins	
		1-81 AR	LTC Plummer, Dawson	CSM Lockhart, Dean
		3-81 AR	LTC McCoy, Jeff	CSM Wagner, Anthony
		5-15 CAV	LTC Koloski, Andrew	CSM Roark, Samuel

316th CAV BDE 

	COL David Davidson		CSM Michael Clemens	
		1-16 CAV	LTC Brown, Mark	CSM Martin, Valmond
		2-16 CAV	LTC Diano, Oscar	CSM Feltman, Bradley
		3-16 CAV	LTC Mackey, Andre	CSM Williamson, Michael

TCM			
COL Nicoson, Gary	TCM-ABCT and TCM-BFSB	(706) 545-2517	gary-nicoson@us.army.mil
COL House, Ed	TCM-IBCT	(706) 545-2078	claud.house@us.army.mil
COL Speights, Elmer	TCM-Stryker	(706) 545-5364	elmer.speights3.mil@mail.mil

Army National Guard Regional Training Institutes (RTIs)

	School code	958	1017	998	1012	1017	1012
	Location	Gowen Field Armor SME Site IDARNG Boise, ID	ARNG Res. Tng Ctr Smyrna, TN	Camp Shelby Hattiesburg, MS	Fort Indiantown Gap Annville, PA	Camp Mabry Austin, TX	Camp Ripley Little Falls, MN
	ARNG RTI	1-204 th	2-117 th	1-154 th	1-166 th	1-136 th	175 th Regt
M1A1 Tank Commander Certification 171-SI3M/19K2/3/4		X					
Scout Commander Certification 171-SI3X/ASID3		X	X	X			
Cavalry Scout (MOS-T) 171-19D10 (HMMWV/M3) (R)		X	X	X	X	X	X
Cavalry Scout Adv Ldr 171-19D30-C45		X	X	X	X	X	
Armor Crewman (M1A1) 171-19K10 (M1A1) (R)		X		X			
Armor Crewman (M1A2) 171-19K10 (M1A2) (R)		X					
Armor Crewman Adv Ldr 171-19K30-C45		X		X	X		

Courses highlighted in yellow are not yet supported with required equipment.

trends that need our – CSMs – attention. There are a lot of Soldiers with low GT scores, out-of-date DA photos and poorly maintained ERBs. I know the pace in units is hectic and we are still fighting a hard war in Afghanistan, but we've always done more tasks than there are hours in a day or Soldiers in boots. We want to ensure our best troopers have the opportunity to serve their nation, even if it means doing another job.

As we enter the last month of the year and into the holiday season, I want to thank you all for your steadfast service, sacrifices and loyal commitment to Soldiers and this great nation. I'm honored to be a small part of such a fine group of Americans known as cavalrymen and tankers!

Armor Strong!

Thunderbolt 7

 Like us on Facebook

Upcoming Events
 3-5 March 13 - **Gainey Cup**
 5-7 March 13 - **Recon Summit**
 TBD April 13 - **Armor Ball**
 Late Aug/early Sep 13- **Sullivan Cup**

Armor School Links

- MCoE:** <https://www.benning.army.mil>
- Armor School:** <https://www.benning.army.mil/armor/>
- ARMOR magazine:** <https://www.benning.army.mil/armor/ArmorMagazine/index.htm>

Please take a moment to participate in these surveys on the quality of the 19K and 19D Soldiers you are receiving from Fort Benning. Your feedback will assist us in adjusting our training to ensure you receive Soldiers with the skills you most need.

19D-OSUT: [GEN_19DSUPSURVEYV1_OCT12](https://www.secureweb.hqda.pentagon.mil/ariweb/GEN_19DSUPSURVEYV1_OCT12)

The CAC URL is:
https://secureweb.hqda.pentagon.mil/ariweb/GEN_19DSUPSURVEYV1_OCT12

The AKO URL is:
https://securewebako.hqda.pentagon.mil/AKO/ariwebAKO/GEN_19DSUPSURVEYV1_OCT12

19K-OSUT [GEN_19KSUPSURVEYV1_OCT12](https://www.secureweb.hqda.pentagon.mil/ariweb/GEN_19KSUPSURVEYV1_OCT12)

The CAC URL is:
https://secureweb.hqda.pentagon.mil/ariweb/GEN_19KSUPSURVEYV1_OCT12

The AKO URL is:
https://securewebako.hqda.pentagon.mil/AKO/ariwebAKO/GEN_19KSUPSURVEYV1_OCT12