

Thunderbolt Blast

ARMOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FALL 2020



ENLISTED MARKETPLACE

The Army Talent Management Task Force in conjunction with Enlisted Personnel Management Division (EPMD), Human Resources Command (HRC) is developing an enlisted marketplace. The marketplace will be based on preferences of both the NCO and units, with these preferences shaped by knowledge, skills, and behaviors (KSBs). The marketplace is set to open in early FY22 for MSG/1SG and then will expand to additional ranks. Assignment Satisfaction Key - Enlisted Module (ASK-EM) is a preferencing tool that serves as a bridge until the enlisted marketplace is active. The initial ASK-EM pilot closed for movement cycle 20-08 on 21 Jul 20. For more information please contact MSG Quintana Mitchell at quintana.d.mitchell.mil@mail.mil or MAJ Jed Hudson at jed.w.hudson.mil@mail.mil.

2021 GAINNEY CUP (316TH CAVALRY BRIGADE)

The U.S. Army Armor School and 316th CAV BDE continue planning for the 5th biennial CSM William Gainney Best Scout Squad Competition scheduled to be held 22 FEB – 25 FEB, 2021 at Fort Benning, Georgia.

After two weeks of initial quarantine upon arrival to Ft. Benning, competitors will in-process on 22 FEB and begin with the ACFT the following morning. Throughout the rest of the week the scouts will be tested on fundamental and essential skills most critical to the Scout Squad in realistic scenarios using primarily their organic equipment. The events include Gunnery Skills Test, Call for Fire, modified AFVID, STX event, stress shoot, and Final Charge. We will recognize the winning squad on 25 FEB.

PROJECT ATHENA (316TH CAVALRY BRIGADE)

ABOLC students are conducting Project Athena. Project Athena enables our Lieutenants to better see themselves, gain self-awareness, and promotes self-growth. This initial assessment is a part of an overall career long program designed to inform and motivate officers to embrace personal and professional self-development. Project Athena serves as a development tool for individuals to see their strengths and weaknesses through a series of written, cognitive and physical assessments focused on identifying and retaining talent.

CHIEF OF ARMOR COMMENTS

Greetings from Ft Benning!



The cadre and faculty of the Armor School sustained their exceptional performance under COVID conditions. Courses across Fort Benning continued to improve. Trainees maintained safe social distancing practices and our drill sergeants and instructors provided the highest caliber training; CMF 19 Soldiers are more lethal, proficient and Armor Ready. Since March, we have trained 1320 Privates, 160 NCOs, and 229 LTs to ensure the operating force has the personnel they need.

194th AR and 316th CAV Brigades continue to improve Officer PME, OSUT, and functional training courses. 194th AR Brigade completed the 22-week OSUT pilot and POI review for both 19Ds and 19Ks. The new POI provides trainees more contact time on their platforms, improves the training environment, and builds proficiency within our initial entry Soldiers. 316th CAV Brigade improved the POI for the Master Gunner Course, Armor Basic Officer Leaders Course and Scout Leaders Course. The Master Gunner Course will provide multiple technical, as well as hands on, sets and repetitions. The revised course will provide the force with platform masters and increase lethality at the company

The LTs are assessed using web-based assessments which include the criterion online writing evaluation, the Nelson Denny Reading Test, the Self-Assessment Individual Difference – Inventory, the social awareness and influence assessment, the Army Critical Thinking Test, a Leader 180, and additional assessments on physical fitness and their technical and tactical warfighting. More importantly, to enable their growth, the students are provided resources to truly develop themselves. Additionally, they receive three peer-to-peer feedbacks, develop an individual development plan, and receive a leadership assessment review. The LTs are coached to develop a packet and encouraged to share this packet with their gaining unit to continue true growth and development.

DOCTRINE

Over the past quarter, the branch teams within the Doctrine and Collective Training Division (DCTD), Directorate of Training and Doctrine (DOTD) prepared multiple publications for Army-wide implementation or for review by the training and maneuver force.

Coming to the Army Publications Directorate (www.armypubs.army.mil) in 1st QTR FY 21 will be FM 3-96, *Brigade Combat Team*, TC 3-20.11, *Training to Proficiency, Maneuver Company and Troop* and STP 17-19D1-SM-TG, *Soldier's Manual And Training Guide, MOS 19D, CAVALRY SCOUT, Skill Level 1*. Once online, these publications will be available for download and implementation within the maneuver community.

ATP 3-90.5, *Combined Arms Battalion* and FM 3-98, *Reconnaissance and Security Operations* are both entering Final Draft staffing in 4th QTR FY 20 and 1st QTR FY21 respectively. Additionally, DCTD will disseminate ATP 3-06.11, *Combined Arms in Urban Terrain* for Initial Draft staffing in 2nd QTR FY21.

DCTD will continue to update the force via the Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL) newsletter, the Thunderbolt Chapter of United States Cavalry and Armor Association Facebook page and our Twitter page (@MastersManeuver). For questions or concerns, please contact the Doctrine and Collective Training Division at usarmy.benning.mcoe.mbx.doctrine@mail.mil.

level. ABOLC and SLC will provide commanders with Tank and Scout Platoon Leaders proficient in the fundamentals. Armor Lieutenants will be confident and prepared to operate in multiple domains during Large Scale Combat Operations.

The Armor School is working with the Infantry School to develop plans to transition the Bradley Fighting Vehicle in BCT formations to 19 series crews; the plan will make Armor Branch the proponent for the Bradley. Additionally, the Department of the Army approved the Force Design Update for hard coded 19A and 11A positions in Brigade Combat Teams. The new structure secures growth in the branch and provides the force with the requisite knowledge to train and employ Armored and Cavalry formations.

Lastly, thank you to our outstanding Armor/Cavalry Soldiers and Leaders who continue to serve our country and succeed on the COVID-battlefield.

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

THE COVID-19 ENVIRONMENT AND ONE STATION UNIT TRAINING (194TH ARMORED BRIGADE)

The effects of COVID-19 prompt change in almost every facet of life. Activities and day-to-day operations, both in one's personal life and at work, require adjustment to limit the spread of the virus. Basic training, and for certain military occupational specialties (MOS), One Station Unit Training (OSUT), at Fort Benning are no different. There have been no changes to the mission of transitioning civilians into Soldiers with the designation of Cavalry Scouts, all while the environment has drastically changed.

During the initial wave of COVID-19, some of the trainees who arrived at FT. Benning already infected with the virus. Just as the rest of the country noticed, a large number of the new trainees that carried the virus were asymptomatic. Steps were taken by the MCoE leadership to safeguard Soldiers, civilians, and family members. Trainees were tested numerous times prior to beginning training. Rigorous testing also helped establish a solid baseline to prevent community spread of the virus.

Similar to lessons learned from the 1918 - 1919 Influenza Pandemic, the Army barred large gatherings and implemented self regulatory preventative measures. Fourteen days for control monitoring were directed to impede the virus from continuing to spread. Controlled Monitoring caused second and third order effects, forcing some training events that normally took place early in the cycle to shift to a later date. The rearrangement of mandatory training allowed certain events, such as the confidence course, to be completed at a higher success rate due to increased Soldier physical development.

Enforcing existing measures to combat the virus have proven critical in many aspects. The continuous cleaning of one's area and the wearing of a mask, not only reduce the spread of the virus but it has reduced overall sickness seen in BCT/OSUT environments. Ownership from the trainees of their troop's footprint has also led to the observation of trainees displaying more pride in their self, and the equipment they maintain.

Further changes in training hinge on evolving medical developments and the overall state of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, BCT/OSUT remains steadfast in developing highly trained, agile and adaptable Soldiers capable of meeting the future needs of our Army.

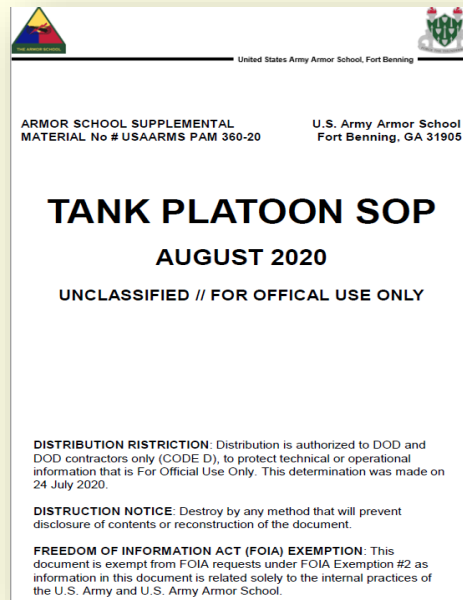
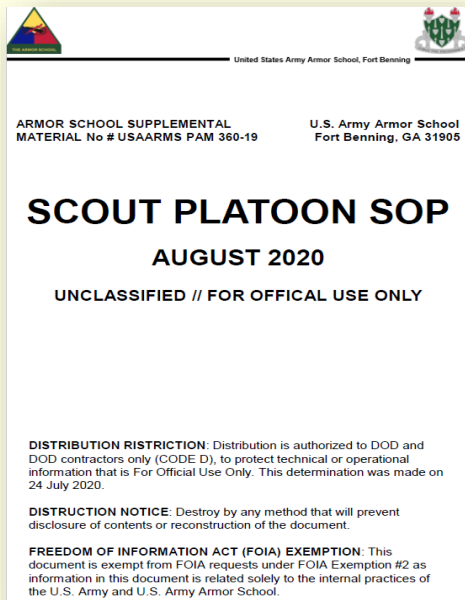
TANK PLATOON SOP AND SCOUT PLATOON SOP

This month the Armor School published USAARMS PAMS 360-19 *Scout Platoon SOP* and USAARMS PAMS 360-20 *Tank Platoon SOP*.

The purpose of the Standard Operating Procedures reflects the current thought of the U.S. Army Armor School and conforms to published Department of the Army doctrine. These SOPs standardizes routine procedures for combat operations within the tank and scout platoons. They are expected to be used by Lieutenants during Armor Basic Officer Leader Course (ABOLC). The SOPs are also intended to aid Lieutenants and their platoons on arrival to their first duty station.

The topics discussed include but are not limited to; organizational roles and responsibilities, troop leading procedures, risk management, Commander's intent and CCIR, PCC/PCI, rehearsals, offense and defense operations, reconnaissance and security operations, sustainment plan development, tactical tasks, and reporting examples.

The point of contact for this action is the U.S. Army Armor School Operations Officer, CPT Cody Haff, at (706) 626-3788 or cody.l.haff@mail.mil.




THE US ARMY ARMOR FY21 TRAINING AND LEADER DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY


The US Army Armor FY21 Training and Leader Development Strategy is released for publication. USAARMS trains, develops, educates and inspires the world's most agile and adaptive Armor and Cavalry leaders, Soldiers and formations to win in complex environments by closing with, and destroying our Nation's enemies using fire, maneuver and shock effect. The Armor School achieves our desired end state by progressively adapting to ensure our formations are educated and well led to fight and win the nation's wars.

This year's Armor Training and Leader Development Strategy is different from previous versions. This year's strategy focuses on preparing leaders at the Company/Troop level for a successful rotation at the National Training Center (NTC) or other Combat Training Centers. Company level leaders must understand how to integrate and synchronize all assets at their disposal to achieve their mission. This document highlights tactics, techniques, and procedures to support leader development, regardless of your units' training progression.



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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 Richard Meeker
	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 Dan Snow	CSM Christopher Shaiko
	2-16 CAV	LTC Chris Kane	CSM Randal Edmondson
	3-16 CAV	LTC Brandon Cave	MSG George McCready

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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>
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