

# Thunderbolt Blast

ARMOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FALL 2019



## ARMOR AND CAVALRY LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Office of The Chief of Armor is now accepting submissions for the FY19 Unit level Armor and Cavalry Leadership Award (formerly the Draper Leadership Award). The Award recognizes the most outstanding Armor Company and Cavalry Troop of each Division. The unit award is presented on an annual basis to a deserving organization selected by the Division or Regimental Commander, in accordance with USAARMS Pamphlet 360-4 Armor & Cavalry Leadership Award. <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/message/773108>

## DOCTRINE

This July, the ABCT Doctrine Branch completed and published ATP 3-20.15/MCRP 3-10B.1 *Tank Platoon*. The ATP is written specifically to the armor crewmen and remains a foundational publication for the Armor Basic Officer Leaders Course. Additionally, the ABCT team is in the final stages of revision of ATP 3-21.90/MCTP 3-01D *Tactical Employment of Mortars* which will replace the April 2011 version, ATTP 3-21.90/MCMP 3-15.2. Like *Tank Platoon*, *Tactical Employment of Mortars* will be a multi-service US Army and Marine Corps manual, with this new publication providing techniques for the employment of mortars at the battalion/squadron level and below. As always, we greatly appreciate the feedback from those units and organizations who participated in staffing this publication. Based upon the current timeline, *Tactical Employment of Mortars* should be available at <https://armypubs.us.army.mil> by 1<sup>st</sup> quarter FY20.

The Cavalry Doctrine Branch completed the revision of ATP 3-20.98, *Scout Platoon*. This manual provides techniques for the employment of scout platoons within Cavalry squadrons in the ABCT, IBCT, and SBCT, as well as the scout platoons within the combined arms battalion, Stryker Infantry battalion, and the Infantry battalion of the IBCT. This manual also addresses the new "6x36" scout platoon formation of the ABCT/SBCT Cavalry Squadron scout platoons. We greatly appreciated the valuable feedback from the units and organizations who participated in staffing this manual. The manual is planned to be published to Army Publishing Directorate within 1<sup>st</sup> quarter FY20.

## CHIEF OF ARMOR COMMENTS

Armor and Cavalry Leaders — Greeting from Fort Benning! To achieve the 40<sup>th</sup> CSA's intent of building highly trained, disciplined and fit Soldiers, we have implemented Phase 1 of our 22 week Program of Instruction for 19K and 19D troopers. Like Yogi Berra said, "It's tough to make predictions especially about the future..." but I'm certain that the troopers leaving here will be some of the best Tankers and Cavalry Scouts we've produced in a long time.



One area I'd like your help in is submitting thoughtful and challenging articles to **ARMOR** magazine and the Armor and Cavalry Journal. It's important for all leaders to communicate their thoughts on the future of mounted warfare, leader development, training for large scale combat operations, and a host of other important topics. Your thoughts and ideas will continue to be the fuel to drive the intellectual engine of our branch.

Thanks to each of you for your leadership and continued support in ensuring Armor Branch remains relevant and ready now and for the future!

I also want to recognize the previous Chief of Armor, BG David Lesperance, who moved the Armor School forward in the right direction—it's my goal to build on the great foundation and continue developing lethal leaders and Soldiers.

Forge the Thunderbolt!  
KEVIN D. ADMIRAL  
BG, United States Army  
52<sup>nd</sup> Chief of Armor

## CADRE DEVELOPMENT (194TH ARMORED BRIGADE)

The 194th Armored Brigade continues to be the premier training organization for 19D Cavalry Scout, 19K Armor Crewman, 91A Abrams System Maintainer, and 91M Bradley Fighting Vehicle System Maintainer Programs of Instruction to enable the Operational Force. Our Cadre continue to convert leader-guidance and initiatives into realistic, achievable, and repeatable results. Through the transition to 22-week One-Station-Unit-Training (OSUT) for 19D/19K trainees, and the Solidarization initiatives within the 91A/91M Advance Individual Training (AIT), our trainees will be better trained, more disciplined, and exhibit the knowledge, skills, and attributes necessary to immediately contribute to the success of their units.

Currently, the Brigade is certifying its Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) instructors to enable the FY20 fitness test-of-record transition. In addition to their certification requirements, Cadre across our formation are conducting train-up activities and executing diagnostic ACFT events. Certification, train-up methodologies, and execution will allow our Cadre to create Brigade-level standardization that will drive the successful execution of the ACFT by future trainees, and will allow our leaders to retain their role as standard-bearers and role-models for the next generation of initial-entry trainees.

Additionally, the 194th is shaping the future Soldier's ability to adapt to complex and emerging threats within the Operational Environment. Our goal is to expose our trainees to the emerging technologies that a near-peer competitor may employ on the modern battlefield. Learning how to react to Unmanned Aerial / Ground Vehicles, understanding our electromagnetic frequency strengths and vulnerabilities, and presenting the visual depiction of future, enemy combat vehicles and systems will allow our trainees to react and enable the Army's mission of fighting and winning our Nation's

## INCORPORATING TECHNOLOGY INTO ABOLC (316TH CAVALRY BRIGADE)

The United States Army's future tank platoon leaders currently receive rigorous training in planning, preparing, and executing armored maneuver. As the Army's Professional Military education for Armor officers, the Armor Basic Officer Leader's Course (ABOLC) continuously strives to improve instruction by utilizing the Adult Learning Model (ALM) and leveraging new and emerging technology to enhance the learning environment and the effectiveness of instruction. These technologies help to reinforce topics taught by traditional teaching methods and increase the number of repetitions students perform on critical training tasks. ABOLC is implementing along three separate technological lines of effort to enhance the learning environment for the Army's newest Armor Officers. These methods include reinforcement training through the Close Combat Tactical Trainer (CCTT), Tactical Decision Exercises (TDE) utilizing the Augmented Reality Sand Table (ARES) system, and utilizing Blackboard software to aid teaching and evaluation.

**ABOLC CCTT Usage:** During Tactics Phase, ABOLC evaluates students' abilities to plan and brief four distinct Operations Orders (OPORDs). The day immediately following an OPORD brief, students are given another repetition of Troop Leading Procedures (TLPs) by preparing for and executing the same mission in CCTT to reinforce learning objectives. This allows the students to correct mistakes and develop themselves prior to advancing to more complex topics. Furthermore, the high-fidelity simulation affords students the opportunity to pressure test their analyses and plans in a simulated environment. Though the CCTT is usually a tool that allows for collective training, the friction and challenges the students experience shapes their understanding of operating as a platoon. Early returns from implementing CCTT as immediate reinforcement training are positive, and students demonstrate significant strides in planning and leading in a close-to-life simulation. Equally beneficial is the opportunity for students to lead platoons in a virtual construct before moving into live STX training scenarios. With CCTT, students are allowed more opportunities to maneuver platoon formations than would be afforded through live training alone. With command emphasis on leveraging virtual systems such as the CCTT, ABOLC has experienced a measurable upward trend in successful student evaluations during live mission execution in Capstone Phase.

**ARES Platoon Battle Lab:** In order to produce an Armor leader with a high degree of adaptability and the ability to lead Soldiers across a wide range of military operations, ABOLC is moving forward to integrate ARES into its Tactics Phase. The ARES system enhances the students' ability to assess the mission variable of terrain by using active learning techniques. The ARES projects images on a traditional sand table and can calculate line of sight with the rendered topography. When fully implemented, instructors will use the ARES to reinforce crucial tactical concepts by replicating any battlefield terrain in the world. The system allows instructors to rapidly present students with detailed tactical problems, allowing more students to exercise their decision-making skills than they would in CCTT alone.

**Blackboard Integration:** Already widely utilized in universities across the country, Blackboard provides a medium through which both students and instructors can digitally manage knowledge production, administer examinations, and share course material outside the classroom. Additionally, testing through Blackboard enhances efficiency by reducing the potential for human error and can increase the volume of check on learning exercises. Blackboard helps tailor future instruction by providing immediate feedback and identifying areas in which students need extra instruction. Finally, by centralizing all knowledge management for learning products, ABOLC can ensure standardization of teaching materials and maintain high levels of quality instruction regardless of instructor.

## UPCOMING FUNCTIONAL COURSE DATES


**NCO Attendance at the Army Reconnaissance Course (ARC):** ARC trains Active duty, National Guard, and Reserve Component Officers (O-1 thru O-3) and Non-Commissioned Officers (E-5 thru E-7) who are assigned to, or projected to serve in a Cavalry Billet. This course provides the foundational knowledge for reconnaissance and security operations at the Scout Platoon and below level. It is imperative for unit success that 19Ds take full advantage of this course. The Armor School will do everything possible to ensure NCOs from the force are provided ample opportunities to attend, either as stand alone TDY or in conjunction with PME while at Fort Benning

Course	Class	Report Date	Start Date	End Date
M1A2 SEP MASTER GUNNER	002	8-Jan-20	9-Jan-20	5-Mar-20
M1A2 SEP MASTER GUNNER	003	19-Mar-20	20-Mar-20	13-May-20
GUNNERY SIMULATIONS TNG MGMT MGR	002	8-Jan-20	9-Jan-20	30-Jan-20
GUNNERY SIMULATIONS TNG MGMT MGR	003	12-Mar-20	13-Mar-20	2-Apr-20
GUNNERY SIMULATIONS TNG MGMT MGR	004	20-May-20	21-May-20	11-Jun-20
STRYKER MASTER GUNNER	001	8-Jan-20	9-Jan-20	5-Mar-20
STRYKER MASTER GUNNER	002	19-Mar-20	20-Mar-20	13-May-20
STRYKER MASTER GUNNER	003	27-May-20	28-May-20	22-Jul-20
CAVALRY LEADER COURSE	002	1-Dec-19	2-Dec-19	19-Dec-19
CAVALRY LEADER COURSE	003	5-Jan-20	6-Jan-20	27-Jan-20
CAVALRY LEADER COURSE	004	2-Feb-20	3-Feb-20	24-Feb-20
CAVALRY LEADER COURSE	005	1-Mar-20	2-Mar-20	20-Mar-20
MANEUVER LEADERS MAINTENANCE COURSE	001	1-Dec-19	2-Dec-19	13-Dec-19
MANEUVER LEADERS MAINTENANCE COURSE	002	5-Jan-20	6-Jan-20	17-Jan-20
MANEUVER LEADERS MAINTENANCE COURSE	003	2-Feb-20	3-Feb-20	14-Feb-20
MANEUVER LEADERS MAINTENANCE COURSE	004	1-Mar-20	2-Mar-20	13-Mar-20
MANEUVER LEADERS MAINTENANCE COURSE	005	29-Mar-20	30-Mar-20	10-Apr-20
M1A1/M1A2 SEP TANK COMMANDERS	001	15-Mar-20	16-Mar-20	29-Mar-20
M1A1/M1A2 SEP TANK COMMANDERS	002	26-May-20	27-May-20	9-Jun-20
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
MOBILE GUN SYSTEM COMMANDER	003	22-Mar-20	23-Mar-20	17-Apr-20
ARMY RECONNAISSANCE COURSE	002	17-Nov-19	18-Nov-19	16-Dec-19
ARMY RECONNAISSANCE COURSE	003	5-Jan-20	6-Jan-20	3-Feb-20
ARMY RECONNAISSANCE COURSE	004	23-Feb-20	24-Feb-20	21-Mar-20
ARMY RECONNAISSANCE COURSE	005	29-Mar-20	30-Mar-20	25-Apr-20
COMBAT ADVISOR TRAINING	004	17-Nov-19	18-Nov-19	17-Dec-19
COMBAT ADVISOR TRAINING	006	5-Jan-20	6-Jan-20	4-Feb-20
COMBAT ADVISOR TRAINING	007	12-Jan-20	13-Jan-20	11-Feb-20
COMBAT ADVISOR TRAINING	008	19-Jan-20	20-Jan-20	18-Feb-20
COMBAT ADVISOR TRAINING	009	23-Feb-20	24-Feb-20	24-Mar-20
COMBAT ADVISOR TRAINING	010	1-Mar-20	2-Mar-20	31-Mar-20
COMBAT ADVISOR TRAINING	011	8-Mar-20	9-Mar-20	7-Apr-20
BRADLEY COMMANDER AND GUNNER CERTIFICATION	001	14-Nov-19	15-Nov-19	27-Nov-19
BRADLEY COMMANDER AND GUNNER CERTIFICATION	002	25-Jan-20	26-Jan-20	7-Feb-20
BRADLEY COMMANDER AND GUNNER CERTIFICATION	003	14-Mar-20	15-Mar-20	27-Mar-20
MASTER GUNNER COMMON CORE	001	12-Nov-19	13-Nov-19	17-Nov-19
MASTER GUNNER COMMON CORE	002	8-Jan-20	9-Jan-20	12-Feb-20
MASTER GUNNER COMMON CORE	003	13-Feb-20	14-Feb-20	19-Mar-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 Kevin Admiral
	Armor CSM	(706) 545-8169	CSM Kevin Muhlenbeck
	Deputy Commandant	(706) 545-8334	COL Sean Barnes
	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)	<a href="mailto:usarmy.benning.mco.mbx.armor-ocoa@mail.mil">usarmy.benning.mco.mbx.armor-ocoa@mail.mil</a>
<b>ARMOR</b> Magazine	(706) 545-2698	<a href="mailto:usarmy.benning.tradoc.mbx.armor-magazine@mail.mil">usarmy.benning.tradoc.mbx.armor-magazine@mail.mil</a>	

## 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 Antoinette Green
	1-81 AR	LTC Bradley Nelson	CSM Brandon Petersen
	2-15 CAV	LTC Wes Wilhite	CSM Steven Smerer
	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	Mr. Marco Barrera	TCM RECON	MAJ Jason Hart	TCM SBCT	COL Damien Mason
	(706) 626-2444		(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

## 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))