

# Thunderbolt Blast

ARMOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2021



## STATUS OF 19C INITIATIVE

The Office of the Chief of Armor (OCA) is currently working with outside agencies for the potential creation and implementation of MOS 19C, Bradley Crewmember. Development started based on the III Corps Lethality Study and the identification of gaps in mounted core competencies within the Infantry Branch that have directly affected lethality and sustainability within the Armored Brigade Combat Teams (ABCTs).

A joint four star memo, signed by the TRADOC and FORSCOM commanders, was received by both the Armor and Infantry Schools to initiate a concerted effort to best support the intent of the commanders to regain mounted proficiency and lethality within the ABCTs. All the current actions taken by the two schools is pre-decisional.

## CLARIFICATION OF EXCELLENCE IN ARMOR (EIA) AND EXPERT SOLDIER BADGE (ESB)

In late FY21 the Office of the Chief of Armor (OCA), with guidance from the Armor Commandant, revised the standard operating procedure (SOP) for EIA. The "legacy" EIA program was found to be under-utilized as a training measure to determine promotion potential for junior enlisted Soldiers throughout the force. Additionally, the implementation of ESB led to the identification that the "legacy" EIA program was outdated and the elimination was necessary to reduce training loads on commanders and to standardize the evaluated events across the three BCT types.

Currently, if a Soldier in the grade of PVT-SGT conducts an ESB and receives a first time "Go" on all events, a memorandum for record, through the Soldier's first LTC to OCA, will award the Soldier the PDSI E4J on their SRB and a certificate of achievement signed by the Armor Commandant. The "legacy" program is only conducted by 194<sup>th</sup> Armor Brigade at Fort Benning for initial entry Soldiers at OSUT.

## CHIEF OF ARMOR COMMENTS

Armor and Cavalry Leaders - Greetings from Fort Benning! It feels great to be back. This is an exciting time for the Armor Branch, and I hope you are as excited as I am as we continue moving forward with shaping the Army of tomorrow.



Currently, MCOE is undergoing several reorganization efforts. We are in the process of converting the 199<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade to a Leader Brigade and 316<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade to a Lethality Brigade. Part of this reorganization includes moving 2 -16 CAV to the 199<sup>th</sup> Leader Brigade. This move will improve administrative efficiencies for incoming students and better ensure Armor Lieutenants' training remains nested under a greater MCOE effort to increase combined arms training. 316<sup>th</sup> Lethality Brigade will consolidate both Armor and Infantry functional lethality courses with the addition of 1-29 IN. This includes the addition of the Heavy Weapons Course and the Sniper Course to our existing portfolio. Again, the highlight here is to bring about the highest level of lethality through a combined arms approach to training.

Recently, 316<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade updated the program of instruction for the Master Gunner Course. This course now provides additional training focus at the company level as well as a more in-depth study of live fire doctrine. Another improvement is the development of the Pre-Master Gunner Assessment Course. Divisions now have a standardized curriculum to prepare candidates before arriving at Fort Benning. Through practical exercises, study habit TTPs, and testing methodology preparation, we are able to help units identify knowledge gaps to better enable candidates in completing the Master

**M1A2 SEP V3 ABRAMS MAIN BATTLE TANK FIELDING  
(316TH CAVALRY BRIGADE)**

316th CAV BDE has started fielding and training our cadre on the Abrams Main Battle Tank M1A2 SEP V3. In early June 2021, Abrams Master Gunner and Tank Commander Course instructors have completed an Abrams M1A2 SEP V3 Operator New Equipment Training (OPNET) course. The instructors are now actively engaged in updating our programs of instruction's lesson plans to incorporate the V3 in an effort to facilitate the Armor School's ability to modernize the Armor communities future leaders and increase our Force's lethality.

In coordination with the Abrams M1A2 SEP V3 OPNET course, 316CAV BDE completed execution of the plumb and synchronization and a Live Fire Accuracy Screening Test (LFAST). 1-16CAV SQDN "Strike" provided our world class Soldiers to crew the Abrams M1A2 SEP V3, while 3-16CAV SQDN "Blackhearts" is provided Master Gunners during the LFAST. The Destroyer crews conducted the first tank road march of the new Abrams M1A2 SEP V3 to the range for the Live Fire Accuracy Screening Test and a modified Table VI. The fielding of the V3 will soon have wide reaching effects on our Force as we continue to modernize in order to win our nations wars.

**DOCTRINE**

MCOE's Directorate of Training and Doctrine (DOTD) Doctrine and Collective Training Division (DCTD) continued to prepare multiple publications for Army-wide implementation, or review, by the maneuver force during this past quarter.

ATP 3-90.5, *Combined Arms Battalion* is currently with the Army Publishing Directorate (APD) for the publication's final review and preparation for dissemination through the directorate's website – [www.armypubs.army.mil](http://www.armypubs.army.mil). We expect this ATP to be available by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> QTR FY 21. FM 3-98, *Reconnaissance and Security Operations* remains in Final Draft revision, with a planned publication in early 4<sup>th</sup> QTR FY 21. The ABCT Doctrine Branch began the initial review and revision of ATP 3-90.1, *Armor and Mechanized Infantry Company Team* with an expected Initial Draft staffing across the training and maneuver force in 4<sup>th</sup> QTR FY21 / 1<sup>st</sup> QTR FY22. DOTD and the DCTD branch teams appreciate the feedback received during the revision of each of these manuals.

DCTD remains dedicated to updating 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](mailto:usarmy.benning.mcoe.mbx.doctrine@mail.mil) or through our Masters of Maneuver Twitter page.

**LETHALITY: FOCUSING ON THE BASICS  
(194TH ARMORED BRIGADE)**

At 2nd Squadron, 15th Cavalry Regiment (2-15 CAV), the importance of understanding various direct fire weapon systems is paramount for all 19D One Station Unit Training (OSUT) Trainees. In OSUT, Trainees conduct a progression of training on weapon systems. In Black Phase, each Trainee receives classroom instruction on the features, functions, and capabilities of every machine gun and anti-tank weapon systems within the Cavalry arsenal. Following the classroom instruction, each Trainee receives hands-on practice with the weapon systems, including instruction on handling, Gunnery Skills Test tasks, and pre-fire checks.

During the Gold Phase, Trainees follow a platform specific training progression based on their first unit of assignment. Trainees continue to learn invaluable skills regarding each platform and the weapon systems associated with those platforms in the classroom and hands-on environments. Additionally, each Trainee spends time in simulator-based training specific to their future platform. Trainees train on zeroing weapons systems for gunnery-style live-fire events to ensure they understand weapon capabilities and use on the battlefield. All of these events culminate during the live fire week.


Each Trainee progresses from firing the weapon systems in a ground-mounted configuration to firing weapon systems on the vehicle mounts. They continue to receive instruction on proper engagement techniques and the application of the direct fire principles. Knowing how to employ mass concentration of fires accurately on targets sets the conditions for Trainees to contribute upon arrival to their first unit.

Gunner Course. Additionally, we need your help sending more Master Gunner candidates to the course. They are future leaders of the Armor Branch, and we need them more than ever to increase the lethality of our Leaders and Soldiers.


Finally, we are continuing our efforts with the design of reconnaissance formations at echelon to meet LSCO Gap #9. A lot of great work was already completed with the Division Cavalry Squadron and Armored Cavalry Troop. We are continuing to build upon those efforts with the addition of the 19C MOS where Bradley crew expertise will reside within the Armor community. All of these efforts are out for staffing at various echelons, and we look forward to assisting future iterations as we develop the Army of tomorrow. We see one of these iterations as a possible Division Cavalry Pilot with 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division in the near future. This will continue to develop in the coming months, and I look forward to sharing the lessons learned with you.

As we continue to fight COVID -19 from our Assembly Areas, we have a lot of work ahead of us. I would like to offer a special thank you to the previous Chief of Armor, BG Kevin Admiral for all he did for the Armor School. It is my goal to build upon the great efforts he put forth. TREAT 'EM ROUGH!


BG Thomas Feltey, U.S. Army  
53<sup>rd</sup> Chief of Armor

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	OCOA SGM	(706) 545-7725	SGM Chris Carey
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<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 Jason Rosenstrauch    CSM Thomas Yaudas		
	30th AG (REC)	LTC Frederick Babauta	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 David Culver	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 Daniel Cannon	CSM Noah Pugh

**Other Agencies**

ACM ABCT & RECON	COL Jason Kidder	ACM IBCT	COL Ryan Morgan	ACM SBCT	COL Sam Edwards
	(706) 626-2444		(706) 545-3911		(706) 545-7751
ACM SFAB	LTC Melvin Jackson	Doctrine	Mr. David Guthrie	MRD	Mr. John Miller
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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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