

# Thunderbolt Blast

ARMOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2022



## FY22 SFC EVALUATION BOARD RESULTS

The FY22 SFC Evaluation Board convened on or about 19 October 2021 and the results were posted on 21 January 2022. The SFC Evaluation Board found 116 Most Qualified (12.52%), 782 Fully Qualified, and 28 Not Fully Qualified. Of the Most Qualified, 38.79% completed their Key Development time under the old 18–24-month rule and were grandfathered in to the current DA PAM 600-25 rule of 24 months. For comparison, the selection rate to Most Qualified for CMF 11 is at 7.21%, selection rate to Most Qualified for CMF 13 is at 8.71%.

The FY22 SSG Evaluation Board convened on or about 01 February 2022 and the results were posted on 19 May 2022. The SSG Evaluation Board found 103 Most Qualified (11.29%), 665 Fully Qualified, and 144 Not Fully Qualified. Of the Most Qualified, 46.60% completed their Key Development time under the old 18–24-month rule and were grandfathered in to the current DA PAM 600-25 rule of 24 months. For comparison, the selection rate to Most Qualified for CMF 11 is at 2.17%, the selection rate to Most Qualified for CMF 13 is at 2.92%.

The NCOs identified as MQ did the tough demanding assignments. They had numerous professionally developing assignments throughout their careers. The key for selection remains excellence in leadership positions as evidenced by multiple NCOERs, supported by sustained performance in the generating force.

## DOCTRINE

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

Doctrine and Collective Training Division's (DCTD) ABCT Doctrine Branch sent out for Army-wide staffing the Initial draft of ATP 3-90.1, *Armor and Mechanized Infantry Company Team* on 3 June 2022, with a suspense for comments of 21 July 2022.

## CHIEF OF ARMOR COMMENTS

Greetings from Fort Benning! As our Troopers continue to train on both Armor and Cavalry fundamentals, I hope this letter finds you well. During the Month of May USAARMS hosted the 2022 Sullivan Cup here at Fort Benning. Sullivan Cup 2022 was a great success as 7 tank crews and 5 Bradley scout crews from across the Army competed this year. The rigors of the competition challenged all competitors, and it was wonderful to finally host this event after such a long break. We were able to utilize this event to baseline our Tank and Bradley Commander Certification Tests. The results of these tests will further help determine requirements for our Readiness Level Progression Pilot. 316 CAV and 194<sup>th</sup> BDE ensured this was a great event, and I want to thank them for all their hard work and professionalism. Without their dedication and effort this event would not have as successful as it was this year. Our Best Bradley Crew winners this year are from the 3rd Bn., 67th AR, 2nd ABCT, 3rd ID, and our Best Tank Crew winners are from 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. Congratulations to both crews for their hard work and well-fought success!



On June 22<sup>nd</sup> the Change of Command ceremony occurred for the 316<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade. The Brigade bid farewell to COL Peter Glass and welcomed COL Ryan Kranc as the new Commander. The 316<sup>th</sup> prospered under the leadership of COL Glass and his presence will be greatly missed. I am supremely confident in COL Kranc's ability to lead the Brigade moving forward as they continue to develop and train our Armor leaders and test new concepts for the force of the future.

The ABCT Branch continues the initial analysis for the new ATP 3-21.X, *Mechanized Infantry Platoon and Squad* manual, more information will be available next quarter. The Cavalry Doctrine Branch received MCOE approval and forwarded for CAC approval of FM 3-98, *Reconnaissance and Security Operations* on 1 June 2022. We anticipate of FM 3-98 in 4<sup>th</sup> QTR FY22. Additionally, the Cavalry Doctrine Branch is conducting initial analysis with MCOE leadership for ATP 3-20.97, *Cavalry Troop*, and look to have the manual out for Initial Draft staffing to the force by late 4<sup>th</sup> QTR FY22.

As the U.S. Army transitions to optimize for large-scale combat operations, it is essential to understand the complexity and relevance of Subterranean Operations (SbTO). DOTD's Training and Education Development Division (TEDD) released two SbTO training applications: SbTO ALMS Courseware and the VBS3 Scenario. The SbTO course provides the individuals a better understanding of the terms, equipment, formations, and best practices, units can continue their collective training using the SbTO VBS3 scenario designed to replicate a subterranean environment. To register for the course, go to ALMS website, search catalog for "SbTO." Units can contact their local Simulation Facility to download the SbTO VBS3 scenario.

DOTD 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@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.benning.mcoe.mbx.doctrine@army.mil) or through our Masters of Maneuver Twitter page.

Currently we are continuing to make strides in implementing the Armor Standardization and Training Development Strategy 2030. Initial work and coordination have begun between USAARMS and III Corps for a Readiness Level Progression Pilot in early FY23. Concurrent to this effort are MCoE-wide OPTs driving doctrinal change to help implementation. Both efforts are developing requirements and resources needed to accomplish a successful pilot. We have drafted an initial strategy document for review as well as an initial implementation plan for the Readiness Level Progression Pilot. I look forward to updating you further on these efforts.

Looking into the future, October 2024 the Armor branch will begin the implementation of the new MOS 19C. The 19C is a Bradley Crewman which will replace the 11B Bradley crews across all Armored Brigade Combat Teams. The Armor Branch is currently looking for 11Bs with Bradley experience to reclassify to 19C, specifically 11Bs with the additional skill identifier J3, Bradley Master Gunner. The Armor Branch values the experience and knowledge to maintain lethality in these formations during the transition period. The Soldiers will maintain their platform expertise and career progression as well as staying at their current installation.

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

### **LETHALITY BRIGADE** **(316TH CAVALRY BRIGADE)**

The 316<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade, The Army's lethality Brigade continues to train Soldiers, NCOs and Officers, preparing them for duty in Armor, Infantry and Stryker formations. Our functional training courses enable these leaders to operate with confidence on future battlefields. Within the Brigade our instructors continuously refine the Program of Instruction (POI), using lessons learned and emerging technologies to meet the demands of FORSCOM units. Below, Instructors have provided information on two of our courses focused on the Bradley Fighting Vehicle. The Bradley Transition Course and Bradley Commanders Course will provide your Soldiers and Leaders with the tactical and technical skills that are critical to fight and win the first engagements in the next war.

#### **Bridging the Gap in Lethality Bradley Transition Course:**

The III Corps Lethality study finalized in May 2020 identified a major gap in knowledge, training, and fundamental skill in junior leaders transitioning from an Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) or Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) to an Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) when conducting operations as part of a Mechanized Infantry Platoon utilizing M2-Series Bradley Fighting Vehicles (BFV). This gap prompted a decision to send all Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) skill levels 2 and 3 who have never been assigned to an ABCT on TDY enroute to the Bradley Leaders Course (BLC). This decision showed promise in bridging the gap in mechanized lethality, but most of the students attending BLC were, and still remain, Officers. A noticeable short-coming was ever-present as units continued to receive NCOs who were unfamiliar and lacked the basic fundamental skills required to operate within the confines of a Mechanized Infantry Platoon. Thus, the Bradley Transition Course (BTC) was developed.

The purpose of the Bradley Transition Course is to prepare NCOs on orders to an ABCT with no prior BFV experience with the skills and proficiency to lead in a Mechanized Infantry Platoon. Training is focused on familiarizing NCOs with BFV specific training on the maintenance process, employment and logistics at the platoon and lower level. Training includes skill level 2 and 3 technical and tactical skills that will be expected of them in future duty positions. Following attendance at BTC, graduates will be able to:

1. Display confidence in the practical knowledge of the BFV platform including, capabilities and limitations, communications, and safety as a member of a Rifle Squad.
2. Define the Army's BFV maintenance management process in support of a Mechanized Infantry Platoon, including echelon of support available, PMCS, property accountability, and classes of supply as they relate to Large Scale Combat Operations (LSCO).

3. Achieve BFV familiarization by completing select tasks from a BFV-Specific Individual Critical Task List (ICTL), as well as dismounting a BFV.

4. Define tactical employment of a Mechanized Infantry Platoon in support of LSCO from a perspective of dismounted operations in support of mounted maneuver.

### **Bradley Commander's Course – "For All ABCT Leaders"**

Bradley Commander's Course (BCC) is a 14-day, Additional Skill Identifier (B9) producing, Mobile Training Team (MTT) capable course which utilizes collaborative instruction and experiential learning strategies to train Soldiers who will be or are assigned to a Bradley Fighting Vehicle (BFV) equipped unit. The purpose is to train Active Duty and United States Army Reserve Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers to be proficient in critical Bradley Commander, Gunner tasks, and skills necessary to supervise, train, and lead subordinates, increasing lethality and readiness on the BFV across the force.

This is accomplished by focusing on four key areas: Competency in the use, purpose, and functions of Bradley Fire Control and Target Acquisition Systems; Competency in the Bradley maintenance procedures in accordance with TM 9-2350-438-10; Competency in problem solving with combat critical Bradley Commander and Gunner skills; Competency in Bradley Gunnery Skills IAW TC 3-20.31 and TC 3-20.31. These tasks and skills are learned through classroom instruction, simulator training, hands-on experiences, culminating in a Live Fire Exercise. Beginning on day one Soldiers are placed on a two-man crew and execute all training to include simulations in the Conduct of Fire Trainer – Situational Awareness (COFT-SA) as part of that crew, performing the roles of both Bradley Commander and Gunner. This understanding of both roles creates a more well-rounded and lethal Bradley Commander. As part of the final Live Fire Exercise students will have demonstrated a firm understanding in the utilization of fire commands, ammunition selection, crew control and communication, and engagement techniques. During this training event students will also be educated on the major roles and responsibilities necessary to execute a proper gunnery including the OIC, RSO, Master Gunner, Vehicle Crew Evaluators, and Beach Master preparing them to assist in their unit's gunnery execution.

To attend Bradley Commander's Course the Soldier must be an Active Duty or Reserve Officer in the rank of 2LT-MAJ in AOC 11A, 12A, 13A, 19A, or Non-Commissioned Officer (SGT-SFC) with a primary MOS of 11B, 19D, 12B, or 13F. Soldiers below the rank of SGT assigned as a gunner may request a waiver to attend through the Chief of Armor (USAARMS). Units that want to request changes to Program of Instruction content during MTT courses may also submit a waiver through the first LTC Commander in their Chain of Command. The graduates of Bradley Commander's Course will report to their units as confident and competent leaders with experience in the capabilities and limitations of the Bradley Fighting Vehicle.

For more information find 316<sup>th</sup> Cavalry BDE POI information at [Fort Benning | 316th Cavalry Brigade \(army.mil\)](https://www.army.mil/316thCavalry).

### **DRIVING CHANGE: LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS IN LARGE SCALE COMBAT OPERATIONS (194TH ARMORED BRIGADE)**

World events during the early months of 2022 have served to reinforce the urgency behind the Army's shift away from counterinsurgency operations towards competency in Large Scale Combat Operations (LSCO). 19D One Station Unit Training (OSUT) is supporting this shift through two ongoing initiatives; improving graduate proficiency on vehicle platforms and increasing rigor during field training exercises. These changes will result in Scouts that are better prepared to operate during LSCO immediately upon arrival at their first unit.

Critical to Scout success during LSCO is proficiency on vehicle platforms. To that end, 19D OSUT is increasing the amount of vehicle training that trainees receive. Eventually, all graduates will depart OSUT licensed on either a Bradley or Stryker, depending on their first unit. In addition to licensing, Scouts will receive more training on vehicle PMCS and other 10 level crew tasks, all with the goal of enabling them to serve as a vehicle crewmember as quickly as possible upon arrival to their first unit.

Scouts must also be proficient at dismounted operations during LSCO, therefore 19D OSUT is implementing changes to the culminating FTX to add rigor and better replicate the conditions Scouts would endure during major combat operations. Specifically, the final FTX is transitioning from a discrete, lane-based format to five days of continuous reconnaissance and security operations. Trainees operate as members of cadre led scout sections conducting dismounted zone, area, and route reconnaissance over extended distances and transition to observation posts conducting security operations at night. During operations, sections encounter OPFOR that look and operate like the current threat, adding to the realism of the training. Assessment standards have also been updated to focus on individual tasks required of Scouts in LSCO. Ultimately, these changes will produce Scouts that are more proficient in their basic scout skills at graduation.

As security threats change in the world 19D OSUT will continue to adapt to meet the needs of the Army. The current focus on LSCO will ensure that graduates arrive to their units prepared to immediately contribute to the organization and lays the foundation for increased readiness across the Cavalry force.

HQ U.S. Army Armor School			
	Chief of Armor	(706) 545-2029	BG Thomas Feltey
	Armor CSM	(706) 545-8169	CSM LeVares Jackson
	Deputy Commandant	(706) 545-8334	COL Donald Braman
	Armor Historian	(706) 626-1491	Dr. Robert Cameron
	OCOA Director	(706) 545-1352	Mr. George DeSario
	OCOA SGM	(706) 545-7725	MSG Richard Thomas
	OCOA (Excellence in Armor, Armor and Cavalry Leadership Award etc...)	(706) 626-TANK (8265)	<a href="mailto:usarmy.benning.mco.mbx.armor-ocoa@army.mil">usarmy.benning.mco.mbx.armor-ocoa@army.mil</a>
<b>ARMOR</b> Magazine	(706) 545-2698	<a href="mailto:usarmy.benning.tradoc.mbx.armor-magazine@army.mil">usarmy.benning.tradoc.mbx.armor-magazine@army.mil</a>	

### 194th AR BDE

COL Jason Rosenstrauch CSM Jon Derek Noyes			
	30th AG (REC)	LTC Frederick Babauta	CSM Antoinette Green
	1-81 AR	LTC Ryan Gainey	CSM Richard Meeker
	2-15 CAV	LTC Martin Andres	CSM Steven Smerer
	5-15 CAV	LTC David Culver	CSM Heriberto Reyes

### 316th CAV BDE

COL Ryan Kranc CSM Carvet Tate			
	1-16 CAV	LTC Courtney Dean	CSM Henry Pantoja
	1-29 IN	LTC Erich Roberts	CSM Jeffery Grothause
	3-16 CAV	LTC Daniel Cannon	CSM Noah Pugh
	MATA	LTC Bradford Brannon	MSG Aaron Duncan

### 199th IN BDE

COL Victor Satterlund CSM Roy Young			
	2-16 CAV	LTC James Trask	CSM Randal Edmondson

### Other Agencies

ACM ABCT & RECON	COL Jason Kidder	ACM IBCT	COL David Sandoval	ACM SBCT	COL Sam Edwards
	(706) 626-2444		(706) 545-3911		(706) 545-7751
ACM SFAB	COL Paul Davis	Doctrine	Mr. David Guthrie	MRD	Mr. Tom Stafford
	(913) 684-8843		(706) 545-7114		(706) 545-8355

### ARMOR SCHOOL LINKS

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

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- 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>

Charlie Niner Two: <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/charlie-niner-two>

Vehicle Crew Evaluators: <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/vehicle-crew-evaluator>

Gunnery SOPs: <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/weapons-and-gunnery-standard-operating-procedures-sop>

Individual Weapons: <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/individual-weapons>

Sabot Academy: <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/sabot-academy>