

# Chief of Armor Hatch: Strengthening the Branch's Core

It is an honor to assume responsibilities as the 51<sup>st</sup> Chief of Armor. I want to thank promotable BG John Kolasheski for his leadership, drive and dedication to the Armor Branch and school for the past year.

Reconnaissance and security are at the very core of our branch, reaching back to our foundation as cavalry. Armor and Cavalry leaders and Soldiers are renowned for their grasp of the combined-arms fight and are well trained to integrate all warfighting functions into sound execution of reconnaissance and security fundamentals, enabling combined-arms maneuver. Armored brigade combat teams (ABCTs) are the center of gravity for the Armor Branch. ABCTs are currently in high demand, with continuous deployments in support of regionally aligned force operations in Korea, Europe and the Middle East. Tankers and scouts are masters of the combined-arms fight across all BCT types – we remain the combat arm of decision!

The Armor School will continue to build and train lethal Soldiers and leaders as we prepare the growing Armor force for the rapidly changing operational environment. For the past 241 years, the basis of our profession has been the ability to decisively maneuver against and deliver precise lethal direct fires on the enemy. Well-trained combined-arms battalions and Cavalry squadrons deliver shock effect and lethality and are decisive.

We will continue to engage with the operating force through unit and combat-training center (CTC) visits, the Cavalry and Armor warfighting forums, division-level Cavalry symposiums, the Gainey and Sullivan Cups, **ARMOR** magazine, **Thunderbolt Blast** and through our Facebook page. I want to highlight a key organization that manages outreach among the Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCoE), Armor School and the operating force: the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command's capability manager for the ABCT (TCM-ABCT). The TCM-ABCT director and his team spend a considerable amount of time on the road at CTCs and division umbrella weeks to engage and interact with units to capture current observations.

The Armor School is leading an MCoE effort to analyze the current state of combat platform lethality in all three BCT types. This effort will look across the Army's doctrine, organization, training programs, materiel, leadership and education programs and policy spectrum to assess, then develop, a combat-platform lethality strategy enabling a more lethal maneuver force.

Within our leader development and functional training courses, the Armor School is ensuring that the leaders we send to the force are educated, trained and ready to lead on day one. This includes ensuring our lieutenants are trained to lead tank and scout platoons; our captains are able to command tank companies and Cavalry troops, and lead battalion, squadron and BCT staffs; and noncommissioned officers are experts on their combat platforms and prepared to lead in Armor and Cavalry formations.

In support of the Maneuver Center's efforts to modernize the current force, the Armor School is working closely with MCoE's Capabilities Development and Integration Directorate to develop the doctrine and capabilities of the future maneuver force that enable our Armor and Cavalry formations to dominate and win across the range of military operations.

It's an exciting time to be a member of the Armor and Cavalry team, and I am humbled to serve as the 51<sup>st</sup> Chief of Armor. We look forward to your attendance at the Maneuver Warfighter Conference Sept. 12-15, 2017. Please keep in touch.

**BG DAVID LESPERANCE**  
Chief of Armor/Commandant  
U.S. Army Armor School

## Acronym Quick-Scan

**ABCT** – armored brigade combat team

**CTC** – combat-training center

**MCoE** – Maneuver Center of Excellence

**TCM-ABCT** – (U.S. Army) Training and Doctrine Command capability manager for the armored brigade combat team