

Gunner's Seat: Reconnaissance and Security, the Gainey Cup

In this edition of **ARMOR**, I will focus on the upcoming Gainey Cup. I would like to address who the competition is named after, what the competition represents and, finally, the importance of the scout squad.

The Gainey Cup is named in honor of retired CSM William Gainey. CSM Gainey started his tenure in the Army in 1974 when he enlisted as a 19D, and he served in every position from driver to command sergeant major. CSM Gainey served as the command sergeant major for more than eight units and organizations. He holds the distinguished honor of being selected in 2005 to serve as the first senior-enlisted adviser to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

This year's Gainey Cup competition takes place the first week of May. The competition brings cavalrymen together in a healthy and competitive environment while building *esprit de corps* and developing reconnaissance and security (R&S) proficiency. The event includes teams from the U.S. Army, the U.S. Marine Corps and select international partners. The competition will be physically and mentally challenging for all troopers by rigorously testing their knowledge, tactical competence and fortitude in the fundamentals of R&S operations. At the end of the two-day competition, the winning unit will be declared the "best scout squad."

The competition focuses on the performance of the scout squad and the ability of the junior noncommissioned officer (NCO) to train, plan and execute tasks with his Soldiers. The training these junior NCOs provide is the key factor in determining who succeeds during the Gainey Cup. The sole purpose of these NCOs is to increase the effectiveness and knowledge base of their Soldiers. Competitions such as this are great demonstrations of the ability of the Army's junior NCOs to train and motivate their Soldiers to expect and achieve excellence.

Senior NCOs must continue to provide the supervision and expertise that allows our junior NCOs to be so successful in their endeavors. Please continue to train and motivate your NCOs and Soldiers to come and compete at such events as the Gainey Cup.

Save the dates May 1-4 to join us at the 2017 Gainey Cup. We look forward to seeing you.

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