

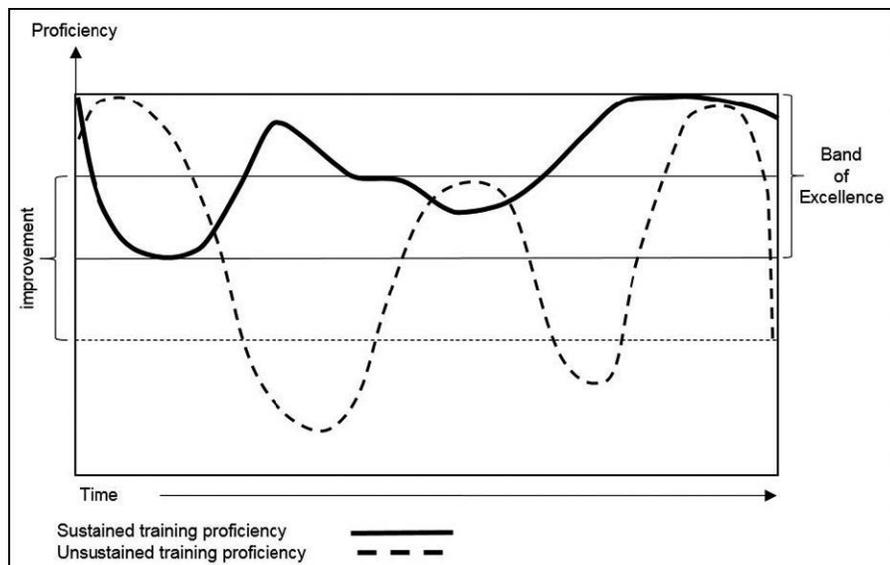
# Chief of Armor's Hatch: Train to Maintain, Train to Sustain

*"When we send the Army somewhere, we don't go to participate, we don't go to try hard, we go to win. Winning matters! We win by doing the right things the right way." -GEN James C. McConville, Army Chief of Staff, initial message to the Army team*

Today's Armored Force needs to be ready to deploy at any time, to any location, and to perform multiple missions. Once the unit arrives at its location to perform combat operations, advising missions, or partnered training, it's imperative that readiness does not decline. "Train to maintain" and "train to sustain" are two of the 10 principles of training outlined in Army Doctrine Reference Publication 7-0

([https://usacac.army.mil/sites/default/files/misc/doctrine/CDG/cdg\\_resources/manuals/adrp/ADRP\\_7-0.pdf](https://usacac.army.mil/sites/default/files/misc/doctrine/CDG/cdg_resources/manuals/adrp/ADRP_7-0.pdf)).

Deployed formations have the potential to dramatically increase their readiness by maximizing available training time and resources with limited training distractions.



**Figure 1. Sustaining proficiency within a band of excellence.**

With more training time and resources, how are you going to increase lethality in your formation on deployment? Prior to departing home station, there are many training opportunities available that will improve individual proficiency in our craft. Step 2 of the eight-step training model is "train and certify leaders." One of the best opportunities to train leaders is to enroll in a functional course at the U.S. Army Armor School (USAARMS). For more information on Armor and Cavalry programs of instruction, check the 316<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade course book (<https://www.benning.army.mil/Armor/316thCav/Content/PDF/316th%20BDE%20CATALOG%20FY20.pdf?24SEP2019/>).

The Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Corps has a fundamental role in unit training. NCOs are responsible for the individual training of Soldiers, crews and small teams. NCOs conduct standards-based, performance-oriented, battle-focused training, and there are several USAARMS functional courses that all Armor NCOs should take, including M1 Abrams Master Gunner and the Maneuver Leader's Maintenance Course. Cavalry NCOs should graduate Bradley Master Gunner School, Scout Leader's Course, Cavalry Leader's Course and Bradley Commander and Gunner Certification Course (BCGCC). USAARMS is already working with Human Resources Command to identify Soldiers on assignment who have limited armored brigade combat team experience and send them temporary-duty to BCGCC to ensure our NCOs are ready to lead on Day 1 of their assignment.

Master gunners continue to be the cornerstone of our gunnery training progressions and represent platform expertise. NCOs should strive to become master gunners to increase individual knowledge and help the formation sharpen lethal Leaders and Soldiers. An important first step in growing master gunners is to establish a sabot academy. The course requirements are minor, and the course provides the master-gunner candidate with the best opportunity to mentally prepare for the Master Gunner Course. Check <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-350788> for Abrams Sabot Academy course material; <https://login.milsuite.mil/?goto=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.milsuite.mil%3A443%2Fbook%2Fdocs%2FDOC-486004> for Bradley Sabot Academy course material; and <https://login.milsuite.mil/?goto=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.milsuite.mil%3A443%2Fbook%2Fgroups%2Fstryker-master-gunner-course> for Stryker Master Gunner. Check the Army Training Requirements and Resources System Website (<https://www.atrrs.army.mil/atrrscc/search.aspx>) for information about course date and waiver information.

Lastly, the 2020 Sullivan Cup has been postponed and will be rescheduled once global health concerns have been mitigated. Check <https://www.benning.army.mil/armor/sullivan/> for updates on the 2020 Sullivan Cup.

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## **Acronym Quick-Scan**

**BCGCC** – Bradley Commander and Gunner Certification Course

**NCO** – noncommissioned officer

**USAARMS** – U.S. Army Armor School