

Chief of Armor Hatch: Armor School Progress

The U.S. Army Armor School (USAARMS) made great strides over the past 24 months along our lines of effort. Soldiers and leaders who train at our one-station unit training (OSUT), Armor Basic Officer Leader's Course (ABOLC) and our functional courses are more confident, proficient, disciplined and **Armor Ready** due to the efforts of the men and women in USAARMS.

We continued our efforts to develop better Armor and Cavalry Soldiers and leaders. The 194th Armored Brigade did a phenomenal job updating and modernizing the programs of instruction (Pols) for 19D and 19K initial-entry Soldiers. The 22-week OSUT is profoundly better than the 15-week 19D and 17-week 19K models. This transformation provides the force with better-trained Soldiers who are ready to contribute to their units on Day 1.

The 316th Cavalry Brigade updated Pols for ABOLC as well as the Scout and Cavalry Leader's Courses. The updates build leader proficiency through multiple sets and repetitions during hands-on instruction and increase confidence.

They also made significant improvements to the Master Gunner Course. It now provides learning content around the duties and responsibilities of a company master gunner and current live-fire doctrine. The course provides more opportunities to produce graduates as well. We overlapped courses and created re-entry points, which keeps students on track to graduate and return to their units ready to improve live-fire training programs. Candidates will have more opportunities to graduate the course and spend less time at Fort Benning.

In addition to the improvements to the Master Gunner Course, we created the Pre-Master Gunner Assessment Course. Divisions now have a standardized curriculum to prepare candidates for course attendance at Fort Benning, GA. We created modules with practical exercises to ensure the level of detail, method of testing, study habits and attention to detail are established well before attending the course. Also, battalions and brigades can choose specific classes from the curriculum and train soldiers (of any rank) based on knowledge gaps inside their organizations.

We also made gains in our efforts to develop a better mounted capability and future force. We updated and publish the new Tank and Scout Platoon Standing Operating Procedures; Field Manual 3-98, **Reconnaissance Security Operations**; and Army Techniques Publication 3-90.5, **The Combined-Arms Battalion**, and we published the **Armored Training and Leadership Strategy**. These documents will improve Armor lethality and enable the Army to fight and win during large-scale combat operations.

We also started various modernization efforts that will affect our armored brigade combat teams (ABCTs) in the future. We enabled echeloned reconnaissance by designing the division cavalry squadron, armored-cavalry troop and light reconnaissance company. We proposed a way to address a capability gap within the Army by designing the armor assault company, and our ABCT redesign will enable efforts to establish the division as the unit of action.

We also worked with the Fort Benning enterprise to improve the training area. The Northern Mounted Maneuver Training Area construction efforts are a 50-year plan to develop multi-purpose training ranges that keep pace with advancements in mounted gunnery; this effort will create better maneuver training opportunities for Soldiers.

The COVID environment has not stopped us from telling the Armor story and advocating for the branch. Although we weren't able to communicate face-to-face, we leveraged multiple virtual platforms to conduct leader professional-development sessions with colleges and universities as well as support branch-accession initiatives. This provided great opportunities to tell the Army story and build on recruiting efforts for the branch and the Army.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your 52nd Armor Commandant. We made remarkable advancements over the last two years, and I know USAARMS will continue this work while producing the best tankers and scouts in the world.

TREAT 'EM ROUGH!

BG KEVIN D. ADMIRAL
Chief of Armor/Commandant
U.S. Army Armor School

Acronym Quick-Scan

ABCT – armored brigade combat team

ABOLC – Armor Basic Officer Leader's Course

OSUT – one-station unit training

Pol – program of instruction

USAARMS – U.S. Army Armor School