

Chief of Armor Hatch: DOTMLPF-P Integration and Armor Transformation through 2030

On June 13, 2023, the Chief of Staff of the Army signed the updated Army Regulation (AR) 5-22, *The Army Force Modernization Proponent and Integration System*, which moved force-modernization proponentcy for Armor to the Office of Commandant of Armor. This comes at an inflection point for the Armor Branch as the Army restructures for 2030.

For the first time since moving from Fort Knox, KY, the Armor School has proponentcy for Armor across doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel, facilities and policy (DOTMLPF-P). Yet the work of creating capability for the Army has never been due to the work of a single office. The Next-Generation Combat Vehicle Cross-Functional Team will continue to perform the leading role in material development – a process in our branch that requires years of foresight. The Maneuver Combat Development and Integration Directorate and doctrine offices at the Maneuver Center of Excellence must continue to play leading roles in future-force design and doctrine development.

Providing the operational force what it requires is a team effort; it always has been. Over the coming months, our goal is to work with our key partners to create a comprehensive strategy for you – our Armor leaders – that will allow the branch to transform into the force required for 2030 and beyond.

Regardless of these regulatory changes, our trajectory as a branch will remain soundly grounded in the notion of enabling our Armor and Cavalry formations to fight and win during sustained land-combat operations as part of the Army and joint force. Since the Army reinvigorated our focus on large-scale combat operations beginning in 2014, Armor Branch has strived to institutionalize a culture of mounted warfighting expertise across the branch.

While the force maintains a high operational tempo, armored brigade combat teams (ABCTs) remain in high demand to continue to train and deploy in support of combatant commands. Armor leaders must continue to embrace what makes our branch experts: mastery of the basic tasks in mounted-maneuver warfare required to fight and win against a peer threat.

Our vision at the U.S. Army Armor School remains generally unchanged. We have updated it slightly based solely on the rebalancing across the branch that must take place, including the introduction of the 19C military-occupation specialty (MOS) beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025. Even as we build and plan an Armored Force that meets the Army of 2030's requirements, we remain committed to reinforcing the warfighting expertise, propagated throughout the branch by leaders at echelon, that begins in the schoolhouse through rigid adherence to established standards.

Given this vision, our priorities at the Armor School have been firmly grounded in the work that lies ahead for our branch. First, we must reinforce a culture of warfighting expertise among all ranks of the branch – a job that begins with the reinforcement of standards for training, leader development and maintenance at the U.S. Army Armor School.

Second, we must train and develop today's Armor and Cavalry formations to fight on the modern battlefield. We must adapt our training to the realities of armored warfare presented by increased lethal, long-range precision fires, enemy lethal unmanned aerial systems and competition in the electromagnetic spectrum.

Third, we must begin executing the task of building the forces of 2025-2029 based on acquisition decisions made over the last few years.

Fourth, we must finalize our design for an Armor 2030 formation that provides the capabilities required by the National Defense Strategy and the current Army Strategy. These future designs must be based on the realistic expectation of which matured technologies will provide increased capability to the force rather than romanticized perceptions of war that provide little value to the Soldiers putting their lives at risk for our nation.

Finally, we must support Army Futures Command as they look beyond 2030 to further develop concepts and capabilities for the Army of 2040.

Given these priorities, this next year will be exciting for the Armored Force. In the short-term, we will continue to focus on supporting manning for ABCTs, but beginning in FY25 we will work to position the branch to smoothly transition the manning of our mechanized-infantry platforms to the 19C MOS. We will welcome the M10 Booker to the Armored Force and support establishment of mobile protected firepower in the XVIII Airborne Corps once again. We will continue the readiness-level progression pilot with several ABCTs in the force as we iterate a standardized operational training path for our crews to improve lethality.

We will host the Sullivan Cup best-tank-crew competition April 29 to May 3, 2024, with the best crews from across the Armored Force as well as from allies. This competition will test the fundamental skill of our forces' finest mounted warriors and continue to serve as a baseline for how the force is doing with regard to training and leader development.

It's my honor to serve as the 54th Chief of Armor here at Fort Moore, GA. Thanks to the previous Chief of Armor, BG Thomas M. Feltey, who over the last two years moved the Armor School forward in the right direction. It's our goal to continue to build on that great foundation and integrate the new authorities of AR 5-22 to shape a comprehensive DOTMLPF-F strategy for the Armored Force from today to 2030. I look forward to establishing an open dialogue with leaders throughout the branch and Army as we continue to work together on the critical issues facing the Armor Branch and our Armor and Cavalry troopers.

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Chief of Armor/Commandant
U.S. Army Armor School

Acronym Quick-Scan

AR – Army regulation

DOTMLPF-P – doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel, facilities and policy

FY – fiscal year

MOS – military-occupation specialty