

MOS 19M: The Mechanized Warrior

by Alex Turkatte

The 2001 elimination of Military-Occupation Specialty (MOS) 11M Mechanized Infantry, without a replacement MOS or an additional-skill identifier (ASI)¹, has left the Infantry Branch without a professionally trained mounted fighting force. This article will review a concept for an enlisted MOS dedicated to professional mechanized warfare.



Figure 1. Bradley Fighting Vehicle (BFV) firing at Fort Benning.

In a critical time when the Army is considering consolidation of MOSs to maximize personnel fill across generalized assignments, the rise of near-peer adversaries such as Russia make evident the need for specialty training in platform-based lethality and overmatch. Although the recent addition of a 30mm cannon to Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicles provides more firepower, there remains a lack of mobile protected firepower (MPF) when compared with armored-brigade platforms. The lack of defensive capabilities and soft-soil maneuver ability from U.S. formations stationed in Europe required the return of a rotational armored brigade combat team (ABCT).

The U.S. formations that would be called upon during a European conflict are assigned universal infantrymen that must perform specialized tasks across a myriad of assignments within the Stryker brigade combat team, infantry brigade combat team (IBCT) and rotational ABCT. Despite the current need for increased maneuver, lethality and survivability, the primary specialized training for the infantryman is only through tab or badge-producing functional courses focused on light team and squad-level organizations:

- Special Qualifications Indicator (SQI) P + badge – basic airborne course;
- SQI G + tab – Ranger Course (SQI V when combined with airborne course);
- ASI 5W + badge – Jumpmaster Course;
- ASI 2B + badge – Air-Assault Course;
- ASI F7 + badge – Pathfinder Course;
- ASI 6B – Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leader’s Course (team-level training);
- ASI B4 – Sniper Course; and
- ASI B8 – Heavy Weapon Leader’s Course (former MOS 11H tube-launched, optically tracked, wire guided missile and small-arms training).

The one infantry course that provides technical assignment-oriented training for the highest form of lethality is the Bradley Master Gunner (BMG) Course.² BMG awards ASI J3, which is used for matching trained personnel to a modified table of organization and equipment-required duty position. However, the BMG course is only authorized

to be instructed by 11B Soldiers, which causes it to be one of the lowest priority for fill vs. light-infantry classes on Fort Benning. In fact, 19D Soldiers are called on to fill the routine 11B BMG instructor vacancies to meet rotational ABCT and operational-force mission requirements. This MOS misalignment comes at the expense of creating instructor billpayer vacancies within high-lethality and maneuver courses where 19Ds are critical.

Armor Branch career-management field (CMF) 19 is the only branch within the U.S. Army that is dedicated to direct-combat mounted warfare throughout all three brigade combat teams, to include the light IBCT. Although only one-third the size of Infantry Branch, CMF 19 Soldiers attend more than eight assignment-oriented courses that produce specialized ASIs required on operational tables of organization and equipment (TOE). These skills provide the CMF 19 Soldier with competencies at platoon level and above which are necessary to fight and win against a near-peer adversary.

The TOE-required ASI courses following provide the highest form of maneuver, reconnaissance³ and lethality to close with and destroy our enemies:

- ASI B9 – M2A3/M3A3 (Bradley) operator/system maintainer;
- ASI D3 – BFV operations and maintenance;
- ASI K8 – M1A2 Systems Enhancement Program Abrams Master Gunner Course;*
- ASI A8 – M1A1 Abrams Master Gunner Course (requires K8 course completion);
- ASI R8 – Stryker Master Gunner Course*;
- ASI R4 – Mobile Gun System commander;
- ASI R7 – Army Reconnaissance Course (platoon-level reconnaissance training); and
- ASI C6 – Cavalry Leader’s Course (company-level reconnaissance training).

*J3, K8 and R8 courses currently require completion of master-gunner common core.

The 19M concept proposal is a return of the former MOS 11M, except under the management and career oversight of the armor-personnel proponent within the Office of the Chief of Armor (OCA). MOS 19M would begin initial-entry training (IET) with professional instruction on the lethality and overmatch of tracked-vehicle platforms and weapons systems such as the BFV. Upon completion of IET, the 19M would be assigned to ABCT formations, with possible generating-force assignments at combat-training centers or at the Fort Benning schoolhouse. More duty positions could be created where MPF crews are required, such as within U.S. Army Forces Command at echelons above brigade.

A draft career map for MOS 19M is provided in Figure 2, using U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC)’s format for the enlisted talent-development model (TDM).

See below for Figure 2. MOS 19M TDM.

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Notes

¹ DA Pamphlet 611-21, ASI Table 12-2, <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-197933>.

² Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle Systems Master Gunner Course, 1-29th Infantry Battalion, <https://www.benning.army.mil/Armor/316thCav/129/BMG/>.

³ 316th Cavalry Brigade, course programs of instruction, https://www.benning.army.mil/Armor/316thCav/index.html?_=2114#Pol.

Acronym Quick-Scan

ABCT – armored brigade combat team

ASI – additional skill identifier

BFV – Bradley Fighting Vehicle

BMG – Bradley master gunner
CMF – career-management field
IBCT – infantry brigade combat team
IET – initial-entry training
MOS – military-occupation specialty
MPF – mobile protected firepower
OCOA – Office Chief of Armor
SQL – special qualifications indicator
TDM – talent-development model
TOE – table of organization and equipment
TRADOC – (U.S. Army) Training and Doctrine Command

Years of Service

2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 26 28 30

								
Key Leadership Position	Driver, Gunner	Team Leader	Squad Leader / Section Leader	Platoon Sergeant*	First Sergeant	BN/BDE CSM	BN/BDE CSM	BN/BDE CSM
Military/Civilian Education	DLC 1 WIC	DLC 2 ALC	DLC 3 SLC	DLC 4 MLC Associate's Degree	DLC 5 SMC Bachelor's Degree	DLC 6 Nom Master's Degree		SEIPME P1 Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education SEIPME P2 Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education
Broadening Opportunities	Assistant Operations Sergeant / Operations NCO, Instructor, Recruiter	Company Master Gunner, Assistant Operations Sergeant / Operations NCO, Drill Sergeant, Recruiter, Instructor	Battalion Master Gunner, Senior Drill Sergeant, Recruiter, TAC NCO, Career MGT NCO, Career Advisor, HRC, Project Warrior, AWG Advisor, Security Force Assistance Brigade, Observer Controller Trainer (OC/T)	Division Master Gunner, Senior Career Advisor, ROTC, IG NCO, EDA, ROTC Instructor, Senior Observer Controller Trainer (OC/T), Inspector General NCO	Proponent & Leader Development SGM, OCOA SGM, USASMA Faculty Advisor, BN/BDE CSM, AC/RC Chief Enlisted Advisor			
Military Training	Master Gunner, ARC, CLC, SARC, MRT, MFT, MFT, Battle Staff, SAFETY, HAZMAT, UPL, Master Driver, CBRNE, Ammo Handler, IG, EO, Security Force Assistance Course						Pre Command Course, Keystone AMF, Command Sergeant Major Legal Orientation	

* Platoon Sergeant within ABCT Cavalry Squadron require completion of Bradley Master Gunner, ASI J3.