

Darkhorse Troop

Mission: D Troop, 2-16 CAV (Phase III) educates and trains Army and Marine Corps Armor officers to become confident, competent leaders, who are grounded in doctrine, and able to successfully lead Tanks and Scout platoons in the Operational Force.

Phase III consists of 27 training days designed to train and assess ABOLC students in a tactical field environment. Four days of Phase III are spent in a classroom or simulator environment, either in the train/educate mode, or in a simulated graded practical exercise. These days are designed to review doctrine and the OPOD process with students in order to prepare them to successfully lead a tank or scout platoon in a tactical field environment. Students spend 11 days conducting Situational Training Exercises (STX) focused on tank platoon, scout platoon, and troop-level operations. Following successful completion of STX, students transition to the Competitive Maneuver Exercise (CME) for a seven-day summative assessment of student learning through hands-on application and demonstrated proficiency of student learning. The phase concludes with two days of recovery, after which the students are returned to C Troop for out-processing and graduation. Additionally, performance counseling is conducted at two points during Phase III (mid-phase and end of phase) – following platoon STX and following CME (day of execution varies based on the class).

Phase III Outcomes are:

- (1) Lieutenants understand their role in Combined Arms Maneuver.
- (2) Lieutenants are able to plan, integrate, and employ direct and indirect fires.
- (3) Lieutenants are able to plan Tank and Scout platoon operations.
- (4) Lieutenants are able to effectively communicate a plan orally, written, and graphically.
- (5) Lieutenants are able to effectively employ a Tank and Scout platoon.
- (6) Lieutenants are able to sustain and maintain a platoon.