

Thunderbolt Blast

Monthly Armor School Newsletter

Vol. 2, Issue 3 MARCH 2013



Armor School

316th CAVALRY BRIGADE: GAINEY CUP. Ten active-duty divisions, as well as three National Guard teams and a team from the Marine Corps, made up the 19 teams that competed for the Gainey Cup this year. All teams showed they were in excellent physical condition as they competed non-stop for nearly three days. The "Best Scout Team in the Military" was the team from 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, from the 4th Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, Fort Richardson, AK. We have learned some valuable lessons during this competition. It is clear our scouts are physically strong and are prepared to use direct and indirect fire to engage the enemy when required. It is also clear that scouts need to return to the basics and train vehicle identification, day and night land navigation, observation-post establishment and prepare for CBRNE attacks. More to follow on this event as we prepare an article to be published in **ARMOR** magazine. For more information and pictures of the Gainey Cup, join the 800 followers on Facebook at the site https://www.facebook.com/groups/528944870458594/notify_group_r2j#!/groups/528944870458594/.

194th ARMOR BRIGADE: FEMALE INTEGRATION. E Company "Easy Riders," 3-81 Armor Battalion, 194th Armor Brigade, is the only training company in the U.S. Army responsible for training 91A (Abrams System Maintainer) and 91M (Bradley System Maintainer) AIT Soldiers. The 91A/M AIT course trains Soldiers to read schematics and technical manuals, basic electronics, remove/install components and troubleshoot vehicles. Their training culminates with a five-day exercise which tests the Soldier's performance on maintenance tasks and recovery operations in a simulated but realistic combat environment. On 6 Mar 13, the first six female Soldiers began training as 91Ms, a previously "male only" MOS. Also, the first female instructor ever for the 91M Bradley Systems Maintainer Course seamlessly integrated into the organization, setting an outstanding example for all 91 series Soldiers. This is one of the first in a series of changes to Army policy regarding women since 1994 when DoD banned females from serving in "close-combat positions." Women have been serving with distinction in other Ordnance positions, essentially performing the same tasks as 91A/M Soldiers, only on different vehicle systems. To this end, the Easy Riders will continue to enforce the standards and provide the force with technically and tactically competent maintainers!

Armor Branch and OCOA Personnel Notes

AOCS 19B AND 19C TO BE REDUCED TO AOC 19. The ongoing initiative to eliminate AOCs 19B and 19C to 19A after necessary memorandums is approved by the DA Office. Once approved, it will go into effect by 31 Oct 2015. No change in training strategy will result because Human Resources Command (HRC) no longer uses either AOC 19B or 19C in the assignments selection process for Armor Branch officers. As stated by OPMD Armor Branch, AOCs 19B and 19C are legacy codes from division-level cavalry units, which are now obsolete. Armor lieutenants who have follow-on assignments at cavalry squadrons will continue to be given priority for attendance at the Army Reconnaissance Course (ARC) immediately following Armor Basic Officer Leader Course (ABOLC).

From the Chief of Armor's Turret

March came in like a lion as 19 scout teams competed in the inaugural Gainey Cup Best Scout Team Competition at Fort Benning, GA. When the dust settled after four days of competition, the top three teams were 1-40th Cav from 4th Brigade (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division; 4-73rd Cav from 4th Brigade, 82nd ABN; and 3-1 Cav from 3rd Brigade, 3rd ID ... congratulations again!



The Gainey Cup challenged the teams' knowledge and application of cavalry scout skills, their physical endurance and their weapons proficiency. Because the teams came from across the Army, the Army National Guard and the USMC, the competition provided an opportunity to review our scouts' proficiency. Based on the trends, we will revisit our instruction and will provide recommendations to help inform unit training for decisive action.

Releases of the LTC, COL Command and CSM Centralized Selection Lists occurred this month, and Armor selection rates were tremendous. At the brigade-command level, Armor Branch did very well and achieved proportional numbers for our population as we had a total of 16 principals selected – a significant upward trend from the four officers selected in FY13. This was also the case at the battalion-command level, where we had 33 officers selected as a principal, an increase from 31 selected in FY13.

While specific command slating has not been published yet, our selection numbers suggest that we will be more represented in BCT and BN commands for FY14 than FY13.

For CSM selections, Armor had 10 principals selected at the brigade level and 38 at the battalion level, while the nominative board

RESIDENT ILE SLATING. Human Resources Command (HRC) is developing the resident Intermediate Level Education (ILE) slate for Calendar Year 2014 because of the FY13 majors' promotion and ILE selection boards. See the following for information and clarification about requests for deferral, changes of venue, activations and publication timelines.

Officers requesting a deferral must submit a DA 4187 through the first general officer in their chain of command to HRC NLT 15 Apr 13 for determination by the VCSA. Contact your assignment officer to discuss the potential ramifications of this action. Some units may attempt a "mass" deferral. However, deferrals will only be considered on an individual basis. "Mass" deferrals will be packaged with the individual deferral requests and forwarded to the VCSA for final determination. DA 4187 examples can be found at <https://www.hrc.army.mil/Officer/Intermediate%20Level%20Education>.

Officers requesting a change of venue (resident to distance learning (DL) or satellite to DL) must submit a DA 4187 through the first general officer in their chain of command to HRC NLT 15 Apr 13 for determination by the VCSA. Officers selected for resident ILE who are currently in an AOC-producing program (OCLL, JCS, AFPAK Hands, etc.) must contact HRC for venue determination. Officers slated to attend a resident course in AY14 and are competing for an AOC-producing Fellowship program that also begins in AY14 should contact their assignment officer. Contact your assignment officer to discuss the potential ramifications of this action. <https://www.hrc.army.mil/Officer/Intermediate%20Level%20Education>.

Slating will occur after final determination by VCSA of deferrals and changes of venue. Slating is based upon availability of the officer. Unit requirements are considered to the greatest extent possible; however, the VCSA is the approval authority for all deferrals and changes of venue. All officers selected for resident attendance not receiving a deferral or change of venue from the VCSA will be slated for attendance in AY14.

Activations will occur during slating to fill all available resident and satellite seats in AY14. Officer Branch has **NO** control, influence or input into the activation of an officer for any ILE venue. Leader Development Division (LDD), HRC, executes and manages the activations in accordance with the OML established by the ILE selection board. LDD will validate activations, and assignment officers will notify activated officers of their change in status.

Tentative publication of the final resident slate is 1 Sep 13, but this remains subject to change.

Doctrine Updates

COMMENTS WELCOME. Have you ever read a doctrinal manual and found a mistake, or do you have a recommendation for change? Where can you go to voice your concerns or recommendations? We at the Maneuver Center of Excellence Doctrine and Collective Training Division represent you, the maneuver Soldier, in all things doctrine. Regardless of the manual you want to comment on, send your comments to us and we will ensure your dialogue is addressed and feedback provided. Send your concerns to the points of contact below by email or telephonically, and we will carry your concerns to the organization that can provide the answers you seek.

Armor Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) Soldiers and leaders will want to review the upcoming final draft staffing of Field Manual (FM) 3-96, **Armored Brigade Combat Team Operations**. We expect to have this manual available for staffing next month and will provide an update in the next newsletter. All current doctrinal manuals for ABCT organizations are available on our AKO Webpage at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/abctdoctrine>. Your ABCT doctrine representatives are LTC Stephon Calhoun, stephon.calhoun.mil@mail.mil, (706) 545-3981, and Bruce Moore, bruce.m.moore2.civ@mail.mil, (706) 545-7162.

selected nine CSMs. Congratulations to all who made these very tough cuts.

During this past week, I participated in a forum where the CSA, VCSA and many members of the Army Staff briefed on the state of the Army. We do have challenges ahead regarding the fiscal constraints, and as a result there will be a reduction in our active-duty force structure. That said, we will still have Armor and Cavalry formations within our structure to ensure we provide the balanced capability our Army needs to prevent, shape and win. As tankers and scouts, we are ingrained with an ability to be adaptable and agile enough to accomplish our missions. This is why, although it will be tough, I remain confident that the combat arm of decision will be ready when called.

Lastly, to the hard-charging troopers who competed in the Gainey Cup – your hard work and dedication were an inspiration and made this competition a world-class event; thanks for competing. Next year we'll challenge your tanker brothers with the Sullivan Cup, so tell them to start prepping now.

Giddyup! 47

From the CSM's OP

March is a time for madness, both for the NCAA and the Armor School. The month began with intensity as we held the 2013 Gainey Cup, with 19 scout teams competing from across the Army, Army National Guard and USMC for the title of "best scout team in the military." Every active-duty division, the three cavalry regiments, a BfSB, the 509th and three states – Alabama, Georgia and Idaho – were all represented. An extraordinary physical event, the dismounted reconnaissance tasks, day and night live-fire and some cold weather pushed every team to their limits. After five days and all the "games," there stood one winning team. The troopers from 1-40th Cav of the 4th Brigade (Airborne), representing the 25th ID, were the victors. A tip of the Stetson to them for a job well done!



All 19 teams deserve an enormous amount of recognition for the excellence, dedication and professional manner in which they competed and represented their units. At no time did any scout ever lose his bearing or drop his morale. We are all very proud of each scout competitor. Scouts out!






Obviously, a competition like this doesn't just happen. The 316th Cavalry Brigade went above and beyond in the development, preparation and execution of this year's Gainey Cup. Though they did not field a team, the Destroyers deserve enormous recognition for the same level of excellence, dedication and professional manner in which every Soldier, NCO and leader conducted themselves. Recon!

Finally, to CSM(R) Joe Gainey, thank you for





HQ U.S. Army Armor School

	Armor CDMT	(706) 545-2029	COL Paul Laughlin
	Armor CSM	(706) 545-8169	CSM Miles S. Wilson
	DCMDT	(706) 545-3815	COL Scott King
	ARNG Liaison	(706) 626-2306	LTC Thomas Kimball
	MGMT Staff	(706) 626-1406	LTC Joseph Jasper
	Armor Historian	(706) 626-1491	Dr. Robert Cameron
	OCO Director	(706) 545-1352	George DeSario
	OCO SGM	(706) 545-7725	SGM Gregory Proft
	OCO (EIA, DRAPER)	(706) 626-TANK (8265)	email OCOA
	ARMOR magazine	(706) 545-2698	email ARMOR



192nd IN BDE

	COL Ron Clark		CSM Clyde Glenn	
		1-46 IN BCT	LTC Brown, Cale	CSM Dydasco, Eugene
		2-47 IN BCT	LTC Feger, Kyle	CSM Dennison, Daniel
		3-47 IN BCT	LTC Thompson, Travis	CSM Svenson, Todd
		30th AG (Rec)	LTC Kidder, Stuart	CSM Reddock, Earla

194th AR BDE

	COL Kevin MacWatters		CSM Robert Tompkins	
		1-81 AR	LTC Plummer, Dawson	CSM Lockhart, Dean
		3-81 AR	LTC McCoy, Jeff	CSM Wagner, Anthony
		5-15 CAV	LTC Koloski, Andrew	CSM Roark, Samuel

316th CAV BDE

	COL David Davidson		CSM Michael Clemens	
		1-16 CAV	LTC Brown, Mark	CSM Littlejohn, Eric
		2-16 CAV	LTC Diano, Oscar	CSM Feltman, Bradley
		3-16 CAV	LTC Mackey, Andre	CSM Williamson, Michael

TCM

COL Nicoson, Gary	TCM-ABCT and TCM-BfSB	(706) 545-2517	gary-nicoson@us.army.mil
COL House, Ed	TCM-IBCT	(706) 545-2078	claud.house@us.army.mil
COL Speights, Elmer	TCM-Stryker	(706) 545-5364	elmer.speights3.mil@mail.mil

Army National Guard Regional Training Institutes (RTIs)

	School code	958	1016	998	1012	1017	1012
	Location	Gowen Field Armor SME Site IDARNG Boise, ID	ARNG Res. Tng Ctr Smyrna, TN	Camp Shelby Hattiesburg, MS	Fort Indiantown Gap Annville, PA	Camp Mabry Austin, TX	Camp Ripley Little Falls, MN
	ARNG RTI	1-204 th	2-117 th	1-154 th	1-166 th	1-136 th	175 th Regt
M1A1 Tank Commander Certification 171-SI3M/19K2/3/4		X					
Scout Commander Certification 171-SI3X/ASID3		X	X	X			
Cavalry Scout (MOS-T) 171-19D10 (HMMWV/M3) (R)		X	X	X	X	X	X
Cavalry Scout Adv Ldr 171-19D30-C45		X	X	X	X	X	
Armor Crewman (M1A1) 171-19K10 (M1A1) (R)		X		X			
Armor Crewman (M1A2) 171-19K10 (M1A2) (R)		X					
Armor Crewman Adv Ldr 171-19K30-C45		X		X	X		

Courses highlighted in yellow are not yet supported with required equipment.

your service, heart, soul and love of American Soldiers and U.S. Marines. We knew we got it right naming this competition after you, but now every trooper, Marine, Family member and friend in attendance knows it! Pride is contagious!

Thanks for all you do every day to make the Armor force and the Army the best in the world!

Armor Strong!

Thunderbolt 7

Armor School Links

MCoE: <https://www.benning.army.mil>




















Armor School: <https://www.benning.army.mil/armor/>

ARMOR magazine: <https://www.benning.army.mil/armor/ArmorMagazine/index.htm>



Like us on
Facebook

GAINEY CUP 2013 SCOREBOARD

TEAM	TOTAL (out of 990)	FINAL RANKING
	760	1
	690	2
	669	3
	649	4
	646	5
	636	6
	625	7
	624	8
	619	9
	619	10
	611	11
	608	12
	601	13
	595	14
	591	15
	575	16
	533	17
	465	18
	374	19