



**Class Narrative Class 14-66 B1
12 January 1966 – 22 June 1966
U.S. Army Armor School OCS**



Class 14-66, Company B1 was the third OCS class of fifty-three OCS classes at Fort Knox during the Vietnam War Era. It was the first of four Company B1 classes and has the distinction of being first all-Armor class since the Korean War when Armor OCS was conducted at Fort Knox. The twenty-three week journey for the class started on Wednesday, 12 January 1966. It's not know how many started with the class as the Armor School Research Library did not have a Phase I roster in their files. Phase II training started approximately thirteen weeks after Phase I with eighty-one candidates. Two candidates were recycled into the class from Class 9-66, A1. Without the Phase I roster it isn't know how many candidates either resigned or were relieved from the course. During Phase II three candidates were recycled to Class 18-66, C1 and all three would graduate with that class, and five would either resign or be relieved from the course. The class average is unknown as is the winner of the Military States Course. On Wednesday, 22 June 1966 seventy-three Senior Officer Candidates would raise their right hand and swear an oath to "defend the Constitution of the United States of America against all enemies both foreign and domestic", and shortly thereafter pin on the gold bars of a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army.

The graduation ceremony was held in Gaffey Hall Auditorium with BG Albin F. Irzyk, assistant commandant of the Armor School presiding. He extended his congratulations to the class saying "You have completed a milestone and you are now on a threshold", and wished them good luck and Godspeed. He introduced the graduation speaker, LTG Ralph E Haines, Jr., CG of the 3rd Corps at Fort Hood, Texas. Among his comments he told the class that "An Armor officer should be conditioned to serve in a tank battalion or in an air cavalry squadron, and that Armor, in a sense, is a concept rather than a branch. The class response was given by classmate Charles N. Lundy.

COL Paul C. Root, Jr., Officer Candidate Brigade Commanding Officer administered the oath of office after announcing that the Distinguished Honor Graduate was Joseph W. Fitzpatrick, Jr. The Honor Graduate was Kenneth R. Breeden, and the Distinguished Military Graduates were James R. Oley, Robert C. Lay, James F. Cully, Gerald R. Waters, and Eugene J. Barton, Jr.

According to the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association nineteen members of Class 14-66 would attend the army's Officers Rotary Wing Aviator's Course. Three members of the class were killed in action in Vietnam, and fifteen members are known to have died since their military service and are at Fiddler's Green filling their canteens.