



**Class Narrative Class 15-67 D1
23 November 1966 – 12 May 1967
U.S. Army Armor School OCS**



Class 15-67, Company D1 was the thirty-first of fifty-three OCS classes and the third of four D1 classes at Fort Knox during the Vietnam War. Starting the long road of Armor OCS on Wednesday 23 November 1966 the initial 110 OC's were joined during the training cycle by fifteen candidates turned back from classes 4-67, 8-67, 10-67, 11-67 and 12-67. Seven of the fifteen would graduate with the class. Eight other members of the class would be recycled to classes 17-67, 19-67, 20-67 and 21-67 and seven would graduate with those classes. Twenty-nine individuals would either resign or be relieved from the Officer Candidate Course.

Friday 12 May 1967 was graduation day for ninety-six Senior Officer Candidates at Gaffey Auditorium. The class average was 84.46. The Distinguished Honor Graduate was Roger W. Reese followed by Andrew R. Hamilton as Honor Graduate. Eight individuals were named Distinguished Military Graduates. In class ranking order they were Thomas O. Markle, Donald J. McGurk, Jr., James H. Boswell, Lawrence H. Smith, Harold L. Bern, Jr., Bruce J. Goldsmith, Alan D. Smith and Arthur W. Olstead. Alan D. Smith was the winner of Military Stakes course earning 870 points out of a possible 1000.

The Friday, May 19, 1967 issue of Inside the Turret contains an article about the graduation ceremony of 15-67 and one short paragraph really stands out. It reads, "Before he introduced the graduation guest speaker Assistant Commandant of the Armor School, BG Albin F. Irzyk told the class "No matter what you do in later life, you will look back on this achievement as one of your greatest." The graduation speaker was Colonel Raymond Hodgdon, director of the Armor Center's Consolidated Supply who was himself a graduate of Officer Candidate School. During his address Colonel Hodgdon noted that "most newly commissioned officers are concerned with their lack of experience, but man is not a product of his experience but rather a product of his thoughts. Therefore concern yourself not with inexperience but rather with your thought or character." He also urged the graduates not to hesitate in any task they might be given. "For any duty," he said, "you need only to begin."

According to the VHPA five graduates completed the Officers Rotary Wing Aviators Course. Donald J. McGurk, Jr. was retained as a Tac Officer for Class 31-67, C2, and William J. McGough was assigned to Officer Candidate Brigade Headquarters where he served as an Assistant Operations Officer in the S-3 shop. None of the class graduates were killed in Vietnam.

23 November 2020