



**Class Narrative Class 16-66 D1
10 February 1966 –12 May 1966
U.S. Army Armor School OCS**



Class 16-66, Company D1 was the fifth OCS class at Fort Knox since the OCS course there closed during the Korean War. It was also the first of three Company D1 classes, and the first of three thirteen week Phase I classes that would be sent to Fort Lee, Virginia for Phase II OCS training and commissioning in the Quartermaster Corps. Phase I training cycle for the class started on Thursday 10 February 1966 with 116 volunteers and ended on Thursday 12 May 1966 with 93 graduates being sent to Fort Lee. Five members of the starting class would be recycled to Class 21-66, another Phase I Quartermaster class, and all five would graduate with that class at Fort Knox. Eighteen individuals would either quit or be relieved from the course. Unfortunately there was no news article in the Fort Knox post weekly newspaper about the class completing OCS training at Fort Knox.

The 93 individuals sent to Fort Lee started Phase II of OCS training on Monday, 16 May 1966. On Tuesday, 19 July 1966 90 members of the class, re-designated Class 66-16, would be commissioned as Second Lieutenants in the Quartermaster Corps. The Honor Graduate was Richard A. Platt followed by Distinguished Graduates, in order of class ranking, Robert L. Whiteley, Louis Plank, Norris C. Conner and Richard D. Walls. These five individuals received special recognition by having “with distinction” printed in gold lettering on their diplomas.

Nine members of the class would complete the army’s Officer Rotary Wing Aviator Course. Class members 1LT Paul D. Potter and 2LT Roger W. Rabey were killed in Vietnam, and twenty-six other class members have died since their military service. Fifty-seven of the graduating class have been located due to the dedicated efforts of class member Ron Demery.

Of the 90 class member James M. “Chicken Man” Wright achieved the rank of Major General and served as the 45th Quartermaster General of the U.S. Army from 10 June 1997 until his retirement on 1 August 1999. In August 1995 MG Wright was assigned as Commander of the 21st Theater Army Area Command in Kaiserslautern, Germany. There he established the Intermediate Staging Base at Taszar in Southern Hungary which would serve as the staging area for US/NATO peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia. He oversaw the largest and most complex movement of US forces in Europe since the end of World War II. From early December 1995 to mid-February 1996, more than 24,000 soldiers, 200,000 tons of cargo and 12,000 pieces of equipment reached Hungary and subsequently Bosnia. This included 409 trips delivering 7,340 freight cars, 507 buses, 1,770 cargo trucks and approximately 750 C-17 cargo flights.

Special acknowledgement is given to Ron Demery for editing and reproducing the original version of the “History, US Army Quartermaster School, OC Brigade, April 1966 – February 1968” which resides at the Quartermaster Museum at Fort Lee, Virginia. Additionally Ron with the contribution of other class members and cadre expanded the history to include class graduation rosters, a listing of OC Brigade cadre officers, a summary of facts about the twenty-two OCS classes at Fort Lee, and a chart showing the time spans of the classes. Without Ron’s dedication and “attention to detail” the history of OCS at Fort Lee during the Vietnam War Era would not be complete.

9 May 2019