



**Class Narrative Class 18-66 C1
10 March 1966 – 13 August 1966
U.S. Army Armor School OCS**



OCS Class 18-66 the first C1 Company and the second all Armor class during fiscal year 1966, as well as the seventh class at Fort Knox during the Vietnam War Era graduated on Saturday 13 August 1966. That date was just at the end of the twenty-second week of the cycle that started on Thursday 10 March 1966. The class roster kept at the company level indicates that there were 119 individuals starting that Thursday, and during the cycle just four more OC's were added for a total class size of 123. The number who either quit the program or were relieved from the program was not indicated on the roster. It is known from a graduation program there were 87 graduates. There is documentary evidence that at least eight individuals were recycled to other classes, which would then indicate that as many as twenty-eight "Gold Bar Hopefuls" either quit or were relieved from the program. Of the eight that were recycled, six graduated. Five with Class 22-66, F1 and one with 25-66, D2 which were both 23 week classes whose graduates would also be commissioned Armor Second Lieutenants. The class average was 81.87. John D. Diggs was Distinguished Honor Graduate. The Honor Graduate was Franklin R. Green followed by Distinguished Military Graduates Nelson S. Brown, Garland D. Whitmore, II, Joseph Pasternick, Richard A. Norris, William W. Wynn, Jr. and Ronald G. Berry. Taking Military Stakes honors was Robert M. Hairston who earned 868 points out of a possible 1000 points.

The graduation ceremony was held in the auditorium of Gaffey Hall. Giving the graduation address was LTG Samuel L. Myers (ret.) former CG U.S. Army Armor Center and Commandant of the Armor School, and later Deputy CG of the 8th U.S. Army. Class member Kenneth E. Plummer was the class respondent who gave a narration laced with humor of some of the class activities. "He told how Charlie-One was formed from men of varied experiences from private to warrant officer. Men from special forces units, Vietnam returnees, four month veterans of AIT, and one cook". An early accomplishment of the class was winning "Best in Parade" after Company Commander Captain Eugene R. Vigelis entered the two-week old class in a retreat review parade. Because there was no "Best in Parade" ribbon the class made their own with the words "None Better" on it. "None Better" was selected as the "battle cry" of Chargin Charlie.

Ten graduates of 18-66 went on to rotary wing flight school. Eight graduates were retained as Tac Officers. Those individuals and the classes they were assigned to are:

Samuel E. Begley: 10-67 A1 and 26-67 A1; Jerry K. Carter, Jr.: 13-67 G2 and 29-67 G2;

Thomas S. Catalano: 3-67 E1 and 19-67 E1; John L. Hungerbuhler: 8-67 B2 and 24-67 B2;

Patrick R. McKeeby: 11-67 G1 and 27-67 G1; George M. McMurry: 9-67 D2, 25-67 D2 and 4-68 A2/D2;

Glenn B. Plyler: 7-67; and Jennings D. Steed, Jr.: 5-67 F2, 21-67 F2 and 3-68 F2.

Gerald A. Rudisill, Jr. achieved the rank of Major General, ARNGUS, North Carolina National Guard.

Class members Lee B. Alley and Norman E. Baldwin were both the recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross. Lee was awarded the DSC for his exceptionally valorous actions on 18 November 1967 as a First Lieutenant while serving with HHQ Company, 5th Battalion (Mechanized), 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division. Lee's DSC citation is at <http://valor.militarytimes.com/hero/4763>. Norman was posthumously awarded the DSC for his extraordinary heroism on 25 August 1968 as a Captain while serving with Detachment B-20, Company B, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces. Norman's DSC citation is at <http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php...> Lee will be inducted into the U.S. Army Hall of Fame in May 2019, and efforts are being made to acquire the necessary documents for Norman's induction.