



**Class Narrative Class 22-67 A2
24 February 1967 – 1 August 1967
U.S. Army Armor School OCS**



Class 22-67, Company A2 was the thirty-eighth OCS class at Fort Knox since OCS was conducted there during the Korean War. It was the third of four A2 classes. The class was in-cycle from Friday 24 Feb 67 until its graduation on Tuesday 1 Aug 67. According to the class roster kept at the company level there were 108 in the class when it started and an additional nine from classes 13-67, 14-67, 17-67 and 20-67 were added during the cycle. Of the 117, thirty-two were relieved or resigned from the program. Eight were recycled or “turned back” to classes 27-67, 28-67, 29-67 and 30-67. The seventy-seven graduates of 22-67 represent a 66% graduation rate which was the normal graduation rate for all classes. The class average was 84.60%. The Distinguished Honor Graduate was Gary W. Edwards. The Honor Graduate was David J. Rader, and the Distinguished Military Graduates, according to class ranking, were Gary H. Hill, Roy H. Olive, John L. Berns, Robert N. DuRant, David L. Ervin, and Jerry Bukiewicz. Gary H. Hill was also the winner of the Military Stakes course earning 825 points out of a possible 1000. Fifteen members of the class went on to the Officer Rotary Wing Aviator Course. Two graduates were killed in action in Vietnam.

The class published a monthly newsletter called The Alpha Banner. The May 1967 edition has an article about Company XO First Lieutenant William L. Busby receiving orders for Vietnam and the schools he would attend before arriving in country. As a MACV Advisor Lieutenant Busby was killed in action on 31 Jan 68. His Vietnam tour started on 14 Sep 67. He was from Henderson, KY, had over ten years enlisted service, and was a graduate of Infantry OCS and Armor Officer Basic at Fort Knox. Another article in the Alpha Banner was about the 13th Week Party that was to be held at the Half-Track Club. The party would be a celebration of the class “Turning Green” (Intermediate Candidates). The article went on to mention that the theme of the party was the Kentucky Derby and that at 1915 hours those Officer Candidates who had signed up for a blind date would find out their “Date Fate”. Officer Candidate Brigade Commander Colonel Bernard McKeever would be addressing the class just prior to the class “Turning Green”. One of the top local bands, “The Celtics” would provide music for dancing.

In the 19 Nov 71 edition of *Inside the Turret*, Area 440 at Fort Knox, located at 2nd Dragoons Road and Chamberlin Street then used as a parade area for military ceremonies, was designated Gillespie Parade Area in honor of First Lieutenant Robert J. Gillespie, Jr. Lieutenant Gillespie was a member of Class 22-67 and died on 11 Aug 68 from wounds he received on 5 Aug 68. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for his bravery against a large Viet Cong patrol. His valor was a major factor in the successful outcome against a numerically superior hostile force.

Class member Douglas E. Caton achieved the rank of major general and was inducted into the OCS Hall of Fame at Fort Benning, Georgia in 2017.

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