



Class Narrative Class 25-66 D2
27 May 1966 – 1 Nov 1966
U.S. Army Armor School OCS



Class 25-66, D2 graduated on Tuesday 1 November 1966 and would supply the OC Brigade with six Tac Officers. Those six would be involved in the lives of OC's in fourteen different OCS classes. One of the six would eventually serve as a Company Executive Officer in the brigade. Class 25-66 was the fourteenth OCS class at Fort Knox since the Korean War, and the fourth Armor branch specific class of the forty-one Armor specific classes. They started Phase I OCS training on Friday 27 May 1966 with 120 "Butter Bar Hopefuls". During Phase I there were no candidates re-cycled into the class. Thirty-two OC's either quit or were relieved from the program during this phase, and another three would be re-cycled to Class 1-67, C2. Two of the three would graduate with that class. Phase II started with 84 Intermediate Status Candidates and would be joined by six OC's who were re-cycled in from Class 22-66, F1. All six would graduate with 25-66. During this phase two individuals would be re-cycled to classes 1-67, C2 and 5-67, F2 and both would graduate with those classes. Four individuals would either quit or be relieved from the program during this second phase of training. On graduation day eighty-four members of the class would pin on the gold bars of Second Lieutenant's in the U.S. Army.

The class average was 81.83. Thirteen of the graduates would eventually attend flight school. One class member, CPT James M. Treesh was killed in action while serving with MACV Advisory Team 96 thirty-four days after his Vietnam tour started. Twelve others have died since their military service. Sixteen members of the class have been located. The six graduates who were retained as Tac Officers and Brigade Staff were: Duane R. Burmeister: Tac Officer for classes 8-67, B2, 17-67, C2 and 5-68, B2; Kenneth L. Moss: Tac Officer for classes 13-67 and 29-67, G2 and 2-68, E2; John M. "Mike" Rapp: Tac Officer for classes 19-67 and 1-68, E1; Charles H. Savage: Tac Officer for classes 12-67 and 28-67, F1; Arlington B. Stilwell: Tac Officer for classes 14-47, H1 and 16-67, H2 and XO HHC; and Claude N. Whittle: Tac Officer for classes 12-67 and 28-67, F1.

BG George M. Seignious, en route to Korea to serve as assistant division commander of the 7th Division, was graduation ceremony guest speaker. Among his comments he outlined three characteristics of an officer that he had found essential for good leadership. They were Integrity, Vigor and Cheerfulness. In closing he promised that a truthful officer, genuinely concerned about his men, vigorous in mind and body, and cheerful and confident is the type leader that The Armor School, the Army and the nation would always hold in high esteem. COL Bernard E. McKeever, Jr., Officer Candidate Brigade Commanding Officer announced the names of the honor graduates and the winner of the Military Stakes Course. Distinguished Honor Graduate was Duane R. Burmeister. Honor Graduate was Larry L. King, and Distinguished Military Graduates were Daniel R. Zanini, Jeffery A. Moulton, John M. Rapp, Claude N. Whittle, Leslie H. Evjen, and James A. Drane, Jr. Daniel R. Zanini was the winner of the Military Stakes Course earning 873 points out of a possible 1000. He would go on to achieve the rank of LTG and was inducted into the OCS Hall of Fame at Fort Benning, Georgia in 2003.

When the OCS course was launched by BG Albin F. Irzyk in July 1965 the Tac Officers were for the most part ROTC graduates who were commissioned Armor, and a few Infantry OCS officers from the training brigades at Fort Knox. BG Irzyk wanted Tac Officers who were graduates of OCS at Fort Knox. Class 9-66 would have six of their members retained as Tac Officers and classes 18-66, 22-66, and 25-66 would have another twenty-one retained as Tac Officers. During the time OCS at Fort Knox was operational forty-seven graduates would become Tac Officers in the brigade.