



**Class Narrative Class 26-66 D1  
10 June 1966 – 8 September 1966  
U.S. Army Armor School OCS**



Class 26-66, Company D1 started Phase I's thirteen weeks of OCS training on Friday, 10 June 1966. It was the 10th of the eleven thirteen week Phase I classes and the 15th of the 53 classes at Fort Knox. The class was also the last of the three classes that would be sent to Fort Lee, Virginia for Phase II Quartermaster OCS training. The class started with 116 volunteer's and added four candidates "Turned Back" from Class 21-66, E2. One member of the class was recycled and graduated with Class 67-2, Company C at Fort Lee, VA on 19 January 1967.

Sixteen of the 120 member class would either quit or be relieved from the program. One-hundred three successfully completed Phase I on 8 September 1966 and were sent TDY to Fort Lee. One member, John W. Vaughan was killed in Vietnam, and ten others have died since their military service. According to the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association one member of the class attended flight school. Eight of the 103 have been located.

At Fort Lee the class was designated as Class 66-26, Company A and would eventually commission 105 2LT's in the Quartermaster Corps on 18 November 1966. At Fort Lee five of the 103 sent TDY from Fort Knox were relieved from the program and four were recycled and graduated with Class 67-2 on 19 January 1967. This information was found in Ron Demery's updated History: U.S. Army Quartermaster School: Officer Candidate Brigade, Fort, Lee Virginia, April 1966 – February 1968. Ron was in Class 16-66, D1 at Fort Knox and Class 66-16, Company A, the first of twenty-two OCS classes at Fort Lee during the Vietnam War Era.

At Fort Lee Robert O. Blackmon was the Honor Graduate and the Distinguished Graduates were Walter A. Christ, Jr., Charles S. Michel, Anthony J. Pingitore, Jr., and Leroy Sawyer.

Information from The Oregon Vietnam Memorial states that 2LT John W. Vaughan boarded a C-130 airplane on the night of June 17, 1967 for a flight from An Khe to Pleiku, South Vietnam. Near the end of the runway during take-off, the pilot attempted to abort the departure due to a mechanical failure. The plane crashed and burned in a gully at the end of the runway. 2LT Vaughan was in route from one duty station to another.

At Fort Knox there was no news article in Inside the Turret about Class 26-66 completing the thirteen weeks of Phase I training there.

5 September 2018