



**Class Narrative Class 29-67 G2
19 May 1967 – 27 October 1967
U.S. Army Armor School OCS**



Starting OCS training on Friday 19 May 1967, Class 29-67, Company G2, if they had earned any privileges, which they probably hadn't, might have listened to the popular song *Groovin'* by the Young Rascals, or to the hit song *Silence is Golden* by the Tremeloes. The class would soon know they needed to get into the "OCS Grove" if they were going to make it through the OCS course, and about the only time they would experience silence was when they were sleeping after 2200 hours and not during class.

Class 29-67 was the 33rd Armor branch specific class and 45th OCS class at Fort Knox since OCS was held there during the Korean War. According to the class roster kept at the company level there were 110 OC's that started with the class. During the twenty-three training cycle five OC's from other classes would be added. Three were recycled in from Class 22-67, A2; 23-67, C1; and 27-67, G1. Where the other two were recycled from could not be determined as it appears that the last page of the roster is missing from the roster sent from the Armor School Research Library. However, notations on the first page of the roster indicate there were a total of 115 individuals assigned to the class. Of those 115, thirty would either quit the course or be relieved, and three would be recycled to other classes. Because of the missing roster page it was not possible to determine which three OC's were recycled. However it was determined that 31 names on the roster were not listed in Volume II of the 1 Jan 68 U.S. Army Register which is the record for all U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard commissioned officers in the Army on active duty at the end of calendar year 1967.

On 27 October 1967 eighty-two graduates would be commissioned as Second Lieutenants in the United States Army. Coincidentally the song *To Sir With Love* by Lulu was popular at the time. The class average was 84.76. At the graduation ceremony it was announced that the winner of Military Stakes was George J. Stafford who earned an impressive 935 of the 1000 possible points. Also announced were the eight graduates in the top ten percent of the class. They were Distinguished Honor Graduate Garry J. Farrington, Honor Graduate Roderick C. Jamison, and Distinguished Military Graduates George J. Stafford, Wayne D. Knauf, Paul D. Cain, Jr., Manuel Ponce-Saracho, Charles E. Shivel and Vance R. Hunt. Of the twelve graduates who completed the Army's Rotary Wing Aviator's Course three would be killed in action in Vietnam, and are the three members of 29-67 that were killed in Vietnam. Ten other class members have died since their military service. Nine graduates have been located as has former 2LT Steven L. Wilmeth who graduated with Class 10-67, A1 and then assigned as Sixth Platoon Tac Officer in G2. The platoon referred to themselves as "Wilmeth's Wonders".

An Inside the Turret newspaper article about the class graduation ceremony mentioned that the graduation guest speaker was COL George E. Handley, Jr. the Armor Center Aviation Group commander. COL Handley urged the new lieutenants to keep their momentum and to take advantage of the educational opportunities that their military careers would provide. The class response was given by Garry J. Farrington. Distinguished Honor Graduate Farrington had his 2LT bars pinned on by his father Sergeant Major Elmer J. Farrington. The parents of class member Carl R. Gates travelled from Australia to see their son graduate. Mr. Gates was serving as Consul of the United States in Sydney.

An observation about the A1, A2, G1, G2, H1 and H2 company classes should be noted. Unlike B1, B2, C1, C2, D1, D2, E1, E2, F1 and F2 company classes that each had three platoons, the previously mentioned company classes had six platoons. For example, a G1 company class would consist of first, second and third platoon. The G2 class that was in-cycle during the same time would consist of fourth, fifth and sixth platoon. The same of A1, A2, H1 and H2.

27 October 2018