



**Class Narrative Class 3-68 F2
4 August 1967 – 1 February 1968
U.S. Army Armor School OCS**



Class 3-68 was the fourth and last F2 company class and last F Troop class at Fort Knox during the Vietnam War Era. It was the 39th Armor branch specific class and the fifty-first of fifty-three classes that would cycle through the Officer Candidate Brigade during the existence of OCS at Fort Knox. The training cycle dates for Class 3-68 were from Friday, 4 August 1967 to Thursday 1 February 1968. Ninety-three Basic Officer Candidates would start the class and during the twenty-three cycle eight other candidates from other classes would be re-cycled into the class for a total of 101 F-2 Troopers. It has been determined that two came from Class 32-67, B1 and two came from Class 1-68, E1. The classes where the other four came from was unable to be determined. Of the eight, six would graduate with Class 3-68. Four individuals would be re-cycled out according to the roster kept at the company level. It's known that three of the four were re-cycled to last class, Class 5-68. Where the fourth individual was re-cycled to is unknown. Twenty-two members of the class would either quit or be relieved from the demanding course, and seventy-five would receive their Armor School Diplomas and pin on the gold bars of Second Lieutenants in the U. S. Army on 1 February 1968.

The graduation ceremony for the class was held in Gaffey Hall auditorium with Major General James W. Sutherland, Jr. who was Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, US Army Europe and the Seventh US Army as guest speaker. His son James W. Sutherland, III was a member of the class. MG Sutherland "counseled the graduates to acquire detailed knowledge of their jobs and their equipment, and to obey the four I's. Intelligence, imagination, initiative and integrity". After the oath of office was administered by Armor School Assistant Commandant Colonel William C. Cobb the class response was given by class member 2 LT Vincent L. Morgan.

During the ceremony it was announced that the Distinguished Honor Graduate was Douglas C. James closely followed by Robert A. Barry, Jr. as Honor Graduate and winner of the Military Stakes Course who earned 921 of the possible 1000 points. The Distinguished Military Graduates were James R. Q. Jarrett, Jr., Charles D. Manthey, Ted M. Burns, Wayne L. Ball, Paul J. Wiese and Thomas L. Woodall.

Class member Dennis B. Kelly took the oath of office at 6 a.m. His brother, United States Air Force 2LT Steven D. Kelly administered the oath. The Air Force officer was sworn in at one minute after midnight the same day in Bloomington, Indiana and drove to Fort Knox in time to swear in his brother. Three hours later MG Sutherland administered the oath of office to his son, and to two of his son's classmates Michael D. Armstrong and Jay E. Hoff. The next day 2LT Armstrong and 2LT Sutherland would serve as best man in each other's weddings. Several other classmates participated in the two weddings held in Washington, D.C. as groomsmen and performed the saber arch as the brides and grooms left the church. In their first assignment after graduating OCS Lieutenants Armstrong and Sutherland would also report to the same Armor battalion in the 4th Armored Division in Germany.

Fifteen members of the class would attend Officers Rotary Wing Aviators Course. Fortunately none of the seventy-five graduates would die or be killed in combat. Twelve class members have died since their military service, and fifty-five of the surviving sixty-three members have been located by their fellow classmates Mike Armstrong and Bob Amon. The class held a 50 Year Reunion at Branson, MO April 25-29, 2018 with twenty-one classmates, fourteen wives, and class Tac Officer Chuck Kimbell in attendance.

20 January 2019