



**Class Narrative Class 5-67 F2
12 August 1966 –3 February 1967
U.S. Army Armor School OCS**



Class 5-67 was the second of four F2 company classes, the ninth Armor branch specific class and the twenty-first of fifty-three OCS classes at Fort Knox during the Vietnam War Era. One hundred-ten Basic Officer Candidates would start the challenging twenty-three week course on Friday, 12 August 1966. There was only one candidate re-cycled into the class. He came from Class 25-66 another Armor branch specific class that was in-cycle from 27 May 1966 to 1 November 1966, and he would graduate with Class 5-67. Of the one hundred-one class members nine would be re-cycled to five other classes. One was re-cycled to Class 6-67, A2; two went to Class 8-67, B2; two would join Class 9-67, D2; three were sent back to Class 10-67, A1; and one became a class member of Class 12-67, F1. Of those nine only two would graduate OCS. One with Class 8-67, B2 and the other with Class 10-67, A1. Sixteen candidates would either quit or be relieved from the course. On Friday, 3 February 1967, eighty-three Senior Officer Candidates would receive their Armor School Diplomas and pin on the gold bars of Second Lieutenants that they had their sights on even before they entered OCS. Information about the class average was redacted from the class roster kept at the company level at the direction of the Fort Knox JAG office as they considered that information confidential. This is quite interesting as newspaper articles about the graduation ceremony of other classes did have the class averages noted.

The graduation ceremony was in Gaffey Hall Auditorium with Officer Candidate Brigade Commanding Officer, Colonel Bernard E. McKeever, Jr. conducting the ceremony. The father of class member John N. Abrams, General Creighton W. Abrams, Jr. was the guest speaker. After the general's address Colonel McKeever announced the class honor graduates. The Distinguished Honor Graduate was Robert L. Johnson. The Honor Graduate was David E. Bergman who also was the winner of the Military Stakes course earning 897 of the possible 1000 points. The Distinguished Military Graduates were David P. Armentrout, Tracy E. Brennen, Jessie E. Parks, William C. Snyder, James R. Hunt, Teddy W. Tate and John L. Wadsworth. 2LT Joseph W. Paulicivic gave the class response a copy of which is retained in file with other compiled information about Class 5-67.

Eleven members of the class would receive orders for the Army's Officer Rotary Wing Aviator's Course. Three of the eleven would be killed in Vietnam and these three were the sum total of the casualties for the class. Eighteen other class members have died since their military service. Twenty-five of the sixty-five surviving class members have been located.

Class member John N. Abrams would attain the rank of General (O-10). John was guest speaker at the United States Army Officer Candidate School Alumni Association in 2016 at Fort Benning, Georgia. General John N. Abrams and fellow classmate, Colonel Dennis R. Oechsner have been inducted into the OCS Hall of Fame.

During the writing of our book "When the Nation Called a Third Time", the story about Army OCS at Fort Knox, KY during the Vietnam Era, John Moore and Hugh Preacher of the project group, created The Roll of Honor of the Cadre and Graduates of OCS at Fort Knox during the Vietnam War. Included with each of the 119 names is their rank, their date of birth and date of death, their Home of Record, class number and company they were assigned to, military decorations if known and the unit they served with at the time of their death and where they are buried. One of the three in 5-67 killed in Vietnam is James H. Spann, and it has not been determined where he is buried. His home of record was California.

22 January 2019