



**Class Narrative Class 7-67 C1
2 September 1966 – 24 February 1967
U.S. Army Armor School OCS**



Class 7-67, Company C1 the twenty-third OCS class at Fort Knox during the Vietnam War Era, and the second of three classes to be designated Company C1, started the Armor Officer Candidate Course on Friday, 2 September 1966. On that day 109 individuals, all volunteers for the twenty-three course, would start their quest to become Second Lieutenants of Armor and to earn their “bars of gold”. During the following weeks four officer candidates from other classes would be recycled into the company. Eight members of the class would be recycled to other classes during the twenty-three week cycle. Seven would be sent back to Class 12-67, Company F1 and one would be sent back to Class 17-67, Company C2. Three of those recycled to Class 12-67 would graduate with that class, and the candidate recycled to Class 17-67 would graduate with Class 17-67. Seventeen individuals would either resign or be relieved from the course. On Friday 24 February 1967, eighty-eight senior candidates would raise their right hand and take the oath of office “to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States of America against all enemies foreign and domestic”. The highlight of the graduation ceremony was the pinning of gold bars on the shoulders of their new officer uniforms. There was no news article in "Inside the Turret" weekly about the graduation ceremony of Class 7-67.

The Distinguished Honor Graduate was William L. Garvin, Jr, and James S. Venetos was the Honor Graduate. Distinguished Military Graduates in order of merit were Douglas A. Hodgkiss, James B. Desmond, Meredith S. Galloway, Wayne A. Raymond, Eugene C. Beane, Thomas H. Gledhill and Loren H. Williams. William L. Garvin, Jr. would also be the Military Stakes winner.

After graduation eighteen members of the class would attend the Officer Rotary Wing Aviator Course, and all eighteen would survive their tour of combat as helicopter pilots in South Vietnam. Class member Richard W. Gallagher would be retained as a Tactical Officer for Class 9-67, Company D2. One class member, David K. “Kent” Feller was killed in Vietnam. His Vietnam tour began on 20 Mar 68 and died of his wounds on 30 Apr 68 while serving with H Troop, 17th Cav, 198th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. Classmate and close friend Erven “Sam” Samsel was escort officer of Kent back to Kent's home in Maplewood, LA.

10/26/20