



**Class Narrative Class 8-67 B2
12 September 1966 – 3 March 1967
U.S. Army Armor School OCS**



Class 8-67, Company B2 the twenty-fourth OCS class at Fort Knox during the Vietnam War Era and the third class with the Company B2 designation started Armor OCS on Monday, 12 September 1966. The class started with 110 basic candidates and during the twenty-three week course thirteen individuals were recycled into the class. Of the 123, twenty-seven individuals were relieved or resigned from the program and ten were recycled to other classes. Two were sent back to Class 11-67, Company G1; four were sent back to Class 12-67, Company F1; two were sent back to Class 14-67, Company H1; and two were sent back to Class 15-67, Company D1. Of the ten, four would graduate OCS with Class 14-67 and one would graduate OCS with Class 14-67. Eighty-six graduated on 3 March 1967. The class roster kept at the company level did not indicate that Donald K. Campanaro graduated with the class. He did graduate with the class and this was confirmed when he was located, and also by an entry in Volume II of the 1968 U.S. Army Register.

The graduation ceremony was held in Gaffey Hall with Brigadier General Albin F. Irzyk Assistant Commandant of the Armor School officiating. He introduced Colonel Donald A Kersting, the Armor Center G-3, as guest speaker. He told the new officers they were joining the finest fraternity in the Army and they would have to turn to their subordinates for help that would further their careers. It was announced that the Distinguished Honor Graduate was Larry M. Thompson and Michael A. Nelson was the class Honor Graduate. The Distinguished Military Graduates in order of merit were John B. Pavich, Michael W. Berra, Ford R. McLain, Steve C. Kucera, Robert G. Dinwiddie, Patrick L. Sullivan, and Robert A. Cuthbert. The class average was 83.80. The winner of Military Stakes was Paul E. Miner who earned 864 points out of the possible 1000. Nineteen graduates would attend Officers Rotary Wing Aviators Course. Class graduate William R. Cox was assigned to the Officer Candidate Brigade as an Assistant S-3 while he waited orders for flight school.

Five graduates, Robert M. Donovan, Raymond A. Dubbs, Richard T. Flattery, Jr., David E. Taylor and William J. White, Jr. were killed in Vietnam. Of the five we have not been able to determine the final resting place of William J. White, Jr.

Graduate Ralph A. Northrop was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross. The U.S. military's second highest medal for valor. On 11 January 1970 Captain Northrop distinguished himself as a helicopter pilot with Troop B, 2d Squadron, 17th Cavalry, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) in Quang Tri Province. Using the skids and rotor blades of his OH-6 Cayuse Light Observation Helicopter to part and chop several trees, he hovered about two meters above the ground while the wounded members of Company L (Ranger), 75th Ranger, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) were strapped to the skids and flown to a makeshift landing zone two thousand meters away. This action was repeated three times. Ralph has been posthumously inducted into the OCS Hall of Fame at Fort Benning, Georgia. He dismounted at Fiddler's Green on 13 January 2004.