



**Class Narrative Class 19-66 A1
9 December 1965 – 24 May 1966
U.S. Army Armor School OCS**



Class 9-66, Company A1 was the first of fifty-three OCS classes at Fort Knox during the Vietnam War Era, and the first of four Company A1 classes. Because the Army did not decide until the late summer of 1965 to re-open OCS at Fort Knox, the early selection process for qualified Armor candidates could not produce the numbers necessary to begin formal training at the Armor School. As a result eight classes scheduled to start in fiscal year 1965 went unfilled, and Class 9-66 would begin OCS training on Thursday 9 December 1965. Starting the class were 116 volunteers with various MOS's and ranks ranging from Private First Class to Warrant Officer. Being the first class there were no recycled OC's from other classes, however four of the 116 would be recycled. Two graduated with Class 14-66, B1 an Armor class, one with Class 18-66 an Armor class, and one with Class 20-66, E1 a Transportation Corps class. Thirty-four class members would either resign or be relieved from the twenty-three course. On 24 May 1966 seventy-eight members of Class 9-66 would receive their commissions as Second Lieutenants in the U.S. Army. This class was unique as the graduates could choose to be commissioned in four of the Army's branches. Forty-one chose Armor, nine chose Ordnance, seven chose Quartermaster, and twenty-one would chose Transportation. The class average was 83.67. The class did run the Military States Course but no information was found saying who the winner was. Several of the graduates don't recall it being a graded event at that time.

The graduation ceremony guest speaker was General Bruce C. Clarke (Ret.) who encouraged the graduates to "create in yourself a balanced man whereby you can handle concurrently all the different parts of a job. He reminded the new lieutenants to bear three points uppermost in mind during their military careers: 1) Sincerity – do not become a skeptic, 2) Loyalty – be loyal to those above you, below you, on your right, on your left, and to yourself, 3) Conscientiousness – when you act, be just, fair, and positive. The class response was given by class member Ernest F. Bogart, Jr. Officer Candidate Brigade Commanding Officer COL Paul C. Root, Jr. administered the Oath of Office. The Distinguished Honor Graduate was George P. Rogers. Honor Graduate was Robert A. Loy and the Distinguished Military Graduates were Lonnie D. Byrd, III, Joe D. Rasnick and Dennis S. Marshall. The names of two other DMG's are unknown.

Eighteen graduates would attend the Officers Rotary Wing Aviator's Course. Six graduates would be retained by the OC Brigade as Tactical (Tac) Officers. They were Charles L. Frizzell for 27-66, A1 and 10-67, A1. Jack Horton for 2-67, B1. Joe D. Rasnick for 18-66, C1 and 7-67, C1. Raymond E. Speicher for 25-66, D2 and 15-67, D1. William E. Sperry, Jr. for 27-66, A1; 10-67, A1; and 14-67, H1. Stanley H. Streicher for 22-66, F1. 1LT George P. Rogers, the first OCS Distinguished Honor Graduate, serving with B Trp ¾ Cav, 25th Infantry Division would be killed in action. Building 1307-C was renamed Rogers Hall in his honor. Building 1307-C is the former Company B1 location in the building that housed OCS Companies D1, D2, B1 and B2 that is now part of the office complex that houses The United States Army Recruiting Command. Twenty other graduates have died since their military service. Class member Edward L. Correa would achieve the rank of Major General in the Hawaii Army National Guard.

Class member James F. "Jimmy" Lewis was in the Special Forces prior to OCS and would serve with the 1st and 5th SFG in China, the Philippines and Vietnam. In 1967 he was commanding



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MIKE FORCE, a SF trained unit of mercenary Montagnard soldiers whose mission was to back up or rescue Green Beret units under heavy attack in the bush. By 1969 he was leading SF missions at the behest of the CIA and in 1970 joined the CIA. In the spring of 1975 the NVA overran South Vietnamese units he was advising and was badly wounded, captured and imprisoned in the notorious Son Tay Prison Camp. Under still classified circumstances he was released in late October 1975. The Agency brought him to Washington, D.C. for extensive debriefing and psychological counseling. By 1979 he had graduated from George Washington University, and married Monique a Vietnamese French speaking pharmacologist. Becoming fluent in French and Arabic he was assigned to the Beirut station in 1982. On April 18, 1983, Monique's first day at work for the CIA, Jimmy and Monique would be killed in the U.S. Embassy truck bombing. Their bodies were found together buried deep under the rubble holding hands. They are buried together at Arlington National Cemetery, Section 11, Site 233-4.

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