



**Class Narrative Class 9-67 D2
20 September 1966 – 15 March 1967
U.S. Army Armor School OCS**



Starting OCS on Tuesday, 20 September 1966, Class 9-67, Company D2 was the twenty-fifth class to go through OCS at Fort Knox since the OCS program was conducted there during the Korean War. Starting with 110 OC's twelve more were recycled into the class during the twenty-three program of instruction. Of these 122, seven were recycled to four other classes. Two to Class 11-67, G1; one to Class 12-67, F1; two to Class 13-67, G2; and two to 14-67, H1. Only one of the seven graduated and that was with Class 14-67. Twenty-six members of the class were relieved, and on graduation day Wednesday, 15 March 1967, 89 new Second Lieutenants were commissioned in Gaffey Hall. The Distinguished Honor Graduate was Donald L. Cochran followed by Bruce E. Lantz as the Honor Graduate. Following in order were the Distinguished Military Graduates John J. Burk, Jr., Charles R. Womble, Benjamin C. Thornal, Theodore G. Belcoe, George C. Parsons, John H. Schleimer and Jack A. McPherson. The class average is unknown as it was redacted from the class roster kept at the company level and not mentioned in the news article in Inside the Turret. The winner of Military Stakes was Richard H. Dianich. Unfortunately his score is not known. Class 9-67 had the highest number of graduates killed in action of all fifty-three classes with nine. Of those nine, eight were killed in the 124 day period of 12 Feb 68 – 16 Jun 68.

According to the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association twenty-three from this class attended flight school. Two graduates were retained as Tac Officers in the OC Brigade. Paul R. Garell became a Tac for classes 25-67, D2 and 4-68, A2/D2. That class started as A2 and was moved to the D2 barracks when OCS was being phased out. Benjamin C. Thornal was a Tac for Class 26-6, A1.

Timothy J. Grogan, USMA Class of 1963, was an XO and CO of the company as a 1LT and CPT. It's been said that he started the use of the term "Spizzerinctum" as an outward spoken display of company élan. Spizzerinctum is defined as "Energy, Ambition, and the Will to Succeed". Members of Company D were often heard shouting "Spiz, Sir"! Captain Grogan was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in Vietnam on 5 & 6 May 1968 while serving with Company B, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, 4th Infantry Division near An Bao. He retired as a Brigadier General.

His DSC citation can be read at <http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php?recipientid=5277>.

15 November 2020