



Class Narrative Class 1-67 C2
17 July 1966 – 17 December 1966
U.S. Army Armor School OCS



Class 1-67, Company C2 was the second Company C2 class in OCS at Fort Knox during the Vietnam War Era. Starting their challenging twenty-three week journey on Monday 11 July 1966 it was the first class to start in fiscal year 1967. The class was the seventeenth OCS class at Fort Knox since the Korean War and the fifth Armor branch specific class. With the beginning of fiscal year 1967 all OCS classes at Fort Knox would be Armor branch specific. 1-67 started with 110 Basic Officer Candidates and during their training cycle four candidates would be added to the company roster. Those four all came from Class 25-66, D2 another Armor branch specific class that was six weeks and four days ahead of 1-67. Three of the four would graduate with Class 1-67. Twenty members of the class would either quit or be relieved from the course. Three of the 114 class members were recycled to Class 6-67, A2 and all three would graduate with that class. On 17 December 1966 ninety-one Senior Officer Candidates would graduate the Officer Candidate School course and raise their right hands to take the oath of office to be commissioned Second Lieutenants of Armor in the U.S. Army.

BG Albin F. Irzyk gave the introductory remarks at the graduation ceremony. He said he was proud that the Armor School was turning over to Armor, the Army, and the Nation, such outstanding second lieutenants. Guest speaker was COL George W. Buser, commanding officer of the 1st Training Brigade at Fort Knox. COL Buser was a former OCS graduate. To carry the responsibility in being commissioned, COL Buser said an officer must possess characteristics of patriotism, valor, fidelity and ability. The class response was given by Second Lieutenant David P. Keating. The Distinguished Honor Graduate was Marvin A. "Alton" Staggs, Jr. The Honor Graduate was Wayne V. Boss and the Distinguished Military Graduates were Dennis D. Scouler, Dennis J. Higman, Charles J. Osterman, Harry J. Hinzelman, Richard C. Sutton, Russell C. Parker, Jr., and Joseph L. Hampton, Jr. Wayne V. Boss was the winner of the Military Stakes Course earning 882 of the 1000 possible points. The class average is unknown.

Four graduates would be retained as Tac Officers in the OC Brigade. Wayne V. Boss was assigned to classes 15-67 and 30-67, Company D1; Charles F. Kimbell was assigned to classes 5-67, 21-67 and 3-68, Company F2; Russell C. Parker, Jr. was assigned to Class 30-67, Company D1, and Class 4-68, Company A2/D2; and Dennis D. Scouler was assigned to classes 18-67 and 32-67, Company B1. Nine graduates received orders for flight school. 2LT Larry L. Williams was the only graduate killed in action. He was killed on 23 November 1967 the 78th day of his assignment with Detachment B-36, A Company, 5th Special Forces Group. Fourteen other class members have died since their military service. Twenty-six members of the class have been located.

Marvin "Alton" Staggs has shared an interesting story about the top nine graduates. He said that each of the nine were individually called into the office of C Company Commander Captain Eugene R. Vigelis just prior to graduation. Each was told their class ranking and that they were to report to the Armor School the following morning in dress greens. They were to walk the halls and see which offices had a slot open for a Second Lieutenant as they were to be assigned to the Armor School after graduation. Even though the Armor School was closed that day each office had been ordered to be staffed for interviews. Alton interviewed with LTC Correjo, Chief of the Allied Liaison Division who needed an Assistant Chief. Alton got the job and was the second of two officers in the Division. Alton served his two year commitment working in that office in what he called "a really plumb assignment".

17 December 2018