



**Class Narrative Class 12-67 F1
21 October 1966 – 14 April 1967
U.S. Army Armor School OCS**



Class 12-67, Company F1 graduated on Friday 14 April 1967. It was the twenty-eighth of fifty-three OCS classes at Fort Knox during the Vietnam War, and the first of three F1 classes. Beginning the 23 week cycle on Friday 21 October 1966 with 108 OC's the class received an additional thirty Officer Candidates recycled in from classes 6-67, 7-67, 8-67, 9-67 and 10-67. Of the 138 assigned to the class 103 graduated making it the largest of the Armor classes. It was determined thirty-five did not graduate with the class. Nine members were recycled and five of the nine did graduate with classes 14-67, 15-67, 16-67, or 17-67. Twenty-four were either relieved or resigned from the course.

The Distinguished Honor Graduate was Peter F. Schoch followed by Michael A. Doyle as the Honor Graduate. The Distinguished Military Graduates were in order of class ranking, Paul P. Brooke, Jr., Peter P. Jones, Thomas J. Work, Jr., Dennis Diraffaele, Richard N. Roy, Jerry L. McCollum, Robert A. Pollock and Daniel G. Coates. The winner of the Military Stakes course was Daniel G. Coates. There was no news article about the graduation ceremony in the post weekly Inside the Turret. Information from the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association (VHPA) indicates twenty members of 12-67 completed the Officer Rotary Wing Aviators Course after graduating OCS.

William K. Ross, the only casualty of the class in Vietnam, was killed in a friendly fire incident by shrapnel from 81MM mortar fire he had called in close to his night position. Bill was an infantry platoon leader in C Company, 2nd Bn., 8th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division in Pleiku Province.

Class member Mark Holbrook, one of the 20 flight school graduates, was assigned to Troop A, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry, 1st Aviation Brigade and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism on 1 and 2 March 1969 while flying in support of Fire Support Base Swinger. The full citation can be read at <http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php?recipientid=5182>. Mark was nominated for induction into the OCS Hall of Fame. His nomination was unanimously approved and he will be inducted during the annual U.S. Army Officer Candidate School Alumni Association reunion in 2021 at Fort Benning, Georgia.

November 19, 2020