



**Class Narrative Class 19-66 C2  
24 March 1966 – 22 June 1966  
U.S. Army Armor School OCS**



Class 19-66, Company C2 was the eighth class of fifty-three OCS classes at Fort Knox during the Vietnam War Era. It was the first of four Company C2 classes and the second of four thirteen week Phase I Ordnance classes.

The class started OCS training on Thursday, 24 March 1966 and would complete their Phase I training on Wednesday 22 June 1966. The class started with 111 individuals who volunteered for OCS training, and it's unknown if there were any candidates recycled into the class from Class 12-66, the first Phase I Ordnance class, as a class roster for 12-66 was not on file at the Armor School Research Library. Of the 111, eighteen candidates would either resign or be relieved from the OCS course. Three members of Class 19-66 would be recycled to Class 23-66, another Ordnance class at Fort Knox, and would graduate with that class. Ninety class members would successfully complete Phase I.

An 'Inside The Turret' news article mentions the graduation ceremony held in the morning of 22 June 1966 in Gaffey Hall Auditorium. Ninety individuals completed Phase I training at Fort Knox and were sent to APG for Phase II Ordnance training after which those who completed Phase II training would be commissioned in the Ordnance Corps. COL Edward E. Beda, assistant commandant of the U.S. Army Ordnance School was the guest speaker. He explained the history and mission of the Ordnance Corps as well as its motto; "Combat service support to the line, on the line". He quoted a young captain at the Ordnance School saying "The gold bar is, in one sense, the quickest way to instant maturity. The new officer in the Army has more responsibility than he could ever get in the civilian life. Those assigned to a combat area will have the greatest responsibility of all, that of the life and death of other people."

Nine members of the class would successfully complete the Army's Officer's Rotary Wing Aviator's Course. Fortunately no one in Class 19-66 was killed in Vietnam, however twenty-eight of the class have died since their military service. Thanks to class member Gary Dolan forty-one members of the class have been located.

19 June 2019