



**Class Narrative Class 3-67 E1
29 July 1966 – 20 January 1967
U.S. Army Armor School OCS**



The second of four Company E1 classes in the Officer Candidate Brigade at Fort Knox during the Vietnam War Era was Class 3-67. It was the seventh Armor branch specific class and the nineteenth class of fifty-three classes. Starting the officer candidate course on Friday, 29 July 1966 were 110 volunteers hoping to survive and graduate from the course. There may have been others recycled into the class unfortunately the class roster received from the Armor School Research Library contained redactions on its last page. The individual candidates would be challenged in the areas of academics, leadership and the physical demands to different degrees. During the twenty-week course of instruction it has been determined that one member of the class was recycled to Class 8-67, Company B1 and would graduate with that class. Twenty-six others would either quit or be relieved from the course. On Friday, 20 January 1967, the remaining eighty-three members of the class would receive their Armor School diplomas and pin on the gold bars of Second Lieutenants in the U.S. Army. The class average was 84.17.

During the graduation ceremony in Gaffey Hall the guest speaker COL Raymond Hodgdon, chief of the Consolidated Supply Branch of the Armor Center, told the graduates “The Army does not accept your candidacy or promote your selection based upon your military knowledge of the military profession, but upon your ability to assimilate and apply knowledge”. Following the address COL Bernard E. McKeever, Jr., commanding officer of the OC Brigade, announced the honor graduates of the class. The Distinguished Honor Graduate was Alan R. Campbell and the Honor Graduate was Lenny L. Reynolds. The Distinguished Military Graduates were Gary H. Pitzer, Daniel J. Jordan, Riley M. Stone, Jr., Clifford L. Deal, Jr., Donald M. Hoffman, and Larry G. Batson. The winner of the Military Stakes Course was Charles W. Sensel who earned an impressive 945 of the possible 1000 points. Robert P. Fingerhut gave the class response recapping the activities of the class during the six months of training.

Eight members of the class would attend flight school. The OC Brigade would retain Alan R. Campbell as a Tac Officer for Class 20-67 and Class 2-68, Company E2, and Lenny L. Reynolds as a Tac Officer for Class 23-67, Company C1 and Class 5-68, Company B2. Two members of the class would be killed in Vietnam and eight other members of the class have died since their military service. Twelve class members have been located.

It’s known that one member of the class achieved the rank of Brigadier General. John S. “Steve” Martin retired from the Army on 22 January 1999 with thirty-two years of commissioned service. He has qualified as a Tank Commander in the M-48, M-60 and M-1 main battle tanks. He has been a flight instructor in both Army airplanes and helicopters, commanded a battalion of light infantry and an armored cavalry regiment, and ended his career as Commanding General of the Ohio Army National Guard with its force of 12,000 soldiers.

14 January 2019